

Middle Pecos Groundwater Conservation District
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We have moved our office to 209 North Spring Drive Fort Stockton, Texas

NOTICE: Our December 20, 2011, public hearing and meeting will be held in our new office building.

Our mission is to develop and implement an efficient, economical and environmentally sound groundwater management program to protect and maintain historical aquifer levels and enhance the water resources of the District, and to communicate and administer to the needs and concerns of the citizens of Pecos County.

We have an 11 member Board of Directors that is elected by the citizens of Pecos County. There are two directors from each precinct, one from the city of Fort Stockton, one from the city of Iraan, and one from Pecos County at large. Your current Directors are: Weldon Blackwelder, Vanessa Cardwell, Ronnie Cooper, Merrell Daggett, John Dorris, M. R. Gonzalez, Janet Groth, Glenn Honaker, Alvaro Mandujano, Jr., Houston McKenzie and Evans Turpin.

To all Pecos County Landowners: All water wells in Pecos County are required by law to be registered with the Middle Pecos Groundwater Conservation District. Registration forms can be downloaded from our website. You can also call or come by our office for forms. We are here to help you with all questions.

No person may drill, operate, equip, complete, or alter the size of a well or well pump without first obtaining a permit or approved pre-registration, as applicable, from the District as provided by statutory law and the rules of MPgcd.

Ownership Transfer: Prior to any ownership transfer of any well(s) covered by a registration, written notice must be given the District by the registration holder, and permit amendment shall be secured, if applicable. Any person who becomes the owner of a previous registration must, within 45 (forty-five) calendar days from the date of the change in ownership, file a request for transfer of the registration.

Production Permits: Prior to and no later than 21 calendar days after completion of a new water well, or reworking or re-equipping an existing water well, the well owner or well operator must file a completed Production Permit application on a form approved by the District.

Exemption from Production Permit: A well used solely for domestic use or for providing water for livestock or poultry and is either drilled, completed, or equipped so that it is incapable of producing more than 25,000 gallons of groundwater a day. Spacing must be a minimum distance of 50 feet from the property line and 50 feet from other wells. Please see Rule 11.3 for further production permit exemptions for wells permitted by the Railroad Commission of Texas. Questions? Please call the office for more information.

Keeping an Eye on Pecos County Water Levels

Monitor Wells: Currently we monitor over 30 wells each month that are scattered throughout Pecos County. There are 8 wells around the county that are read daily by satellite and 16 wells that are up dated multiple times a year. All these readings are available on-line; the most up-to-date readings for those wells can be viewed at <http://midgewater.twdb.state.tx.us/twdbwells/> look for Pecos County, and click on the ASCII link to review the latest readings available.

In addition to those 30 wells, there are 40+ wells that are read twice a year, a summer reading and a winter reading. Some of these wells have been read since the 1940's.

In an Event that Limitations are Needed

Production Limitations: Please refer to the Middle Pecos GCD's rules for a more detailed rules, the following is a tidbit regarding production limitations. The District may limit the total amount of authorized annual production and maximum annual rate of groundwater withdrawal for any aquifer within the District as the District determines to be necessary based upon the best available hydrogeologic, geographic, and other relevant scientific data, including but not limited to noted changes in the water levels, water quality, groundwater withdrawals, annual recharge, or the loss of stored water in the aquifer, to avoid impairment of the Desired Future Conditions. The Board would first set aside an amount of groundwater equal to an estimate of total exempt use wells. Next would be allocations to "Historic and Existing Use Permits" and finally to Production Permit Holders. Note: The Board has the right to modify a permit if monitoring wells within the source aquifer or other evidence reflects conditions such as but not limited to an unacceptable level of decline in water quality of the aquifer, or as may be necessary to prevent waste and achieve water conservation, minimize as far as practicable the drawdown of the water table or the reduction of artesian pressure, lessen interference between wells, or control and prevent subsidence, or to avoid impairment of Desired Future Conditions. For more detail refer to MPGCD rules (Section 10 Production Limitations).

Efforts to Control and Prevent Waste of Groundwater and Promote Conservation

The Texas Water Code defines waste as any of the following: * withdrawing groundwater at a rate and amount that could cause intrusion of unsuitable water into the aquifer; * production of groundwater for non-beneficial uses; * escape of groundwater to a non-groundwater containing strata; * pollution of groundwater resources by the intrusion of saltwater or other matter; * willfully or negligently causing, suffering, or allowing groundwater to escape into any watercourse or land other than that of the well owner, unless authorized by permit; * unauthorized escape of groundwater irrigation tail-water onto land other than that of the owner of the well; or * for water produced from an artesian well, willfully causing or knowingly permitting the water to run off the owner's land or to percolate through the stratum above which the water is found.

To promote conservation related to agricultural, the following are agricultural best management practices as stated by the Texas Water Development Board Conservation Division: * Irrigation water use management - irrigation scheduling, measurement of irrigation water use, crop residue management and conservation tillage, irrigation audit; * land management systems – furrow dikes, land leveling, contour farming, conversion of supplemental irrigated farm land to dry land, brush management; * on-farm water delivery systems – lining of on-farm irrigation ditches, replacement of on-farm irrigation ditches and pipelines, low-pressure center pivot sprinkler irrigation systems, drip/micro-irrigation systems, gated and flexible pipe for field water distribution systems, surge flow for field water distribution systems, and linear move sprinkler irrigation systems; * Water district delivery systems – lining of district delivery systems, replacement of irrigation district canals and lateral canals with pipelines; * Miscellaneous systems – tailwater recovery and reuse system, nursery production systems.

Other ways to promote Conservation: sweep rather than hose driveways and other areas; use drip irrigation rather than spray irrigation; wash your car at a car wash; downsize your lawn area and/or Xeriscape; irrigate during the coolest part of the day; protect plants with mulch and compost to reduce water loss; install low flow shower heads; insulate hot water pipes; reduce showering time; operate dishwasher and washing machine on full loads; install an aerator on kitchen faucet; and turn the water off while brushing teeth and on to rinse. If you see signs of contaminating substances on the surface, remember it could end up contaminating the water source below, so please report to us if you find signs of contamination that need to be checked out.