

Second Quarter

2017



PINEYWOODS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Serving Angelina and Nacogdoches Counties

The Water

Newsletter

State News

The 85th Session of the Texas Legislature has ended with some unfinished business. It is unlikely any water issues will be on the table for a special called session by the Governor to begin July 18th.

The items on the Governors List include:

1. Sunset Legislation
2. Teachers pay increase of \$1,000
3. Administrative flexibility in teacher hiring and retention
4. School finance reform commission
5. School choice for special needs students
6. Property Tax Reform
7. Caps on State and Local Spending
8. Preventing cities from regulating what property owners do with trees on their land
9. Preventing local governments from changing rules in construction projects
10. Speeding up local government permitting process
11. Municipal annexation reform
12. Texting while driving preemption
13. Privacy
14. Prohibition of taxpayer dollars to collect union dues
15. Prohibition of taxpayer funding for abortion providers
16. Pro-life insurance reform
17. Strengthening abortion reporting requirements when health complications arise
18. Strengthening patient protections relating to do-not-resuscitate orders
19. Cracking down on mail-in ballot fraud
20. Extending maternal mortality task force

This is quite a long list. Time will tell how long this special session will last and how much will be accomplished.

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At a Glance:

Wells in PGCD Database 6/19/17

*9 exempt wells and 2 non-exempt wells in progress

*Total Exempt wells in database– 1014

*Total Non-exempt wells in database– 284

*Total Production fee based wells– 199

*Total District wells recorded– 2,591

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER'S DESK

The deadline for the Governor to exercise his veto power was June 18th. The Governor yielded a heavy veto pen this session by vetoing 50 bills and cutting \$120 million in spending from a \$217 billion state budget. Included in his list of vetoed bills are the following groundwater bills:

*House Bill 2377 Relating to the development of brackish groundwater.

Summary of Governors Comments- "The bill's permitting rules are unduly prescriptive and would create a separate and complex bureaucratic process for the permitting of brackish wells. The Texas Water Development Board already has significant authority in this area, including the ability to designate brackish groundwater zones."

*House Bill 2378 Relating to extensions of an expired permit for the transfer of groundwater from a groundwater conservation district.

Summary of Governor's comments: "House Bill 2378 would have essentially mandated that export permits issued by groundwater conservation districts be extended indefinitely. An indefinite permit hinders the public from participating in the decision making of the groundwater conservation district."

*House Bill 3025 Relating to open, uncovered, abandoned or deteriorated wells.

Summary of Governor's Comments: "This would give groundwater districts greater discretion to infringe on private property rights and impose costs on landowners. The legitimate need to repair deteriorated wells should be addressed in a way that provides more protection for landowners."

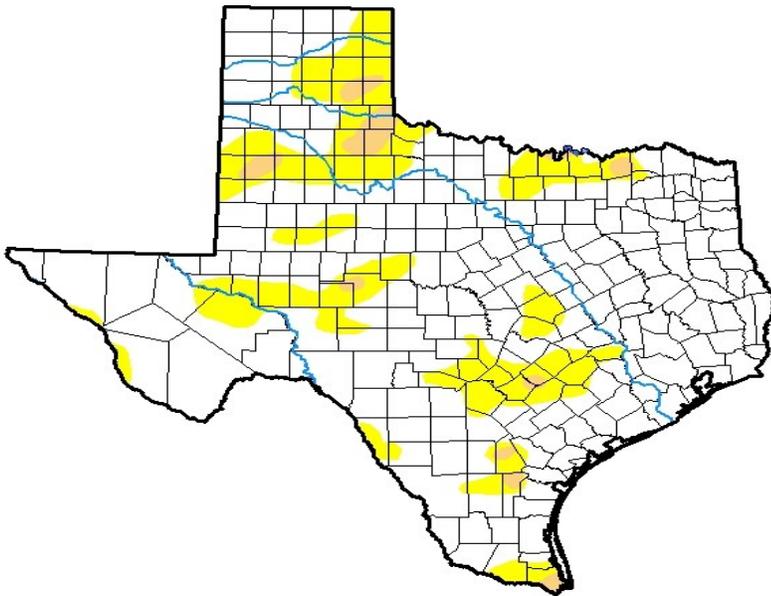
*Senate Bill 1525 Relating to a study by the Texas Water Development Board of water needs and availability in this state.

Summary of Governor's Comments: "The Texas Water Development Board can perform the study mandated by Senate Bill 1525 with or without this legislation."

Two bills that we were tracking closely that would have mandated undue financial burdens on groundwater districts— SB 1392 and SB 862, were passed in the Senate and sent to the House where they were never considered and died. While the content of these bills seemed on the surface to be some good ideas, the cost of implementation and the effects of this proposed legislation would have bankrupted many groundwater conservation districts.

U.S. Drought Monitor Texas

June 13, 2017
(Released Thursday, Jun. 15, 2017)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	78.23	21.77	2.47	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 06-06-2017	83.43	16.57	1.16	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 03-14-2017	65.12	34.88	4.52	0.93	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2017	81.50	18.50	6.29	1.97	0.04	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2016	94.83	5.17	0.62	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 06-14-2016	98.62	1.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Is a Garden Hose Safe to Drink From?

No. A standard vinyl garden hose has substances in it to keep the hose flexible. These chemicals, which get into the water as it goes through the hose, are not good for you. They are not good for animals or pets either, so filling drinking containers for them out of a garden hose is not a good idea unless the water is allowed to run awhile to flush the hose before using the water.

However, one type of hose on the market is made with a "food grade" plastic that is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration and will not contaminate water. Campers with recreational vehicles should use this type of hose when hooking up to a drinking water tap at a campsite. Check with a store that sells accessories for recreational vehicles.

Even a well flushed vinyl hose or a food-grade plastic hose can cause problems however; the outside thread opening at the end could be covered with chemicals or germs from a previous use.

Conserve Water This summer

Outdoor water use can account for 50-80 percent of a home's total water use.

- *Add native water efficient plant varieties into your landscape
- *Reduce water evaporation by watering at night or early morning
- *Do not water on windy days
- *Consider use of drip irrigation on narrow parkway areas
- *Position sprinklers so driveways and sidewalks are not irrigated
- *Use mulch to retain soil moisture, reduce runoff, moderate soil temperature and to slow weed growth
- *Use a low-angle sprinkler that throws large drops of water- rather than one that sprays a fine mist of water that can evaporate quickly
- *Check automatic sprinkler system heads regularly to make sure they are operating properly
- *Adjust the run time and frequency of automatic landscape sprinkler systems in response to changes in rainfall.



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Serving Angelina and Nacogdoches Counties

The Water Newsletter is published quarterly as needed by the Pineywoods Groundwater Conservation District to help the public and the professional stay current on state and local issues dealing with water conservation, rules and groundwater. The District Office is located in room 132 in Nacogdoches City Hall at 202 E. Pilar Street, Nacogdoches, TX.



Visit us on the Web
www.pgcd.org

Would you like to receive the newsletter in digital form? Let us know and send us your email address.

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Calendar of Events

2017

Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Pineywoods Groundwater Conservation District, 1:30 PM

@ Kurth Lake Lodge

July 13, 2017

[Meeting dates subject to change, please check with the office for any changes. All meetings are posted in the courthouses of each county in the District, in the District office, and on our website.]

THE DISTRICT OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS

2017

January 2 New Years Day

January 16 MLK Day

April 14 Good Friday

May 29 Memorial Day

July 4 Independence Day

September 4 Labor Day

December 22 and 25 Christmas

November 23-24 Thanksgiving