

**Kenedy County Groundwater Conservation District**  
**2024 Annual Report**  
**January 22, 2025**

***The purpose of this Annual Report is to highlight the District's achievements in meeting the goals, management objectives and performance standards outlined in section X of the Management Plan.***

**GOALS, MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

**A. Efficient Use of Groundwater**

*Management objectives and performance standards for providing the most efficient use of groundwater, as required by Texas Water Code § 36.1071(a)(1) and 31 TAC §356.5(a)(1)(A).*

**1. Objective:** The District will continue to register all new wells and locate and register any existing well that may not yet have been registered.

**1. Performance Standard:** All registered wells are entered into the District's water well database. This includes information from the registration forms, the registration certificate, and for new wells, the drilling log. All information reported to the District regarding each registered well will be entered into the District's water well database. The number of registered wells will be presented in the District's annual report.

***Four (4) new wells were registered.***

**4. Objective:** The District will continue to require an operating permit for all non-exempt wells.

**4. Performance Standard:** All permitted non-exempt wells will be entered into the District's water well database, including the application, the permit, annual water use reports, any water quality reports, the driller's log, and any other information available to the District about the wells. The number of wells permitted by the District will be noted in the District annual report.

***No permits for non-exempt wells were issued. Listing of all public water supply wells and other wells currently under permit can be found in Appendix A.***

**5. Objective:** The District will develop a method of tracking acreage associated with all wells permitted under District Rules as "new wells" under the District's correlative rights production limits.

**5. Performance Standard:** The District will provide a certificate to each permittee designating the total acreage allocated to each permit. A copy of these certificates will be entered into the District database for each of these permitted wells. The number of such certificates that are issued will be included in the District annual report.

***No certificates were issued.***

**6. Objective:** Each year, the district will contact all water well service companies doing business in the District and will provide written educational information about District rules and policies.

**6. Performance Standard:** The Board of Directors will approve the content of each year's letter based on activities and emerging issues within the District. A file copy of these letters will be kept in the District Office. Each year, the District's annual report will include a list of licensed water well drillers and pump installers doing business in the District and a copy of the educational information provided.

***Letters were mailed to 10 water well drillers/pump installers.***

***See Appendix B.***

**7. Objective:** The District will continue to maintain a database that is current with all data acquired by the District about all registered and permitted wells in the District.

**7. Performance Standard:** Each year, the District's annual report pertinent to items A.1 through A.5 will be derived from the database. Additionally, the report will contain an evaluation of the software being used for the database, and any recommendations regarding needed changes.

***District continues to maintain database and all data acquired is being uploaded as time allows. Currently, database is being administered by Williams Web Solutions. Glitches in software are addressed as they occur.***

## **B. Preventing Waste of Groundwater**

*Management objectives and performance standards for controlling and preventing waste of groundwater, as required by Texas Water Code § 36.1071(a)(2) and 31 TAC §356.5(a)(1)(B).*

**1. Objective:** The District will conduct an on-site investigation within two working days of receiving a report of waste of groundwater.

**1. Performance Standard:** If the District receives a report of waste of groundwater, the General Manager will prepare a written report of the outcome of the investigation and will present it to the Board of Director's at the next Board meeting. A discussion of the waste of groundwater observed by the District, including the number of reports of waste received during the year and the District's response to the reports will be included in the District's annual report.

***No reports on waste of groundwater were received.***

#### **C. Controlling Subsidence**

*Management objectives and performance standards for controlling and preventing subsidence, as required by Texas Water Code § 36.1071(a)(3) and 31 TAC §356.5(a)(1)(C).*

**1. Objective:** The Gulf Coast Aquifer contains sufficient amounts of clays interbedded within fairly prolific sand and gravel formations to be vulnerable to subsidence. The current groundwater uses, especially near the coastal areas of the District, are not sufficient to cause dewatering from the clay with a resultant loss of support pressure. The District will evaluate possible subsidence impacts of any near coast, large-scale groundwater production proposal (greater than 100 acre-feet/year).

**1. Performance Standard:** As part of the Operating Permit Application process, the District will be appropriately evaluate possible subsidence impacts of any near coast, large-scale groundwater production proposal (greater than 100 acre-feet/year). The evaluation will be presented to the Board of Directors during the Operating Permit Application consideration. The number and a description of any near coast, large-scale groundwater production proposals will be presented in the District's annual report, and will include the District's evaluation for possible subsidence impacts from the proposals.

***No large-scale production proposals that may cause subsidence have been brought before the District.***

#### **D. Conjunctive Surface Water Management**

*Management objectives and performance standards for addressing conjunctive surface water management issues, as required by Texas Water Code § 36.1071(a)(4) and 31 TAC §356.5(a)(1)(D).*

**1. Objective:** Each year the District will participate in the regional planning process by attending a minimum of two meetings of the Region N Regional Water Planning Group per fiscal year.

**1. Performance Standard:** The District representative will give an oral report at the District Board meeting following the Region N meeting and the report will be reflected in the minutes of that Board meeting. Additionally, the District's annual report will include the number of Region N meetings attended during the year and the dates of those meetings.

***The General Manager attended 4 Region N meetings. The meeting dates were February 22, May 16, October 17 and December 12, 2024.***

**E. Natural Resource Issues and Groundwater**

*Management objectives and performance standards for addressing natural resource issues that impact the use and availability of groundwater and which are impacted by the use of groundwater, as required by Texas Water Code § 36.1071(a)(5) and 31 TAC §356.5(a)(1)(E).*

**1. Objective:** The District will continue to require registration of and a plugging report on all wells that are plugged each year. Additionally the District will require a landowner to register all plugged wells when the landowner becomes aware of their existence.

**1. Performance Standard:** The number of plugging reports received by the District will be noted in the District annual report. All registered plugged wells will be entered into the District's water well database, including the registration application, the registration certificate, and the plugging report, if the well is newly plugged.

***Seven (7) plugging reports were submitted to the District.***

**2. Objective:** The District will require registration of all wells covered by a P-13 submitted to the Railroad Commission. When an operator abandons an oil or gas well and desires to convert it into a potential water well, he must submit a P-13 Form. These wells are considered to be water wells under District Rules, regardless of whether water is ever produced from them.

**2. Performance Standard:** After approval of this management plan, the District will include information about this requirement in the first annual education letter to all water well service companies and to all oil and gas operators doing business in the District. The District will also study the feasibility of identifying P-13 wells by working with the Railroad Commission. The number of P-13 wells registered with the District will be noted in the District annual report.

***No P-13 wells were registered with the District.***

**3. Objective:** Once each year, the District will monitor total dissolved solids, pH, and electric conductivity by taking measurements of at least 15 wells through the voluntary monitoring project described in A.8.

**3. Performance Standard:** The number of wells to be measured may be increased as necessary. The water quality data will be entered into the District's water well database. The results of each round of annual measurement events will be provided to the Board of Directors within 30 days after completion of measurement collection and analysis and included in the annual report.

**See appendix C for results.**

#### **F. Drought Conditions**

*Management objectives and performance standards for addressing drought conditions, as required by Texas Water Code § 36.1071(a)(6) and 31 TAC §356.5(a)(1)(F).*

**1. Objective:** Link to the Texas Water Development Drought page (<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/data/drought>) will be maintained on the District website to provide short-term and long-term drought information.

**1. Performance Standard:** At least quarterly, the website will be checked to ensure that the links are still current. The General Manager will assess the status of drought in the District and prepare a quarterly briefing to the Board showing the impact of drought or weather conditions on water levels. The District's annual report will include the downloaded PDSI maps, Situation Reports, and copies of the quarterly briefing.

***The Board received quarterly drought assessment reports.  
See Appendix D for copies of reports.***

#### **G. Conservation Measures**

*Management objectives and performance standards for addressing conservation, recharge enhancement, rainwater harvesting, precipitation enhancement, brush control where appropriate and cost effective, as required by Texas Water Code § 36.1071(a)(7) and 31 TAC §356.5(a)(1)(G).*

**1.a. Conservation Objective:** The District will collaborate with the local USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office and submit an article on water conservation for publication each year to at least one newspaper of general circulation in the District and post it on the District website.

**1.a. Conservation Performance Standard:** A copy of the published article on conservation will be included in the District's annual report.

***See Appendix E for copy of news article submitted for publication.***

**1.b. Conservation Objective:** The General Manager will be available to present water conservation programs to schools, 4-H clubs, scouting units and community groups on a request basis. These programs will be scheduled through the District office and will be appropriate for the various audiences. Depending on availability, the District will make every effort to distribute, on an annual basis, conservation education materials to schools that serve students from the District.

**1.b. Conservation Performance Standard:** A summary of programs presented, content and audience group will be included in the annual report. A bibliography of any conservation literature provided to the audience by the District will be included in the report with the summary.

***Major Rivers, an environmental awareness and water education program, was distributed to schools in Sarita, Santa Gertrudis, Petronila and Ben Bolt.***

***See Appendix G for information on the program.***

**1.c. Conservation Objective:** The General Manager will monitor all continuing education classes on drought and conservation that would be beneficial and attend with the Board's approval.

**1.c. Conservation Performance:** A summary of classes attended will be included in the annual report.

***The General Manager attended the Texas Groundwater Summit on August 19-22, 2024 in San Antonio, TX.***

**2. Recharge Enhancement Objective:** The District, with the services of a consultant, will attempt to identify recharge areas within the District and present them in connection with the biennial report on water monitoring results.

**2. Recharge Performance Standard:** All recharge areas identified within the District will be listed in the annual report.

***Being that recharge occurs as a result of precipitation anywhere within the District, no new specific recharge areas have been identified.***

**3. Rainwater Harvesting:** This management goal category is not applicable to the District due to a low population number.

**4. Precipitation Enhancement:** The District has no plans to participate in precipitation enhancement because it has not been proven to be cost effective and is not feasible for the District.

**5. Brush Control Objective:** Annually, the District will contact the USDA-NRCS and the Kleberg-Kenedy Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) offices to obtain information about brush control and make that information available to the public.

**5. Brush Control Performance Standard:** All information on brush control obtained from the USDA-NRCS and the Kleberg-Kenedy SWCD offices and provided to the public will be reported in the District's annual report and posted on the website.

***Any person requesting information on Brush Control is referred to the USDA-NRCS field office in Kingsville, TX.***

#### **H. Desired Future Conditions**

*Management objectives and performance standards for addressing the desired future condition of the groundwater resources in the District (if available from the districts in the groundwater management area), as required by Texas Water Code § 36.1071(a)(8) and 31 TAC §356.5(a)(1)(H).*

As per Resolution No. 2022-1 submitted in June, 2022, the authorized voting representatives for Groundwater Management Area 16 established a desired future condition (DFC) of the Gulf Coast aquifer which was an area-wide average drawdown of approximately 78 feet through 2080. The DFC established for the Kenedy County GCD was a drawdown of 27 feet in 2080.

**1. Objective:** The District-wide, voluntary monitoring project will be maintained and includes biennial measurements of hydrostatic levels from approximately 50 wells and the hydrostatic level to bottom of screen measurements in those wells where the screen depth is known.

**1. Performance Standard:** The number of wells to be included in the monitoring project may be increased as necessary. The respective hydrostatic levels and other related data will be entered into the District's water well database. The results of each round of biennial measurements will be provided to the Board of Directors within 30 days of completion of the measuring round. The number of wells involved in the project and the respective static levels will be included in the District's annual report.

***Hydrostatic levels are being monitored on approximately 50 wells twice per year.***

***See Appendix G for results.***

**2. Objective:** The District will monitor groundwater withdrawals in the District to evaluate compliance with the desired future condition.

**2. Performance Standard:** As part of the biennial report on water level measurements from the monitoring program described in A.8, above, the General Manager will include in his written report to the Board an evaluation of the drawdown relative to the DFC.

***Monitoring of the drawdown relative to the DFC for the Kenedy County GCD will be conducted yearly during the month of February.***

***See Appendix H for results.***

## **XI. METHODOLOGY FOR TRACKING PROGRESS**

*Methodology for tracking progress in meeting management goals, objectives, and performance standards, as required by 31 TAC § 356.5(a)(6).*

As mentioned in the management objectives and performance standards above, written reports will be presented to the Board of Directors on a timely manner, based on the objective. Additionally, as described in section X, all data related to water wells in the District will be entered into the District's water well database.

The General Manager will prepare and present to the board of directors (BOD) an Annual Report covering District performance in achieving management goals and objectives for the preceding fiscal year. The report will be presented to the BOD in January of the following year. The District will maintain the report in its files and will have copies available to the public. Once the report is approved by the Board, it will be posted on the website.