

Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group

WATER POLICY ISSUE #2

10-21-09 Draft

Topic: Groundwater

Issue #2: Coordination between Regional Water Planning Groups and Groundwater Conservation Districts

The coordination process outlined in HB 1763 is ongoing and continuing.

“The Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group is committed to working cooperatively with Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) when developing the Regional Plan. The GCDs are requested to review water demand, population projections, and water availability numbers for their respective Districts and comment accordingly.

The Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group recognizes, pursuant to HB 1763, that Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) are statutorily required to determine the amount of groundwater that is available for use in the Regional Water Plan. HB 1763, passed by the 79th Texas Legislature (2005) outlines a process by which all GCDs within the 16 Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) work together to determine Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for all aquifers within the GMA. DFCs are then researched by the TWDB and a Managed Available Groundwater (MAG) figures are supplied to the GMA and its member GCDs. MAG is the amount of water that GCDs may permit and expect to maintain/achieve their DFCs.

Regional water plans are required to use MAG as available groundwater if the GMA process is completed by January 2008. Some GMAs and their member GCDs may not finish the GMA planning process by January 2008 since the statutory deadline in HB 1763 is September of 2010. Brazos G has committed to

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use the MAGs in the current planning cycle provided that they are available before 10/1/2008. In those cases where the MAG is not available on 10/1/2008, Brazos G will use the draft MAG if the process is almost complete, use applicable TWDB GAMs (Groundwater Availability Models) for the Carrizo-Wilcox and Trinity Aquifers and previous estimates from the 2006 Plan.

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The use of DFCs to take a long term view of the health of Aquifers and MAG to allow the use of groundwater for beneficial purposes without depleting aquifers is consistent with Brazos G's historical policy that does not allow the adoption of water management strategies that will substantially deplete the aquifers.

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If there are differences between the Brazos G and a GCD that cannot be worked out, the Brazos G Planning Group may use the process outlined in HB 1763 to petition against the adoption of a disputed DFC. However, the coordination process outlined in HB 1763 is ongoing and continuing as GCD's work to set DFC's and work with the Regional Water Planning Groups, as they develop the Regional Plan.

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