

Item 10d | GMA 12 DFC Planning Update | November 2024

GMA 12 members met Wednesday, September 20, 2024, to discuss 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 were considered during the meeting. They were 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. AGS has completed the GAM run and presented it to the Board. That presentation was given during the September 20th meeting.

There continues to be discussion and a focus 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 district to possible use different methods for expressing the DFCs. 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 continue to be in-depth 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.

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.

There was limited discussion related to cost-sharing of planning expenses. It was agreed that the funding method to be adopted will mirror previous planning rounds. During past planning rounds, the three districts (BVGCD, POSGCD, LPGCD) have shouldered most of the cost allowing Fayette County GCD and Mid-East Texas GCD to contribute to the cause based on their budget constraints. BVGCD & POSGCD are suggested to each cover 33%, LPGCD 30%, FCGCD & METGCD each paying 2%. The General Manager will advocate for equal 32% payment by BVGCD, POSGCD and LPGCD. An interlocal agreement has been drafted and will likely be on the agenda for approval.

An updated schedule has been created to complete task for final adoption of DFCs. The final three (3) factor are to be considered at the next meeting on December 13, 2024.