

Item 6 – 88th Legislative Session Update

The Texas Legislature convened January 10, 2023 for the 88th Legislative Session. There will be bills filed that will affect the management of groundwater. You will be made aware of any bills filed and have the opportunity as a board to not only discuss it but determine whether to support, oppose, or remain neutral on the filing.

The General Manager will be the District's envoy to the Legislature concerning the stance taken by the District. It has been customary for the board, once all bills have been filed, to review all bills affecting groundwater management in the District and take a position giving guidance to the General Manager as visits are made to the Capitol.

Many of the filed bills have been heard in committee and most now have a committee substitute addressing issues raised by stakeholders. The only bill on which we are currently engaged is HB 4532 by Rep. Kacal.

HB 4532 would develop a format to determine "sustainable modeled groundwater" that can be pumped into perpetuity and require GMAs to consider that modeled number when adopting DFCs. The definition for the modeled number would be the equilibrium of recharge and discharge. In other words, sustainable becomes $\text{Pumping} = \text{Recharge}$. In the case of BVGCD, the established and historical pumping within the District currently outstrips recharge and has for a very long time. This is not in the best interest of stakeholders in BVGCD.

HB 4532 has been passed by the House, received in the Senate, and referred to Senate Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee. I have reached out Chairman Perry's office and registered the District's opposition to the bill moving any further.

Attached is the most current Legislative Matrix.