

FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

BRAZOS G RWPG

Regional Policy on 'Sustainability and Groundwater Management', Issue #5

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The sustainable use of groundwater is an approach to the use of groundwater that does not result in the depletion of the groundwater resource or the deterioration of the environmental quality of the area dependant on the groundwater resource. The Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group (Region) is committed to the sustainable use of groundwater and will not adopt policies or water management strategies that result in the depletion of aquifers. There are several key benchmarks that may be used to determine the annual amount of groundwater that may be use in an area (availability). The benchmarks that may employed to determine groundwater availability include but may not be limited to; the amount of draw down from current water levels that is allowable, the maintenance of spring flows or aquifer contributions to surface water systems or the amount of recharge occurring the aquifer.

The Region recognizes the responsibility of Groundwater Conservation Districts (Districts) to sustainably manage the groundwater resources and the authority of the Districts to determine the appropriate definition of the sustainable use of groundwater within their jurisdiction. In developing the regional water plan to the meet the projected needs of the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Area the Region is committed to respect the Districts definition for the sustainable use of groundwater and working cooperatively with the Districts to determine groundwater availability within their jurisdiction. The Region will also work cooperatively with the Districts to develop a definition of the sustainable use of groundwater and determine the groundwater availability for areas outside of the Districts jurisdiction.