

What causes subsidence and how is groundwater production related to subsidence

Land subsidence happens when groundwater is produced from aquifers at a rate that exceeds recharge.

The clay layers in the aquifer compact, thus reducing the elevation of the ground surface in the area of the well that produced the water. There are over a thousand large-volume wells throughout Montgomery County.

Take a look at this explanation from Harris Galveston Subsidence District's website of how subsidence occurs. Compaction at depth within the aquifer translates to land surface subsidence and can affect your property.

Subsidence occurs unevenly, can lead to reduced drainage capacity, is irreversible, and can lead to flooding of existing assets. Once a community is developed, subsidence should be monitored, measured, and avoided to maintain property value.

