

Item 8d | GMA 12 DFC Planning Update | July 2024

GMA 12 members last met Wednesday, July 31, 2024 to discuss a wide range of topics impacting the future adoption of the 2026 Desired Future Conditions (DFCs). GMA 12 members have previously adopted the position to begin the fourth planning round using the finally adopted Desired Future Conditions from the third planning round as an initial starting point. This facilitated the members' ability to begin discussions of the nine statutorily mandated factors related to the adoption of the fourth round Desired Future Conditions.

Factors 1-3 have been considered earlier in the process. The next three factors to be considered will be effects of subsidence, feasibility of the preliminary DFCs, and any other factors not explicitly described in TWC 36.108. Any changes to well pumping files will be considered during the feasibility factor consideration. It has been the practice of the District to account for all current pumping and a reasonable projection of future pumping in the BVGCD well pumping files. This is something that should be considered during the August board meeting. BVGCD will likely be the only member bringing additional modeling of water production to the GMA. The other four districts have shown no desire to alter the DFCs by adding newly permitted or actual production to their pumping files.

There was a robust discussion surrounding the socio-economic impacts of pumping on domestic wells. It is apparent that all the districts have programs in place to mitigate the impacts of large-scale pumping.

Lost Pines GCD continues to actively campaign for changing the way the DFCs are expressed. Currently, the DFC expression is an amount (feet) of artesian head reduction allowed as an average across a District (ex.- 262' of reduction in Simsboro in 2070). LPGCD believes that a better expression would be percentage of artesian head remaining at a given time. They believe this is easier for the public to grasp. Either way, the same data is used to come to the ultimate answer. There will be energetic discussions surrounding this topic in the months ahead.

Members continue to discuss and compare management plans and strategies adopted by each district to deal with the impending reduction in artesian head pressure in the both the Carrizo and Simsboro aquifers due to large scale production projects across GMA 12. BVGCD, LPGCD and POSGCD agree that DFCs have a two-fold purpose. They are both to be used for planning and regulatory purposes. BVGCD and POSGCD have curtailment rules in place that will be used to manage the artesian head as it descends toward to the adopted DFCs.

Members of GMA 12 have now tabled sponsoring a groundwater summit. Interest in a summit in the other four districts has waned. There was no discussion of when we might take up the subject again.

BVGCD will take the lead in compiling the Explanatory Report. Andy Donnally was the compiler during the last planning round and now works for AGS (James Beach).

BVGCD last lead the effort during the second round of planning. Post Oak Savannah spearheaded the effort during the third round and LPGCD organized the last round. Our agreement was to bring an estimated cost of the effort to the next meeting (September 27, 2024) for group consideration.

There was discussion related to cost-sharing. The two methods discussed were pro-rata (equal share of cost among members) or combining all five district budgets and assuming a cost-share relative to your portion of that total. It is likely a funding method will be adopted at the next meeting and an interlocal agreement constructed.

The next GMA 12 meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2024.