

Third Quarter

2017



PINEYWOODS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Serving Angelina and Nacogdoches Counties

The Water

# Newsletter

## State News

The Texas Legislative session year has come and gone and while some things got done, some things did not get done. That can be good and bad. There were some groundwater bills proposed that would have been detrimental to small groundwater districts with small budgets like the PGCD. Luckily these bills did not make it through, but expect a lot of these issues to be back in future sessions.

More and more we hear discussion about managing our groundwater resource like the oil and gas resources we have. While some parts of that management may well be good, the idea of pumping our groundwater unrestricted until depleted is not a good idea. Recharge of our aquifers is a long, slow process; once our groundwater is gone— it’s gone for a long time.

Water Reuse Capacity is estimated to increase 37% over the next 10 years. The list of water providers reusing their water from waste water treatment plants is growing and expected to continue to grow in areas where groundwater and surface water supplies are getting low. California, Texas and Florida are the states at the center of this reuse activity and represent 80% of planned capacity additions.

Results of the effect of Hurricane Harvey are coming in of toxic waste sites being flooded. The area has long been the center of the nations petrochemical industry and many plants and superfund sites were damaged or flooded and some are still underwater. An ongoing effort to measure the effect on surface water and groundwater will be in store for many years to come.

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### At a Glance:

- Wells in PGCD Database 9/15/17
- \*9 exempt wells and 2 non-exempt wells in progress
- \*Total Exempt wells in database– 1034
- \*Total Non-exempt wells in database– 287
- \*Total Production fee based wells– 199
- \*Total District wells recorded– 2,576

## FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER'S DESK

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2017 is grinding to an end with the end of summer, and it has been an interesting year to say the least. An unprecedented wet year was followed by an unprecedented rain event associated with Hurricane Harvey. Water utilities are struggling to meet projected budgets, as we are here at PGCD, as consumers are using much less water than in normal years.

The Nevada State Attorney Generals Office is leading a 10 state coalition, of which Texas is a participant, to fight off the Federal Governments claim to rights of groundwater in the states.

The brief filed with the Supreme Court basically states that states should have the right to manage and regulate groundwater within its boundaries. This is one of many states rights issues that we constantly face from regulatory agencies. In the past year, there have been rumors of the EPA getting involved in groundwater issues and Federal Agencies that manage Federal lands contemplating exercising a perceived right to manage and regulate groundwater under Federal Lands.

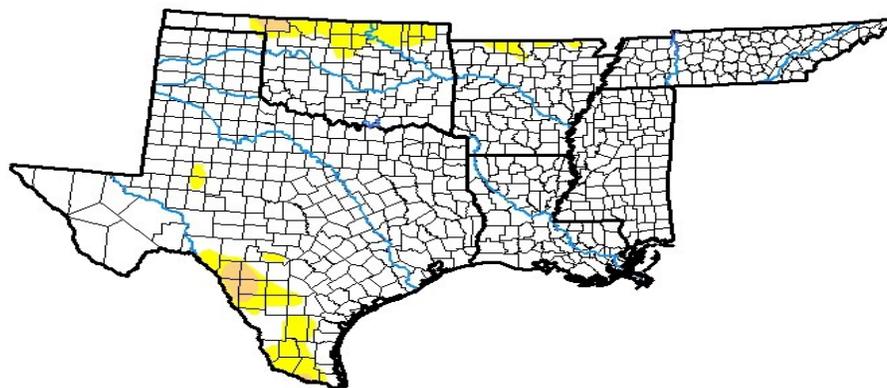
Flooding due to rains from Hurricane Harvey were spotty in the Pineywoods Groundwater Conservation District of Angelina and Nacogdoches Counties. But, just in case, well owners should know that any water well that was located in floodwaters should be tested before use for bacteria. Also, any electrical components of a flooded well should be checked out by an electrician. Flood waters covering a water well head could leak surface water into the groundwater causing contamination. That is one reason for checking the annular seal of water wells. Curb wells, those 30 inches or so in diameter and having a brick or concrete casing above ground are especially at risk.

There are locations in each county where water testing can be done. Contact the PGCD office for a complete list.

The PGCD office will participate in the Nacogdoches County Farm Bureau's "Ag in the Classroom Field Day" on September 26th. This an opportunity for the staff to educate 4th graders about all things groundwater.

# U.S. Drought Monitor South

September 12, 2017  
(Released Thursday, Sep. 14, 2017)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



### 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.*

### Author:

Richard Tinker  
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



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

## Conservation Tip

One of the best methods of growing healthy plants is to use mulch. Experienced gardeners have long known the secret of mulching the garden and all its benefits.

What is Mulch? Mulch is simply a protective ground covering that saves water, reduces evaporation, prevents erosion, controls weeds and in the case of organic mulches, enriches the soil.

It is best if grass or weeds are present to remove them and start with a bare soil. 3-4 inches of a good mulch will accomplish the task.

Mulches can vary in texture, from a fine ground bark or grass clippings to a coarser bark. Select the one that is best for your job, whether around trees or in flower beds or gardens.

## Irrigation System Audits

If you own an outdoor sprinkler system, you need to conduct an audit every year at least. Irrigation audits consist of the following:

**Site Inspection**– Check to make sure all sprinkler heads are working and the spray pattern is good

**Performance Inspection**– Place a measuring device in the landscape. This may be as simple as a can. Measure the amount of water applied at your current setting.

**Irrigation Scheduling**– Based on amounts collected, adjust run times and days to apply the right amount of water.



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CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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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.*

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**Calendar of Events**

**2017**

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

**@ Kurth Lake Lodge**

October 19, 2017 (tentative)

[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