


GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



TSDC

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- There are 98 groundwater conservation districts in Texas, covering nearly 70% of the area in the state. While 95 of the 98 confirmed GCDs overlie a major aquifer, only 65 of these districts overlie a minor aquifer.
 - Created either by the Texas Legislature subject to the authority, conditions, and restrictions of Article XVI, Section 59 of the Texas Constitution, or by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) through a local petition process (Texas Water Code 36.013 – 36.015).
 - Sixty-six GCDs elect a board of directors, and thirty-one appoint a board of directors through county commissioners courts, municipalities, or other entities.
 - Funded through a combination of methods, including ad valorem taxes, pumping fees, and administrative fees. Some districts may receive grants or participate in specific funding programs.
 - Responsible for managing and conserving groundwater resources. They regulate groundwater pumping, issue permits, and promote water conservation strategies to ensure suitable use of aquifers.
 - GCDs are required to create and maintain a management plan that must be reviewed, updated, and readopted every five years.
 - High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (UWCD) No. 1, created in 1951, was the first GCD in Texas, covering an area of about 11,940 square miles.
 - Confirmed GCDs (excluding the two subsidence districts and the Edwards Aquifer Authority) are located partially or fully within 173 of 254 Texas counties.
 - Associated Organization: Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD).