

Item 8 | DFC Considerations for 4th Planning Round

GMA 12 planning group met June 27, 2025, to further discuss the Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) of the shared aquifers. GMA 12 members discussed several pumping scenarios using the Sparta/Queen City/Carrizo-Wilcox Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) and results, including predicted water levels, water budgets and DFC planning for the current round of joint planning and model runs previously presented and discussed. The scenarios included:

- GMA 12 joint effort producing combined GAM Run PS4-2
- BVGCD “Best Estimate” Scenario
- BVGCD “Bridge Run”
- POSGCD 500-year run using district information provided by Fayette County GCD, Mid-East Texas GCD, and Lost Pines GCD

Each district provided modified pumping files that reflected issued permits that we adjusted over time to achieve the current DFC. Four (4) districts model runs were done independently with no outside interference from GMA 12 members. Brazos Valley GCD did not use the above-described methodology but rather opted to use pumping files associated with the “Best Estimate” Scenario. This allowed member districts to understand the impact of increase pumping in BVGCD on their own DFCs. PS4-2 produced a different DFC for BVGCD as compared to the original model run. Factors contributing to the difference include:

1. Moving the start time from the year 2000 up to 2010 bringing the District in line with the other GMA 12 members
2. Moving the planning horizon up from 2000-2070 to 2010-2080 as mandated by TWDB
3. Pumping file modifications made by the other districts
4. No variance has yet to be included in any model runs to date

James Beach (AGS), on behalf of BVGCD, presented results of our “best estimate” run and would like for the members to consider these results in their decisions.

Modifications made in creating the “Best Estimate” Run pumping files included:

1. Population and industrial growth predicted by TWDB for Brazos & Robertson counties
2. 50,000 ac-ft of pumping from Vista Ridge which includes 41,000 ac-ft of Simsboro pumping with onset of April 2020
3. Adjustment of pumping in the grid cell containing Goodland Farm to more accurately reflect historical pumping at a maximum of 5,000 ac-ft/yr
4. Use of the Georgetown ramp up values provided to the District

As stated above, PS4-2 and “Best Estimate” yielded different DFC results:

- PS4-2 Simsboro DFC in 2070 = 274'
- PS4-2 Simsboro DFC in 2080 = 288'
- “Best Estimate” Simsboro DFC in 2070 = 329'

BVGCD continued to advocate for 329' of average artesian reduction across the BVGCD to accommodate the growing pressure to meet the future needs and not exceed the Simsboro DFC. It was presented that the socio-economic impact on the entities in Brazos and Robertson counties, as well as areas along the I-35 corridor, will be substantial. Impacts to the local Simsboro wells have been thoroughly studied and plans for mitigation are in place.

The group discussed the potential of documenting the level of curtailment in pumping files in the explanatory report. Details of the curtailment process were not discussed. The consultants also included pumping estimates for counties without GCDs in the PS4-2 Run.

BVGCD placed an action item on the agenda regarding adoption of DFCs based on PS4-2 but asked that the matter be tabled to allow the District time to digest PS4-2 results and make an apples-to-apples assessment.

GMA 12 members are waiting for POGCD Board to approve the financial agreement below. District-by-district cost breakdown would be:

- Brazos Valley 30%
- Lost Pines 30%
- Post Oak Savannah 30%
- Mid-East Texas 5%
- Fayette County 5%

This matter will be put on the agenda for the next meeting to be finalized.

Other matters that continue to be decided upon for this planning round include:

1. The General Manager asked AGS to compare and correlate the PS4-2 and “Best Estimate” DFC value created. AGS is to provide the Board with an apples-to-apples assessment as soon as possible.
2. Expression of DFCs for BVGCD in Planning Round #4
 - Average Artesian Reduction across the District
 - % of Remaining Available Drawdown
 - Both
3. Protocol to identify interim values for the desired future conditions:
 - Are to adopted under Subdivision (1) for time periods not to exceed 10 years solely to assist the districts in monitoring interim progress in achieving the desired future conditions adopted for the approximately 50-year planning period.

- Each individual district is best suited to know when pumping is expected to come online and the projected effect. HB 2078 gave no specific method to be used by GMA 12 to determine the interim values at 10-year intervals.
- Establishing the method to be used for this determination will require only a majority vote of member districts. Only the final adoption of the DFCs require a super-majority vote (4 of 5).
- It is the recommendation by the General Manager and District Hydrologist to propose a protocol to GMA 12 allowing each district to establish its own interim DFC values.

The next GMA 12 meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 29, 2025, in Milano, Texas.