



TAGD

TEXAS ALLIANCE OF
GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS

GROUNDWATER VOCABULARY

GCD Groundwater Conservation Districts are political subdivisions created to protect aquifers and manage the use of groundwater. GCDs are granted authority in Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code to manage groundwater production through various methods, including well spacing and production limitations.

GMA Groundwater Management Areas are designated by the TWDB for regional planning purposes. GCDs within the GMA meet to jointly develop DFCs for the GMA region.

DFC a Desired Future Condition is a quantifiable condition of an aquifer at a specified future time. It may be based on aquifer levels, spring flows, or volumes of water in the aquifer (example: average drawdown not to exceed 75 feet at the end of 50 years). In setting DFCs, GCDs balance groundwater production with conservation and protection of the aquifer and then manage that production on a long term basis to achieve and maintain the DFC.

TWDB The Texas Water Development Board is the state agency responsible for overseeing state and regional water planning, providing financial assistance for local government water projects, and studying the state's surface water and groundwater resources.

MAG the Modeled Available Groundwater is calculated by the TWDB and is the amount of water that may be produced on an average annual basis to achieve a DFC. The MAG is one tool used by GCDs to ensure consistency with the DFC, and is used by regional water planning groups.



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Rule of Capture grants landowners a legal right to capture the water beneath their property without regard to effects on neighboring wells except in cases of waste or malice.

Groundwater Ownership the Texas Legislature and Texas Supreme Court have recognized that landowners have a constitutionally protected property right in groundwater and own the groundwater below the surface as real property, subject to the rule of capture and regulation by GCDs.

GAM a groundwater availability model is a regional groundwater flow model approved by the TWDB.

Joint Planning the process by which GCDs in a GMA work together to develop DFCs, review groundwater management plans, assess the accomplishments of the GMA, and evaluate the need to modify the DFCs.

Management Plan a plan adopted by a GCD, approved by the TWDB, and forwarded to regional water planning groups that outlines the GCD's management goals and objectives. The plan must include performance standards, methods for achievement, and groundwater estimates.

TAGD the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts is a 501(c)(3) association that assists GCDs, provides outreach and education, and facilitates communication.

GCDI the GCD Index is available on TAGD's website and is a searchable, interactive online information bank with data on GCDs across the state.