

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

GMA 12 members met Friday, December 13, 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.

The final three factors were considered during the meeting. They were:

- a. other environmental impacts, including impacts on spring flow and other interactions between groundwater and surface water;
- b. socioeconomic impacts reasonably expected to occur;
- c. the impact on the interests and rights in private property, including ownership and the rights of management area landowners and their lessees and assigns in groundwater as recognized under Section 36.002;

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. The BVGCD General Manager advocated for equal 32% payment by BVGCD, POSGCD and LPGCD and 2% each for METGCD & FCGCD. LPGCD board will have to consider this request

and will bring an answer back to GMA 12 in February. An interlocal agreement has been drafted and will need to be revised if the suggestion is approved.

An updated schedule has been created to complete task for final adoption of DFCs. Consideration of pumping files and modeling scenarios will begin in earnest at the next planning meeting on February 21, 2025.

DFC Workshop & Stakeholder Meeting

With model runs for DFC planning purposes looming, it is important the Board provide direction to both the General Manager and hydrogeological consultant as to what they would like the DFCs to be at the end of this current planning round. Having spoken at length with James Beach, we put forth the following suggestion.

It is important the Board get input from stakeholders in all categories of water production and the public before putting forth pumping files for input into the GAM. James & I suggest the Board hold a DFC Workshop allowing for public/stakeholder input prior to the next board meeting on February 13, 2025. The meeting could be held in a similar manner to the Budget Workshop conducted just prior to the board meeting.

Alternatively, we can schedule a workshop independent of a board meeting date allowing staff time to process public/stakeholder input and formulate possible well pumping files based on the input for consideration at the February 9th board meeting.

This is a matter that the Board should discuss and provide some guidance to staff during the January 9th board meeting.