

Item 8c | GMA 12 DFC Planning Update | January 2022

Notification of the adoption of the proposed 2021 Desired Future Conditions by GMA 12 representatives was made to each district April 27, 2021 triggering a 90-day public comment period regarding the proposed DFCs in each district. Each district was required to hold one (1) public hearing to receive public comments. BVGCD held the public hearing on Thursday, June 10, 2021 and received further oral comments during the regular board meeting held July 8, 2021. The comment period closed as of July 27, 2021.

GMA 12 representatives met June 24, 2021 to consider a presentation by Post Oak Savannah GCD (POSGCD) reviewing past planning cycles (2010 & 2016) and discussing what has been different during the current round of planning. POSGCD has been pushing the narrative to allow their Carrizo Aquifer pumping file to be revised downward. If that action were allowed, current effects of groundwater pumping from the aquifer would not be fully expressed in the model run.

The decision to adopt the well file used in GAM Run S-12 was made during the March 2021 meeting. During the April 2021 meeting, POSGCD asked GMA 12 representatives to reconsider the earlier decision to no avail. BVGCD received a white paper commentary from POSGCD which expressed a concern that they no longer can properly manage the Carrizo Aquifer due to the GMA 12 action. The Board responded directly to the POSGCD board regarding their expressed concern. All the remaining GMA 12 members received a copy of our response.

The representatives of GMA 12 met October 6, 2021 to discuss and consider any suggested modifications to the current method for calculating the desired future conditions. An issue arose during the third planning cycle relating to pumping files input to the model being less than current pumping from a subject aquifer. Further discussion will occur at a future meeting once the current DFCs have been adopted.

GMA 12 met again October 13, 2021 to consider all comments received during public hearings, determine whether to revise the DFC(s) based on the comments, and receive an update on the explanatory report progress. All districts have held a required public comment hearing, received comments, and have begun evaluating comment responses. BVGCD was the only district to have summarized comments and submitted it to GMA 12 prior to the meeting. It was agreed upon that the remaining districts will follow the BVGCD outline for summarization and submit them prior to November 11, 2021.

Lost Pines GCD submitted a revised Simsboro pumping file for consideration. The revised file lowered the estimated pumping from 125,000 ac-ft/yr to 83,000 ac-ft/yr to maintain a Simsboro DFC of 240'. Representatives of GMA 12 asked that an addition GAM Run S-19 be made considering the Lost Pines revised Simsboro well file and pumping outside of GMA 12 that is included in the GAM. This area includes both Gonzales and Caldwell counties in which two groundwater projects will be pumping extensively from the Carrizo Aquifer in the near future.

GMA 12 met Friday, November 12, 2021 to review the results from GAM Run S-19, review comments received, and consider any further suggested changes to the adopted proposed DFCs. Representatives were not able to finally adopt the DFCs as four of the five members had not yet summarized public comments received for review by the body.

Members of GMA 12 met Tuesday, November 30, 2021, reviewed all comments received by all member districts, and finally adopted the DFCs based on GAM Run S-19. The body met January 21, 2022 to approve the explanatory report and prepare to submit the final packet to the Texas Water Development Board for feasibility and final approval. A few small mistakes were discovered during the meeting leading to the setting of another meeting January 28, 2022. GMA 12 members were to suggest any revisions to the final report by January 25, 2022 and submit any further comments received from the public.

GMA 12 met Friday, January 28, 2022 to continue reviewing the draft explanatory report and suggesting any revisions deemed necessary to accurately portray how and why the Desired Future Conditions were finally adopted. The explanatory report was finally adopted with revisions and will now be sent to the TWDB for final administrative completeness, feasibility of the DFCs, and determination of the modeled available groundwater for each aquifer in each district.