

Item 4 – Declaration of Non-Relevance of the Gulf Coast Aquifer for 2021 DFC Planning

Groundwater districts are required to establish a Desired Future Condition (DFC) for each of the aquifers within the bounds of the district at least every five years. The process allows a district to make a declaration of “non-relevant” when it is deemed the aquifer plays no significant role in the districts’ planning of future water supplies and their management.

The Catahoula Sandstone, the basal unit of the Gulf Coast Aquifer, occurs in the very south part of Brazos County under about 1.3 percent of the Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District area that encompasses Brazos and Robertson counties. The aquifer provides small amounts of water to a limited number of wells no greater than 250 feet deep. Its contribution to the overall groundwater supply within the Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District is de minimis. The Catahoula Sandstone is a groundwater supply of some significance in the counties to the south of Brazos County where the aquifer is deeper and can support wells with high pumping rates.

It is because of the above mentioned factors the Gulf Coast Aquifer was declared by the Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors to be non-relevant during the 2017 DFC planning cycle. None of the underlying factors have changed to deem the Gulf Coast Aquifer relevant during the current 2021 DFC planning cycle.

It is the recommendation by the General Manager the Board declare the Gulf Coast Aquifer “non-relevant” for the 2021 DFC planning cycle as it relates to Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District.