



## **SJRA Notifies Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District of Concerns Regarding Aquifer Drawdown and Subsidence**

*Scenarios Presented by LSGCD could lead to potential negative impacts to existing wells and compaction of the Jasper Aquifer*

Information regarding groundwater management was presented by Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District (LSGCD) staff and consultants at recent meetings of the GMA 14 Joint Planning Committee and the LSGCD Board of Directors. As a groundwater well permittee in Montgomery County and a Participant in the San Jacinto River Authority's (SJRA) Groundwater Reduction Plan (GRP), we encourage you to carefully review the information and if you deem appropriate, take action.

GMA 14 Joint Planning Committee February 24: During the meeting of the GMA 14 Joint Planning Committee, Mike Keester, a hydrogeologist with LRE Water and representing the LSGCD, provided a presentation titled "Identification and Simulation of Water Management Strategies from the 2017 State Water Plan". Representatives of LSGCD also distributed to the Committee the tabular results from groundwater availability model (GAM) runs of 11 different scenarios of groundwater pumpage from the Gulf Coast Aquifer. Representatives of LSGCD clearly stated that the data presented to the GMA 14 Joint Planning Committee had not yet been approved by the LSGCD Board (See pages 40 – 55 of the following link for the presentation and pages 56 – 111 for the tabular data. <http://bit.ly/38JQo3K>).

Also during the meeting, Wade Oliver, Intera, Inc. and consultant for GMA 14, provided a presentation titled "Groundwater Availability Model Run Results" (see pages 112 – 121 of the referenced link). The presentation focused on the results of a GAM run for the scenario of groundwater pumping that resulted in 75 percent of the 2009 available drawdown remaining in 2070. Another way of stating it is that 25 percent of the available drawdown would be utilized and exhausted by 2070.

After thorough review of the information contained in these documents, SJRA developed and delivered a letter dated March 3<sup>rd</sup> to the LSGCD summarizing concerns about the potential negative impacts of significant aquifer drawdown and resulting potential subsidence if the two scenarios designated in the LSGCD presentation as "primary simulations"—which include annual groundwater withdrawals in excess of 133,000 acre feet per year (afpy)—are implemented. (See letter located at the following link <http://bit.ly/2IG2Bma>)

LSGCD Board of Directors meeting March 10: During the March meeting of the LSGCD Board (see <http://bit.ly/2IDjVlf> for video), the District's consultants made three additional presentations including "Update: Subsidence Investigations – Phase 1 by Mike Thornhill (see <http://bit.ly/2xKaFcl>), "Joint Groundwater Planning Concepts and Desired Future Conditions" by

James Beech, and “Summary of Modeling related to GMA 14 Joint Planning” by Mike Keester. (see <http://bit.ly/2TKiyY3>).

**The presentations reaffirmed SJRA’s concerns about the following:**

- **Negative impacts to the production output, functionality and overall viability of existing wells screened in the Jasper Aquifer if an average of over 600 feet of drawdown in Montgomery County is allowed through 2070.**
- **Potential compaction of the Jasper aquifer and resulting subsidence.**

**As a groundwater well permittee in Montgomery County and a Participant in the SJRA’s GRP, we encourage you to carefully review the information provided to the GMA 14 Joint Planning Committee and presented to the LSGCD Board because we feel you may find it of great interest regarding potential future groundwater management strategies.**

If the information presented by representatives of LSGCD is of concern to you regarding the future viability of your groundwater production assets, consider providing your own comments and concerns to the LSGCD Board and the GMA 14 Joint Planning Committee.

Opportunities to express your concerns (as currently scheduled):

**Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> – LSGCD Board Meeting, LSGCD Office, Conroe – 6:00 pm**

**Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> – GMA 14 Joint Planning Committee, HGSD Office, Friendswood – 10:00 am**