

Fourth Quarter

2016



PINEYWOODS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Serving Angelina and Nacogdoches Counties

The Water

# Newsletter

## State News

The State of Texas has seen a mixed bag as for weather this year. There have been extremely wet months followed by dry months, with no real pattern. This has been the story over much of the state this year and has certainly been the cast in the PGCD.

The Texas Legislature kicks off in January of 2017. For a group that meets every two years, it sure seems to come around quickly. Pre-filing of bills to be considered this session has begun and I expect it will be another record year as the number of bills filed. Just because a bill is filed, doesn't mean it will ever get to committee or the house floor for consideration. This can be good and bad depending upon your interest in bills filed.

I will be serving on the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts Legislative Committee again this session. The TAGD group does a great job of tracking and reporting on bills that pertain to groundwater issues. I will certainly try to keep you informed on any bills that could have an impact on our area.

The GMA-11 planning group has been meeting this past year after hiring a firm to assist with evaluating and setting DFC's for our area and our district. We are in the final phase, and the GMA-11 group will be meeting on January 11, 2017 to approve a final draft. This will then be submitted to the TWDB for final approval. This is an exercise GCD's are required to do every five years by state law.

We appreciate everyone who attended meetings and made contributions of information in this planning process. This was done all over the state by groundwater management areas and was conducted by the more than 100 groundwater conservation districts in Texas.

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### At a Glance:

Wells in PGCD Database 12/8/16

\*9 exempt wells and 5 non-exempt wells in progress

\*Total Exempt wells in database- 993

\*Total Non-exempt wells in database- 284

\*Total Production fee based wells- 200

\*Total District wells recorded- 2,558

## FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER'S DESK

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### Growth vs Groundwater

There are some given facts about water that everyone should consider: Two-thirds of the earth's surface is covered by water, with lots of groundwater in some areas; only 3 percent of this water is potable "drinkable" without some form of treatment; there is no more water in the world today than there was in the past, or will be in the future: it may change form or location but it is the same amount; and finally, surface reservoirs are rarely built anymore.

Growth is not always taking place where water resources are plentiful. Take the central corridor of Texas as an example. How does growth– the building of homes, highways, businesses and parking lots affect groundwater?

Aquifer recharge is the percolation of surface water and rainfall through the soil and into aquifers. This growth may cover up as much as 50-70 percent of this recharge area. Growth has another affect on surface water from rainfall. Leaves, debris, trees and grasses on the surface slow down the runoff of rainfall allowing more time for water to percolate through the soil. When this cover is removed and hard non-porous surfaces replace it, we have less percolation and recharge and faster runoff resulting in flooding issues. Did you ever hear someone say "I've lived here for 40 years and I've never seen flooding like this"? It could be that the area has experienced the growth and concrete and asphalt that it didn't have forty years before.

We need recharge of our aquifers. We have modeled our aquifers here to determine how much groundwater is present. Groundwater Conservation Districts then plan in five-year cycles and set Desired Future Conditions (DFC's) to provide water for a fifty-year plan.

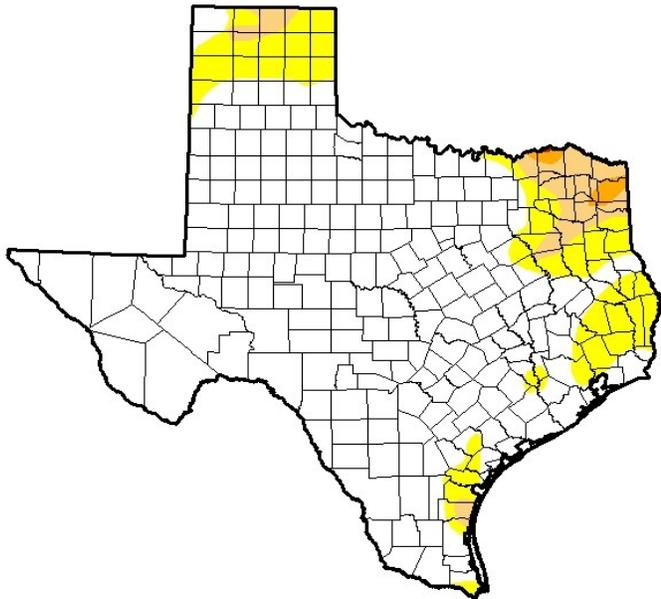
Hydrologists say that all the water in an aquifer is not recoverable. The amount is debatable, but we have to take this into consideration in our planning. We are dealing with a finite amount of water. Thus the need for conservation and planning, a large part of the work of groundwater conservation districts in Texas.

The Pineywoods GCD, in cooperation with other GCD's in Groundwater Management Area 11, has just completed our modeling to set DFC's for the five-year cycle.

The Explanatory Report setting DFC's for our district and for the counties in GMA-11 will be submitted to the TWDB after their Board meeting January 11, 2017. This report is available on our website at: [pgcd.org](http://pgcd.org).

**U.S. Drought Monitor  
Texas**

**December 6, 2016**  
(Released Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	81.90	18.10	4.87	0.65	0.03	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> <i>11/29/2016</i>	66.37	33.63	14.18	3.27	0.08	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>9/6/2016</i>	92.46	7.54	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>12/29/2015</i>	95.48	4.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>9/27/2016</i>	94.83	5.17	0.62	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>12/8/2015</i>	97.17	2.83	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.*

**Author:**  
Anthony Artusa  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



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

Adjust Sprinklers for Winter

With the arrival of cooler weather, and the freezes that accompany it, plants and grasses may reduce their water uptake by as much as 70 percent. This requires much less supplemental watering from sprinkler systems and some of this water applied is wasted to runoff and lost.

Running sprinklers on a freezing morning may provide some freeze protection to some plants, but excess that runs onto sidewalks and streets can be a hazard to pedestrians and to traffic.

Be safe, don't cause an accident!

**Green Lawns and Pastures-Safe Wells**

Next year as spring greenup comes and we begin planning fertilizing and weed control in our home lawns and pastures, remember some basic steps:

- Don't mix fertilizers or pesticides near well heads.
- Always use the recommended mixing rates, the old adage- if a little is good a lot is better, does not work and can cause runoff into wells and surface waters.
- Make a plan: develop a fertilization plan based on recommendations or soil test results.
- Identify: make sure to use the resources of the county extension agent or some other professional to identify a target weed and select the right herbicide for the job.



**PINEYWOODS GROUNDWATER  
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**

**2016**

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

@ Kurth Lake Lodge

April 6, 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**

**2016**

**January 1 New Years Day**

**January 18 MLK Day**

**March 25 Good Friday**

**May 30 Memorial Day**

**July 4 Independence Day**

**September 5 Labor Day**

**November 11 Veteran’s Day**

**November 24-25 Thanksgiving**

**December 23 and 26 Christmas**