

# Groundwater Acronyms and Definitions

**Desired Future Condition (DFC):** A DFC is the desired, quantified condition of groundwater resources (such as water levels, spring flows or volumes) within a management area at one or more specified future times as defined by participating groundwater conservation districts (GCDs) within a groundwater management area (GMA) as part of the joint planning process.

**Groundwater Availability Model (GAM):** A GAM estimates future trends in the amount of groundwater available in an aquifer. GAMs include comprehensive information on each aquifer, such as recharge; geology and how that conveys into the framework of the model; rivers, lakes and springs; water levels; aquifer properties; and pumping. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is responsible for the GAM program. These models are important tools for GCDs and regional water planning groups to use in their management and regional water plans.

**Groundwater Conservation District (GCD):** A GCD is a local unit of government authorized by the Texas Legislature and ratified at the local level to manage and protect groundwater. There currently are 100 confirmed GCDs in Texas. Texas law authorized GCDs to modify the rule of capture by regulating groundwater production through permitting of non-exempt water wells, well spacing requirements and other rules.

**Groundwater Management Area (GMA):** A GMA is an area delineated and designated by TWDB for joint planning and managing groundwater resources. Each area is comprised of individual groundwater conservation districts. The decisions for current GMAs include groundwater availability using data collected from regional member districts and defining the quantity of allowed groundwater production.

**Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG):** MAG is the amount of groundwater production, on an average annual basis, that will achieve a desired future condition. The desired future condition in a specific location may not be achieved if pumping quantities exceed the MAG volume long term.

For more information on groundwater, contact the Kenedy County GCD at 361-294-5336.