



Only 90 days

Provide Your Feedback on MoCo Groundwater Resources

What should the long-term goals be for our region's groundwater?

How much groundwater can be safely and reliably pumped?

How much land subsidence (sinking) is acceptable for our county?

Will additional subsidence lead to additional flooding?

Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District (LSGCD) asks for public feedback on new proposed aquifer planning goals.

The planning goals, or desired future conditions (DFCs), are used by groundwater conservation districts to balance groundwater supply and the consequences of over-pumping. **The new proposed goals recently approved by all the GCDs within our region increase the amount of water that can be pumped from under Montgomery County.**

The official proposed DFCs are developed by a state planning group made up of regional groundwater districts over a years-long process and can be found [here](#).

The newly proposed DFCs recommend that groundwater wells have water levels that do not decrease by more than 30% over the planning period and that an *average* of one foot land subsidence (sinking of the earth) also be used as a determining metric.

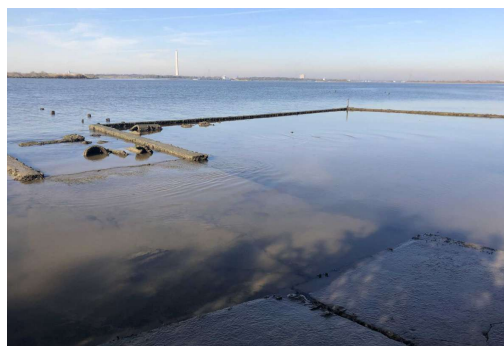
Subsidence has been linked to fault line movement, increased flooding risks, and reduced groundwater supply.

Individuals who wish to share their thoughts on the proposed DFCs should submit their comments in writing to LSGCD at info@lonestargcd.org with the subject line "DFC Comments" **no later than 11:59 p.m. on July 19.**

LSGCD also intends to hold a hearing this summer to receive and consider public comments, which has yet to be announced. Individuals interested in sharing their thoughts in person should sign up for the district's emails at <https://www.lonestargcd.org/> to be notified of the hearing date and registration

Helpful Links

[New goals would allow for ground to sink in The Woodlands, more water pumped from Montgomery County \(houstonchronicle.com\)](#)



[Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District asks for public feedback on proposed planning goals | Community Impact Newspaper](#)

[Subsidence key to Montgomery County's ongoing groundwater debate | Community Impact Newspaper](#)

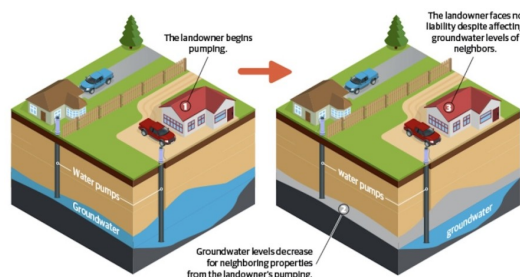
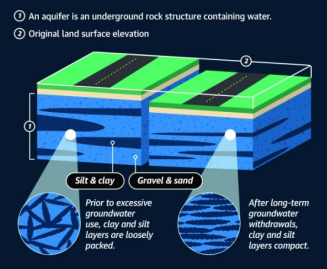
Spotting subsidence

Subsidence, or the sinking of land due to movement beneath the earth's surface, has been recorded over several decades in The Woodlands area. Subsidence can result from natural or human activity.

Long-term subsidence effects

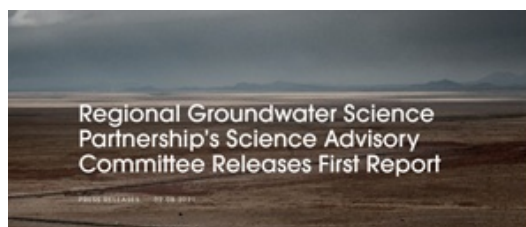
- Damage to buildings and infrastructure
- Increased flooding risk
- Elevation changes
- Compacting of aquifers

SOURCES: LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT; SAN ANTONIO WATER AUTHORITY; HARRIS-GALVESTON SUBSIDENCE DISTRICT; COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER



[Private property rights at heart of Montgomery County's groundwater dispute | Community Impact Newspaper](#)

[Regional Groundwater Science Partnership - Houston Advanced Research Center : Houston Advanced Research Center \(harcresearch.org\)](#)



Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District Press Release



Lone Star Invites the Public to Comment on Planning Goals

Groundwater Conservation Districts in GMA 14 Propose

2021 Desired Future Conditions

CONROE, TX— (Apr. 23, 2021) The Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District (LSGCD) announced that it received proposed Desired Future Conditions (DFCs), beginning a ninety-day public comment period. Individuals who wish to share their thoughts on the proposed DFCs should submit their comments in writing to info@lonestargcd.org with the subject line “DFC Comments” no later than 11:59 p.m. on Jul. 19, 2021. LSGCD plans to hold a hearing this summer to receive and consider public comments. Individuals interested in sharing their thoughts in person should sign-up for the District’s emails to be notified of the hearing date and registration process.

The official version of the proposed DFCs are listed below:

The Member Districts of Groundwater Management Area 14 (“GMA 14”) propose the following Desired Future Conditions (“DFCs”) for the Gulf Coast Aquifer within Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Grimes, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, Tyler, Walker, Waller, and Washington counties:

In each county in GMA 14, no less than 70 percent median available drawdown remaining in 2080 and no more than an average of 1.0 additional foot of subsidence between 2009 and 2080.

The model simulation consistent with the above proposed DFCs was developed by using the Houston Area Groundwater Model (HAGM) and adjusting the

pumping distribution in each county starting with the distribution used in the 2016 round of joint planning in GMA 14.

DFCs are planning goals used by the Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs), which make up Groundwater Management Areas (GMA), to balance conservation and development to meet the state's needs. GCDs analyze empirical data and set goals to achieve the conditions specified in the future conditions. The DFCs will be approved by Jan. 5, 2022, and will include plans for what groundwater conditions will look like in 2080.

The Texas Water Development Board (TWBD) requires the state's sixteen GMAs to submit their DFCs every five years. The last DFCs were completed in 2016, and the next round will be in 2026. Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code governs the process for creating these goals. This code mandates a ninety-day public comment period, after which time the voting GCDs in the GMA can amend the DFCs before approval and final adoption. Chapter 36 also allows the voting GCDs located within the same management area to have different DFCs based on varying aquifer conditions found within their boundaries. Chapter 36 requires the DFCs to represent the highest practicable level of production balanced with conservation.

At an Apr. 9, 2021 GMA 14 Meeting, LSGCD proposed several options regarding the proposed 1- foot average subsidence metric to account for varying aquifer conditions within the GMA's boundaries. These proposals included binding the metric to only those GCDs in which subsidence is empirically proven to be a limiting factor or to only those GCDs who prefer to have the metric. LSGCD's proposals are supported by science and offer a workable solution for all the GCDs. The data used, known as model runs, during the DFC development repeatedly showed that remaining available drawdown, not subsidence, is the limiting factor for LSGCD.

LSGCD also cited an inability to accurately track the average metric due to the unequal distribution of monitoring sites and the timing of this metric as LSGCD currently has a subsidence study in progress that will not be completed after the approval deadline.

LSGCD invites all Montgomery County residents to review the proposed DFCs and consider what the goals mean for their right to groundwater access, water bills, and the County's future. The District will compile public comments and take them back to the voting GCDs for consideration before the DFCs are finalized and submitted to the TWDB. The report submitted to the TWDB explains the process used to develop the DFCs and addresses the public comments received to ensure your input is considered. TWDB reviews the report submitted to ensure it is administratively complete before the GCDs formally adopt their respective DFCs.

Individuals interested in full documentation surrounding DFCs should contact the District Office at 936-494-3436 or sreiter@lonestargcd.org.

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If you would like to know more about SJRA, what we do, and how we work for the community, check out our website www.sjra.net and follow us on social media [@SanJacintoRiverAuthority](https://www.instagram.com/SanJacintoRiverAuthority), [@SJRA_1937](https://twitter.com/SJRA_1937), [@sanjacintoriverauthoritiesjra](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...), [@San Jacinto River Authority](https://www.linkedin.com/company/san-jacinto-river-authority).

