

Item 5 – Discussion on MAG Peak Factor use by Region G Water Planning Group

Future groundwater projects proposed within the District must be vetted by the Region G Water Planning Group (RGWPG) in order to be placed in the State Water Plan and be eligible for SWIFT funding. Proposed projects cannot exceed the Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) estimate established for the county in which the pumping will occur.

To that end, if the estimated pumping will exceed the MAG over the planned pumping horizon, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has new rules to allow consideration of the project using a MAG Peak Factor rather than summarily dismissing the project as ineligible.

I have included several slides detailing how groundwater availability is determined and how the MAG Peak Factor can be utilized. As you will note, inherent in this process is the approval of the affected groundwater district and the Groundwater Management Area representatives.

The MAG Peak Factor is a needed step forward to allow consideration of projects that would otherwise be determined as ineligible. Before the MAG Peak Factor, BGRWG was required by statute to use the MAG as a hard cap. BVGCD does not use the MAG as a hard cap on permitting, but instead uses the desired future condition to manage the aquifer of origin. MAG Peak Factor will allow the District to partner with BGRWG and the entity proposing the project to adequately vet the pumping over the anticipated project horizon.

I am asking the Board to be proactive and develop a MAG Peak Factor percentage for each of the aquifers. In order to make this happen, I propose to:

- Solicit from each of the public water suppliers in the District plans for future water projects
- Compile the projects and send them to LBG-Guyton for review
- LBG-Guyton would recommend a MAG Peak Factor for each of the aquifers following model run simulations
- Recommendations for MAG Peak Factors would be brought to the Board for consideration/approval at the May 11th Board Meeting

I am currently still receiving information from stakeholders. Once I am satisfied we have all the information collected, it will be sent to LBG-Guyton for model simulation runs and recommendations. There will be a recommendation forthcoming at the June 11th Board Meeting.