

Victoria County Groundwater Conservation District  
Meeting Minutes for June 12, 2026

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
VICTORIA COUNTY

The Board of Directors of the Victoria County Groundwater Conservation District convened a meeting at the Crossroads Plaza, Ste 104, 1501 E. Mockingbird Lane, Victoria, Texas on June 12, 2026, at 9:00 AM.

**Item 1 - Convene Meeting and receive a report from the general manager.**

**Topic 1.1 - Roll Call**

Mr. Meek called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and called the roll of representatives:

Present: Precinct 1 Director: Mr. Jerry Hroch, Vice President.

Present: Precinct 2 Director: Mr. Thurman Clements, Jr.

Present: Precinct 3 Director: Mrs. Barbara Dietzel, Secretary.

Present: Precinct 4 Director: Mr. Mark Meek, President.

Present: At Large Director: Mr. Kenneth Eller.

Present: General Manager: Tim Andruss.

Present: General Counsel: Jim Allison.

**Topic 1.2 - Report from General Manager**

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

Regarding Well Registration Processing,

As of May 27, 2026, staff had received 17 well registration applications (ARWs) since October 1, 2025.

As of May 27, 2026, staff had received 83 Notices of Intent to Drill a Well (NIDWs) since October 1, 2025.

Regarding Production Permit Renewal Processing,

As of May 27, 2026, staff had identified 43 production permits due to expire during the fiscal year. Staff will mail courtesy notices regarding the pending expiration and the need to renew the subject permit to permittees in April 2026.

Regarding Permit Processing,

As of May 27, 2026, staff had received 60 applications related to production permits and waivers since October 1, 2025.

As of May 27, 2026, staff had 41 administratively incomplete applications related to production permits and waivers.

1. AAP-20260429-01 - Bru-San Land Investment - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Active Production Permit Renewal
2. ARP-20260514-01 - Robert A Prochaska - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Active Production Permit Renewal
3. ARP-20260514-02 - Diocese of Victoria - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Active Production Permit Renewal
4. ARP-20260514-03 - Tim Andruss - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Active Production Permit Renewal
5. ARP-20260515-01 - Victoria Navigational District - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Active Production Permit Renewal
6. ARP-20260515-02 - Victoria Navigational District - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Active Production Permit Renewal
7. ARP-20260515-03 - Darwin Hamilton - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Active Production Permit Renewal
8. ARP-20260515-04 - Ed Mckenna - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Active Production Permit Renewal
9. ARP-20260518-01 - Richard Innocenti - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Active Production Permit Renewal
10. ARP-20260519-01 - Allan Miller Enterprises - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Active Production Permit Renewal
11. ARP-20260519-02 - MG Real Properties - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Active Production Permit Renewal
12. ARP-20260519-03 - Ryan Wright- Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Active Production Permit Renewal
13. ARP-20260520-01 - Mechura Investments LLC - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Active Production Permit Renewal
14. ARP-20260521-01 - Jackie Welch - Administratively Incomplete

- a. Permitting Request Type: Active Production Permit Renewal
- 15. ARP-20260526-01 - Jose Guadalupe - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Active Production Permit Renewal
- 16. ADSPP-20260402-01 - Port of Victoria - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Deep-Saline Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 17,361 GPM, 28,000 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: For Port of Victoria Developers
- 17. ANHUPPW-20260317-01 - Highway 185 Boat and Rv Storage - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 20 GPM, 1 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial Use
- 18. ANHUPPW-20260505-01 - Wesley Pratka - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 20 GPM, 2.5 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial
- 19. ANHUPPW-20260511-01- Timothy Rampey - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 50 GPM, 44 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Irrigation and RV Park
- 20. ANHUPPW-20260511-02- Timothy Rampey - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 20 GPM, 55.62 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Irrigation
- 21. ANHUPPW-20260511-03 - Mark Mize - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 50 GPM, 4.7 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial
- 22. ANHUPPW-20260511-05- Arnold Rios - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 50 GPM, 2.9 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: RV Park
- 23. ANHUPPW-20260511-06 - Victoria County - Administratively Incomplete

- a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 50 GPM, 4.3 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Public Water System
24. ANHUPPW-20260513-01 - Craig Lauger - Administratively Incomplete
- a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 50 GPM, 2.5 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial
25. ANHUPPW-20260513-02 - Craig Lauger - Administratively Incomplete
- a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 50 GPM, 1.9 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial
26. ANHUPPW-20260513-03 - Jackie Welch - Administratively Incomplete
- a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 200 GPM, 185 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Irrigation and Agricultural Uses
27. ANHUPPW-20260513-04 - Brandun Knocke - Administratively Incomplete
- a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 20 GPM, 4 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial
28. ANHUPPW-20260513-05 - Brandun Knocke - Administratively Incomplete
- a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 20 GPM, 4 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial
29. ANHUPPW-20260513-06 - Martin Koehne - Administratively Incomplete
- a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 20 GPM, 3 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial
30. ANHUPPW-20260514-01 - Phillip Stanley - Administratively Incomplete
- a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 50 GPM, 1.5 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial

31. ANHUPPW-20260514-01 - Shawna Stillwell - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 60 GPM, 2.2 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial and Manufacturing Uses
32. ANHUPPW-20260514-02 - Andrew Jacob - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 18 GPM, 2.7 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial
33. ANHUPPW-20260514-03 - Robert Klimitchek - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 100 GPM, 145.82 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Firefighting and Stock
34. ANHUPPW-20260515-01 - Michael Lundin - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 50 GPM, 2 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial
35. ANHUPPW-20260515-02 - Michael Lundin - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Requested Production Rates: 50 GPM , 1.1 AFY
  - b. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial
36. ANHUPPW-20260519-01 - Clint Kendall - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 20 GPM, 2.46 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial
37. ANHUPPW-20260519-02 - Helena Agri-Enterprises - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 55 GPM, 5.43 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial and Agricultural
38. ANHUPPW-20260520-01 - Beatrice Navaira - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 50 GPM, 1.1 AFY

- c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial
- 39. ANHUPPW-20260522-01 - Stephen McHaney - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 75 GPM, 50 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Livestock, Wildlife uses, and Wetland Management
- 40. ANHUPPW-20260522-02 - Stephen McHaney - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 75 GPM, 50 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Livestock, Irrigation and Wildlife Use
- 41. ANHUPPW-20260526-01 - Dennis Leita - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
  - b. Requested Production Rates: 125 GPM, 30.75 AFY
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Irrigation
- 42. AWR-20260520-01 - Bru-San Land Investments - Administratively Incomplete
  - a. Permitting Request Type: Waiver of Spacing Requirements
  - b. Requested Production Rates: N/A
  - c. Requested Purpose of Use: N/A

As of May 27, 2026, staff had initiated 6 permitting request cases (PRCs) since October 1, 2025.

As of May 27, 2026, staff had 5 permitting request cases pending.

1. VCGCD - GMa - Permitting Request Case - PRC-20251118-01 - ANHUPPW-20251118-01 - LTJ Investments LLC - Pending/Uncontested - James Zafereo for LTJ Investments LLC seeks, under permitting request case PRC-20251118-01, a standard-capacity non-historic-use production permit authorizing the production of groundwater from a non-grandfathered well for Poultry Farm and Commercial uses at rates not to exceed 25 gallons per minute or 5 acre-feet per year. The subject well is located on a 285.85-acre tract of land near the intersection of Levi Sloan Road and Dixie Lane in Victoria County, Texas.

2. VCGCD - GMa - Permitting Request Case - PRC-20251118-02 - ANHUPPW-20251118-02 - LTJ Investments LLC - Pending/Uncontested - Mr. James Zafereo for LTJ Investments LLC seeks, under permitting request case PRC-20251118-02, a standard-capacity non-historic-use production permit authorizing the production of groundwater from a non-grandfathered well for Poultry Farm and Commercial uses at rates not to exceed 25 gallons per minute or 5 acre-feet per year. The subject well is located on a 285.85-acre tract of land near the intersection of Levi Sloan Road and Dixie Lane in Victoria County, Texas.
3. VCGCD - GMa - Permitting Request Case - PRC-20251118-03 - ANHUPPW-20251118-03 - LTJ Investments LLC - Pending/Uncontested - Mr. James Zafereo for LTJ Investments LLC seeks, under permitting request case PRC-20251118-03, a standard-capacity non-historic-use production permit authorizing the production of groundwater from a non-grandfathered well for Poultry Farm and Commercial uses at rates not to exceed 25 gallons per minute or 5 acre-feet per year. The subject well is located on a 285.85-acre tract of land near the intersection of Levi Sloan Road and Dixie Lane in Victoria County, Texas.
4. VCGCD - GMa - Permitting Request Case - PRC-20260113-02 - ADSPP-20251218-01 - VCPFC - Pending/Uncontested - Mr. Sean Stibich for Port of Victoria / Victoria County Port Facilities Corporation seeks, under permitting request case PRC-20260113-02, a permit authorizing the production of saline groundwater for industrial uses at rates not to exceed 1,240 gallons per minute or 2,000 acre-feet per year from a proposed deep saline well screened in the Goliad Saline Groundwater Zone at depths exceeding 1,300 feet below the surface. The proposed well will be located on a 2,723.06-acre tract of land near the intersection of State Highway 185 and McCoy Road in Victoria County, Texas.

5. VCGCD - GMa - Permitting Request Case - PRC-20260505-01- ANHUPPW-20260219-01 - Riotex Swabbing - Pending/Uncontested - Mr. Mario Perez for Riotex Swabbing seeks, under permitting request case PRC-20260505-01, a standard-capacity non-historic-use production permit authorizing the production of groundwater from a non-grandfathered well for Commercial uses at rates not to exceed 20 gallons per minute or 2.5 acre-feet per year. The subject well is located on a 5.04-acre tract of land near the intersection of Coletoville Road and US 59 in Victoria County, Texas.

As of May 27, 2026, staff had 407 active or approved production permits recorded in the permitting database with a combined amount of authorized groundwater production per year of 113,449.762 acre-feet for both historic-use and non-historic-use permits.

Regarding Groundwater Production Report Processing

As of May 27, 2026, staff had processed 239 groundwater production reports for the preceding calendar year since October 1, 2025.

As of May 27, 2026, staff had recorded groundwater production reports for 239 water wells reporting 30,452 acre-feet of groundwater production during Calendar Year 2025. (TWDB estimated the volume of groundwater produced for rural domestic, livestock, mining, and rig supply exempt uses in Victoria County in Year 2020 was 1,920 acre-feet. See: TWDB - Projected Exempt Groundwater Use Estimates.)

Regarding Manage Investigations related to Permitting Violations

As of May 27, 2026, staff had initiated 3 investigations related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting) since October 1, 2026.

As of May 27, 2026, staff had 3 active investigations related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting).

1. INV-20260410-01 - Unpermitted Non-Exempt-Use - 5B Farms - Active
2. INV-20260505-01 - Production Permits - Unexecuted - Active
3. INV-20251006-01 - Unpermitted Non-Exempt-Use - Active

Regarding Manage Enforcement Cases related to Permitting Violations

As of May 27, 2026, the Board had initiated 12 enforcement case violations related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting) since October 1, 2025.

As of May 27, 2026, staff had 11 unresolved enforcement cases related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting).

1. ECV-20250425-06 - KAM Enterprises LTD. - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2024 For Well(s) - Active

2. ECV-20250425-10 - Blake Truax and Merri Truax - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2024 For Well(s) - Active
3. ECV-20260415-02 - Clayton Maxwell - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2025 For Well(s) - Active
4. ECV-20260415-03 - LMFAO50 LP - Thomas Margo and Elston Jr. - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2025 For Well(s) - Active
5. ECV-20260415-04 - QES Pressure Control - Great White Pressure Control LLC. - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2025 For Well(s) - Active
6. ECV-20260415-07 - Da Costa Sons of Herman Lodge 265 - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2025 For Well(s) - Active
7. ECV-20260415-08 - Millennium Estate Management LLC - VICTTEC LLC - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2025 For Well(s) - Active
8. ECV-20260415-09 - Jesse Hunt - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2025 For Well(s) - Active
9. ECV-20260415-10 - Bloomington ISD - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2025 For Well(s) - Active
10. ECV-20260415-11 - Buhler - Telferner Partnership - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2025 For Well(s) - Active
11. ECV-20260415-12 - Rebecca S. Muschalek - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2025 For Well(s) - Active

Regarding Permit Report Processing

As of May 27, 2026, staff had processed 0 permit reports to permittees since October 1, 2025.

As of May 27, 2026, staff had 0 permit report outstanding.

**Item 2 - Receive Public Comment**

Comments were received from the public.

**Item 3 - Consideration of and possible action on matters related to groundwater management, including the efforts and activities of the District regarding permitting, complaints, investigations, violations, and enforcement cases associated with permitting.**

**Topic 3.1 - Technical Consultant Support related to Permitting Application Reviews**

Mr. Andruss discussed the following information:

On October 18, 2024, the Board of Directors adopted a resolution establishing a schedule of fees, including fees for applications for high-capacity non-historic-use production permits, applications for deep-saline non-historic-use production

permits, applications for transfer permits, and applications for district waiver requests. The purpose of establishing the application fees was to collect sufficient money from applicants to pay for consultation services needed to assist staff with the review and evaluation of the request relative to the rules of the district.

The District has entered into contracts with several consulting firms that provide technical services related to groundwater hydrogeology and groundwater resource management, including INTERA, Daniel B. Stephens and Associates (DBSA), WSP USA, and Collier Consulting. However, with the increased interest and activity related to developing large-volume groundwater production projects, contracting with additional consulting firms may be necessary and prudent, as the District's existing consultants may develop other business relationships that could disqualify them from providing independent and objective technical services to the District associated with a particular permit application.

Typically, management has sought authorization to engage consultants to assist with the review of complex permitting applications from the Board on a case-by-case basis. However, seeking authorization to engage consultants for the review of permitting applications from the Board for each permitting application impedes the timely processing of applications, given the quarterly meeting schedule of the Board of Directors.

### **Topic 3.2 - Report Regarding Simulations of Drawdowns Caused by Large-Scale Brackish Groundwater Production**

Mr. Andruss discussed the following information:

On April 10, 2026, the Board of Directors accepted and approved the Proposal for Additional Simulations Using the Central Gulf Coast Brackish Groundwater Flow Model submitted by Steven Young of INTERA, Inc., dated April 10, 2026, as a fixed-fee engagement for an amount not to exceed \$10,000. On April 22, 2026, management provided the notice to proceed with the project to INTERA, Inc.

On May 19, 2026, Intera delivered the final draft of the project report title: Characterization of Brackish Groundwater Resources for Calhoun, Jackson, Refugio, and Victoria Counties Addendum #1. Simulation of Drawdowns Caused by Large-Scale Production. The report documents the cumulative drawdowns predicted when simulating large-volume brackish groundwater development projects in Calhoun, Jackson, Refugio, and Victoria Counties using the CGCBGWF Model.

VCGCD - Intera Brackish Cumulative Effects Report - 20260519.pdf

The analysis involved the identification of hypothetical well fields in each county based on TDS zones (slight salinity and median salinity) and aquifer transmissivity categories (maximum transmissivity and median transmissivity) and simulating operation of a well field in each county for each combination of TDS zone and

transmissivity category. The identification of hypothetical well field sites attempts to anticipate development locations based on preferable hydrogeologic conditions in terms of well field operation and water quality. The pumping scenarios are listed below:

1. Maximum Transmissivity and Slightly Saline Zone,
2. Maximum Transmissivity and Moderately Saline Zone,
3. Median Transmissivity and Slightly Saline Zone, and
4. Median Transmissivity and Moderately Saline Zone.

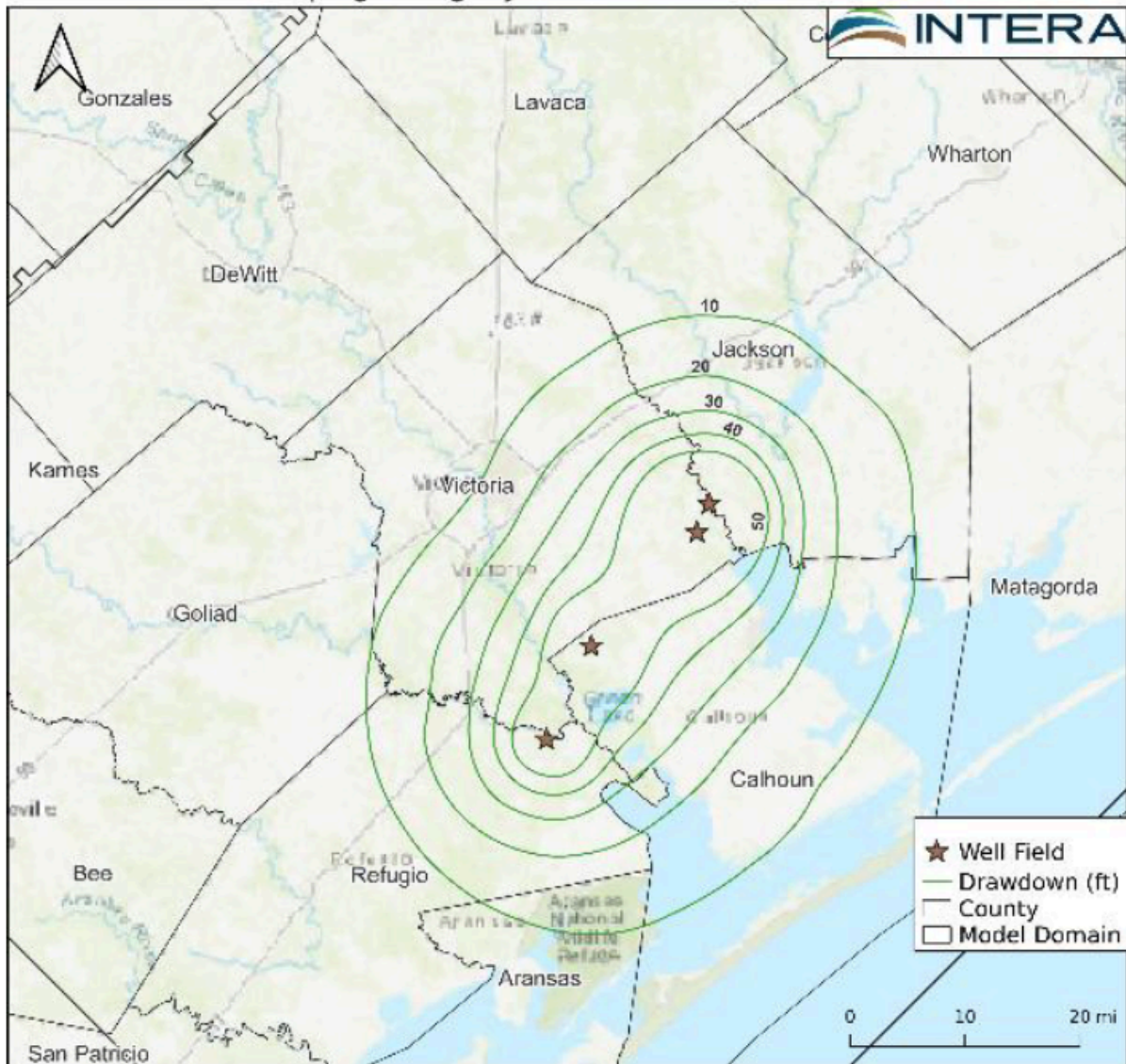
Table 2-3 of the report summarizes the predicted drawdown resulting from 30 years of simulated pumping for the four scenarios based on combinations of TDS zone and transmissivity category.

**Table 2-3. Simulated drawdown by pumping at four well fields simultaneously.**

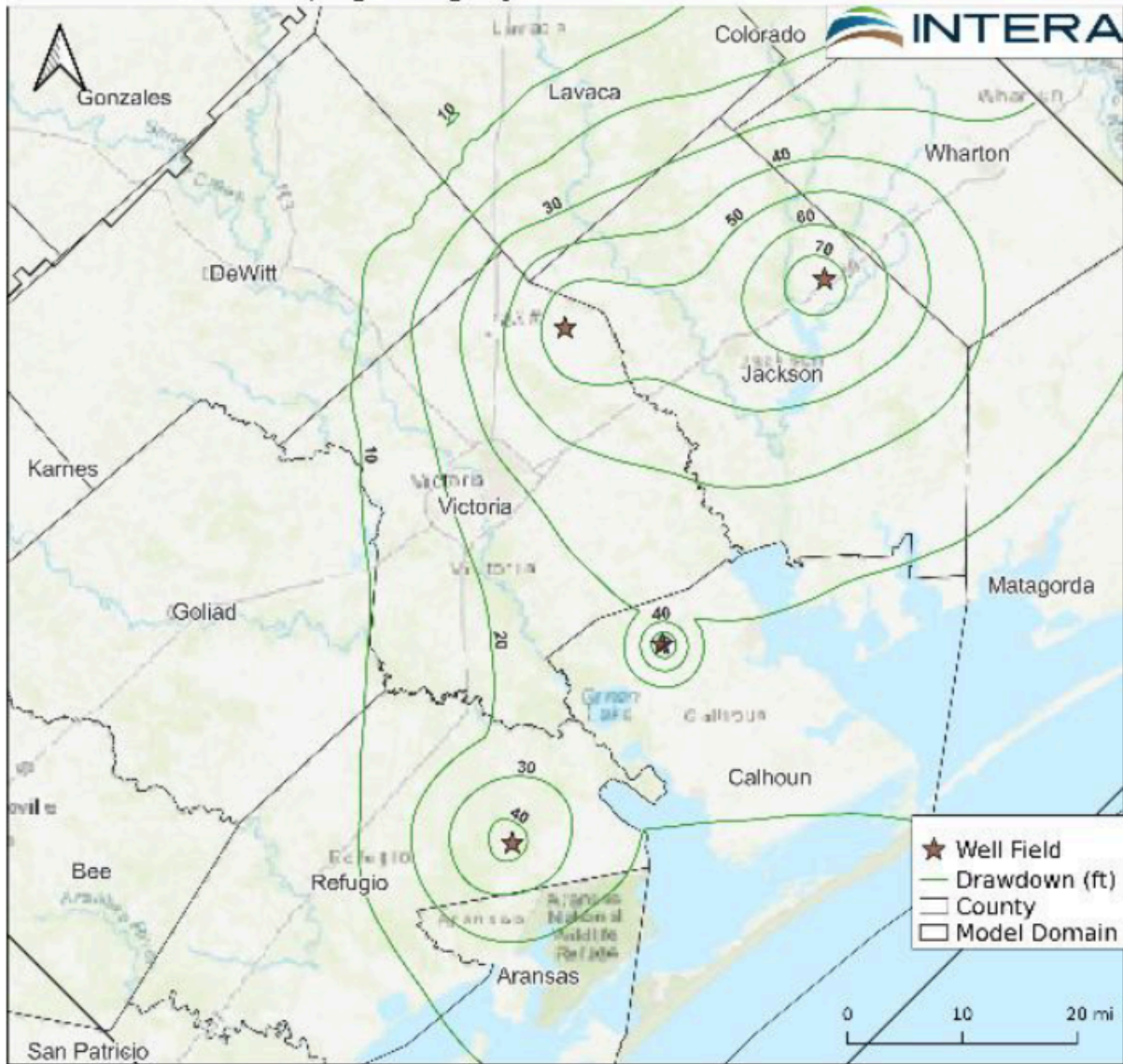
TDS Zone	Maximum Transmissivity				Median Transmissivity			
	Well Field ID	Pumping Rate (AFY)	Drawdown (ft) after 30 Years		Well Field ID	Pumping Rate (AFY)	Drawdown (ft) after 30 Years	
			Brackish Zone	Freshwater Zone			Brackish Zone	Freshwater Zone
Slightly Saline	1	20,000	114	57	9	20,000	166	27
	2	20,000	144	71	10	20,000	363	11
	3	20,000	152	72	11	20,000	272	45
	4	20,000	138	73	12	20,000	366	55
Moderately Saline	5	15,000	152	19	13	15,000	258	13
	6	15,000	161	13	14	15,000	695	16
	7	15,000	129	16	15	15,000	403	17
	8	15,000	175	30	16	15,000	629	2

Figures 2-19 through 2-22 illustrate the drawdowns predicted in lowest fresh groundwater zones and in the pumped brackish zones of the four pumping scenarios. Below are snippets of those figure illustrating the cumulative drawdowns predicted for the fresh groundwater zones for each scenario.

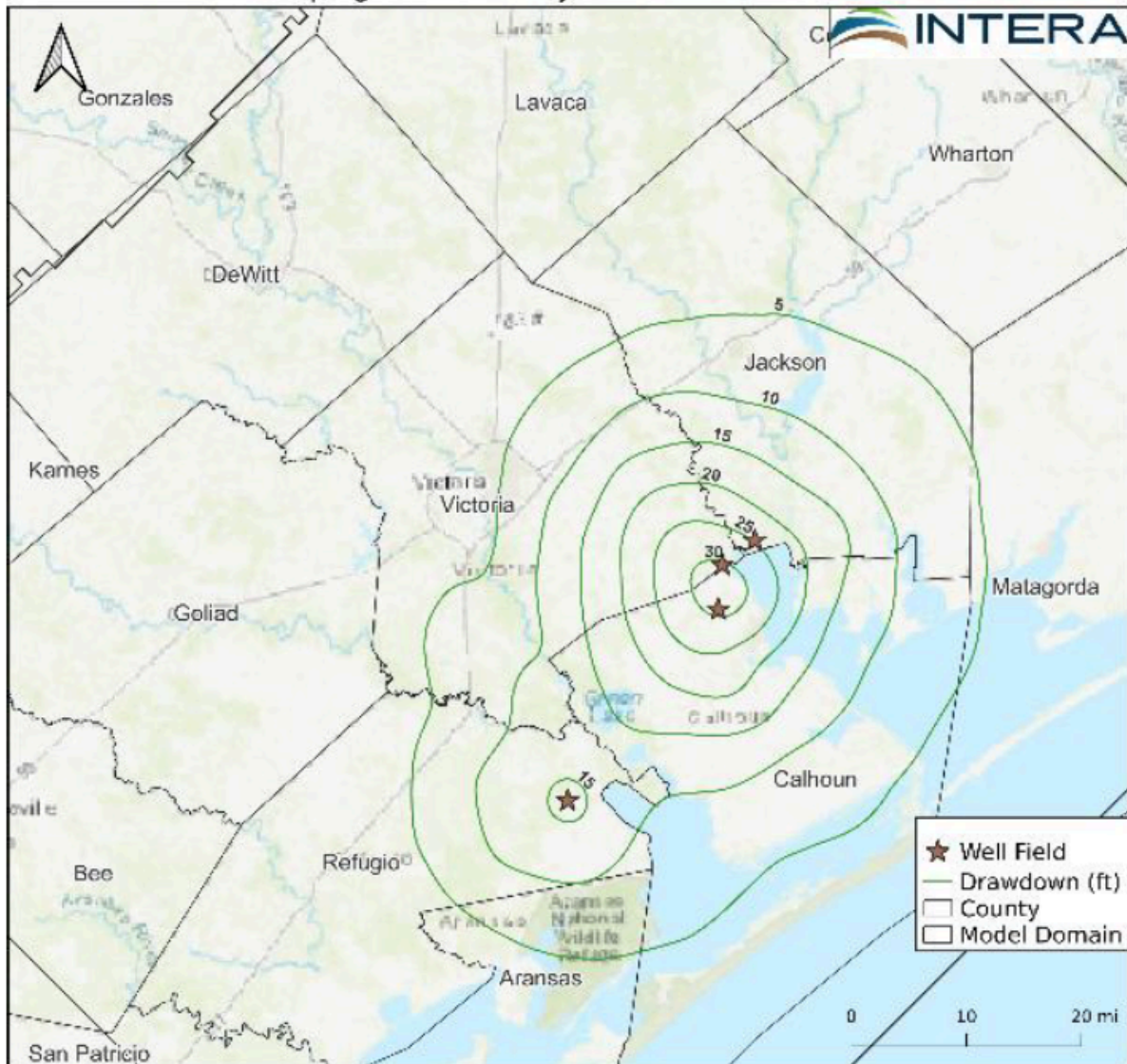
Maximum Transmissivity, Fresh Water,  
with 80000 AFY Pumping at Slightly Saline Zone.



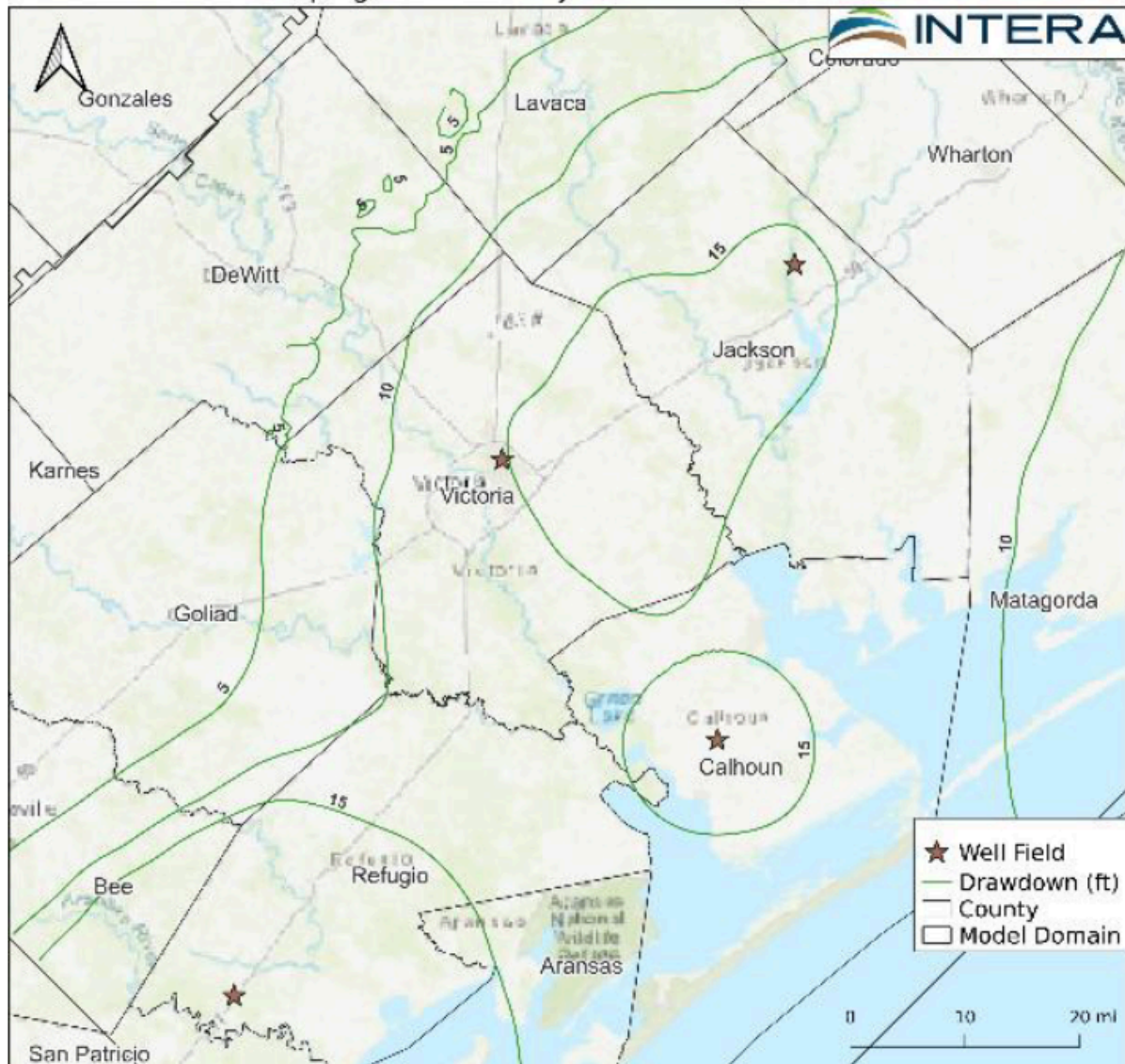
Median Transmissivity, Fresh Water,  
with 80000 AFY Pumping at Slightly Saline Zone.



Maximum Transmissivity, Fresh Water,  
with 60000 AFY Pumping at Moderately Saline Zone.



Median Transmissivity, Fresh Water,  
with 60000 AFY Pumping at Moderately Saline Zone.



Based on the results of the predicted cumulative drawdowns in the fresh groundwater zones in light of the primary policy objective of incentivizing brackish groundwater development (which is to protect and conserve fresher groundwater resources by producing poorer quality groundwater to meet new water demands), management has drafted rule revisions regarding deep-saline non-historic-use production permitting.

As anticipated since the original development and approval of the deep-saline groundwater production provisions, the development and actual operation of significant deep-saline groundwater production projects will likely have implications for the District related to Joint Planning and the development of desired future

conditions (DFC) within Groundwater Management Area 15. In particular, management anticipates that amendments to the DFC will be necessary to establish a DFC for fresh groundwater resources and a DFC for deep-saline groundwater resources within the jurisdiction of the District.

Management has inquired about Dr. Young's availability to attend the District's meeting scheduled for July 10, 2026, and the meetings of the cooperating districts in July. Dr. Young has reserved those dates on his calendar and has agreed to prepare for and attend those meeting is authorized by the boards. Dr. Young estimated the cost for preparing and attending those meetings (labor and expenses) totals \$13,000.

### **Topic 3.3 - Temporary Moratorium regarding High-Capacity Non-Historic-Use Production Permitting and Deep-Saline Non-Historic-Use Production Permitting**

Mr. Andruss discussed the following information:

On May 11, 2026, staff received a message from Mr. and Mrs. McCabe, who live near the communities of Olivia and Port Alto in Calhoun County and use groundwater for domestic purposes. The message, addressed to the boards of the cooperating districts, expressed concerns regarding potential impacts associated with a proposed ammonia plant and other potential developments in the central Gulf Coast region. In addition, McCabe requested that each of the districts establish a moratorium on High-Capacity Non-Historic-Use Production Permits and Deep-Saline Non-Historic-Use Production Permits for two and a half years.

Moratorium Request - McCabe - 20260511.pdf

Management recognizes that several benefits may be obtained by the District and owners of groundwater resources within Victoria County from a limited, temporary suspension of permitting activities related to high-capacity and deep-saline non-historic-use production permitting. In particular, the temporary suspension would 1) afford the District and other interested parties time to carefully evaluate and assess the recently completed projects related to characterizing brackish groundwater resources within the District and 2) afford the District sufficient time to complete a rulemaking process to revise the Rules of the District to increase the protections for fresh groundwater resources and properly incentivize the development of brackish groundwater resources within Victoria County.

After conferring with President of the Board of Directors, Mr. Meek, and obtaining authorization to place the topic of a temporary moratorium on the meeting notice agenda for this meeting, management requested legal counsel draft a moratorium resolution that, if approved by the board, would temporarily suspend the acceptance, processing, or approval of high-capacity and deep-saline non-historic-use production permits and any related waiver requests to allow the Board sufficient time to complete a rulemaking process to propose and adopt revisions to the high-

capacity and deep-saline production permitting regulations as the Board determines to be appropriate.

On June 11, 2026, management reviewed and revised a draft resolution related to a moratorium, prepared by Mr. Allison, legal counsel, for consideration by the Board.  
VCGCD - Resolution re Temporary Moratorium - RES-20260612-01 - Draft.pdf

#### **Item 4 - Consideration of and possible action on matters related to groundwater policy, including the Management Plan of the District and the Rules of the District.**

##### **Topic 4.1 - Management Recommended Draft Rule Revisions**

Mr. Andruss discussed the following information:

On October 18, 2024, the Board of Directors adopted revised Rules of the District. Through the use and implementation of the Rules of the District and the review of technical information (e.g., brackish groundwater characterization reports and water level assessment reports), management has identified numerous instances where revisions would be appropriate to current regulations (i.e. Rules of the District) related to the protection and conservation of groundwater resources within the district, consistent with the established policies and management goals established by the Board of Directors, that: 1) correct typographical errors, 2) clarify existing policies and regulations, 3) eliminate certain provisions and requirements, or 3) propose substantive modifications or additions to certain provisions and requirements.

VCGCD - Rules of the District - Management-Recommended Revisions - 20260603 - Redline.pdf (removed from supplemental documentation)

VCGCD - Rules of the District - Management-Recommended Revisions - 20260603 - No Redline.pdf (removed from supplemental documentation)

The category of the Rules of the District for which the most extensive revisions are recommended relates to Deep-Saline Non-Historic-Use Production Permitting. The majority of the proposed revisions related to Deep-Saline Non-Historic-Use Production Permitting were developed in response to the technical work and resulting reports produced by Intera, Inc., regarding the expanded characterization of brackish groundwater resources within Calhoun, Jackson, Refugio, and Victoria Counties.

Summary of Management-Recommended Rule Revisions considered substantive:

Description of Revision	Category	Comment
Modification of AQUIFER CONDITION TIER 2 PARAMETERS definition	HCPP-Related; DSPP-Related	Recommended to improve the utility of collected data for the evaluation of impacts
Modification of AQUIFER CONDITION TIER 3 PARAMETERS definition	HCPP-Related; DSPP-Related	Recommended to improve the utility of collected data for the evaluation of impacts
Modification of DEEP-SALINE SPECIAL GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ZONE definition	DSPP-Specific	Recommended to regulate/incentivize based on the degree of separation and isolation of deep-saline groundwater from fresher groundwater, and simplify the regulatory approach for deep-saline groundwater permitting
Modification of DEEP-SALINE SPECIAL GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ZONES definition	DSPP-Specific	Recommended to regulate/incentivize based on the quality/usability of produced saline water and simplify the regulatory approach for deep-saline groundwater permitting
Modification of DEEP-SALINE TRANSMISSIVITY CATEGORY definition	DSPP-Specific	Recommended to regulate/incentivize based on the primary hydrogeologic characteristic that influences drawdown, and simplify the regulatory approach for deep-saline groundwater permitting
Modification of DEEP-SALINE TRANSMISSIVITY ZONES definition	DSPP-Specific	Recommended to regulate/incentivize based on the primary hydrogeologic characteristic that influences drawdown
Deletion of WELL WITH HISTORICALLY LOW PRODUCTION definition	General	Recommended to reduce uncertainty in the District's understanding of groundwater production, improve the efficiency of district administration, and reduce occurrences of

(Note: DSPP - Deep-Saline Production Permitting; HCPP - High Capacity Production Permitting; HUPP - Historic Use Production Permitting; SCPP - Standard Capacity Production Permitting)

If adopted, the management-recommended revisions to the rules related to wells with historically low production would be eliminated, simplifying the reporting requirements of the district and reducing the potential for permittee confusion regarding permitting matters.

If adopted, the management-recommended revisions to rules related to historic-use groundwater production permitting would achieve the following:

- Establish a deadline of December 31, 2029, for the submittal and approval of any new historic-use non-exempt-use production permits.

If adopted, the management-recommended revisions to rules related to deep-saline groundwater production would achieve the following:

- Establish explicit conservation requirements associated with approval of authorizations to produce brackish groundwater by reducing the non-historic-use production ratio at sites where deep-saline production permits are granted. (See items 8-10 of Rule 6.4) as follows:
  - 20% reduction associated with slightly saline groundwater production.
  - 10% reduction associated with moderately saline groundwater production.
  - 5% reduction associated with extremely saline groundwater production.
- Re-define the term Deep-Saline Special Groundwater Management Zones (zones with increased non-historic-use production ratios) to mean zones that (See Rule 1.1):
  - begin below the estimated elevation of the 3,000 TDS Contour identified in the Characterization Report (ranges between 1,800 feet to 2,100 feet below land surface in the district). See Figure 2.
  - where at least 100 feet of clay is present between the 1,000 TDS - 3,000 TDS zones.
- Eliminate previous designated deep-saline special groundwater production zones (Goliad, Lagarto, and Oakville DSSGPZs) and re-designate (See Rule 1.1):
  - Slightly Saline Groundwater Zone with a TDS range of 2,000 mg/L and 3,000 mg/L.
  - Moderately Saline Groundwater Zone with a TDS range of 3,000 mg/L and 10,000 mg/L.
  - Extremely Saline Groundwater Zone with a TDS exceeding 10,000 mg/L.
- Reduce and establish cumulative deep-saline groundwater production limits (i.e., annual district-wide caps) as follows:
  - Slightly Saline Groundwater Zone is limited to 10,000 acre-feet per year,

- Moderately Saline Groundwater Zone is limited to 7,000 acre-feet per year,
- Extremely Saline Groundwater Zone is limited to 5,000 acre-feet per year.
- Reduce and establish the cumulative non-historic-use production ratios to (See Rule 6.4.1):
  - Slightly Saline Groundwater Zone:
    - 4 AFY/ac for zones with low transmissivity,
    - 6 AFY/ac for zones with moderate transmissivity,
    - 8 AFY/ac for zones with high transmissivity.
  - Moderately Saline Groundwater Zone:
    - 6 AFY/ac for zones with low transmissivity,
    - 8 AFY/ac for zones with moderate transmissivity,
    - 10 AFY/ac for zones with high transmissivity.
  - Extremely Saline Groundwater Zone:
    - 8 AFY/ac for zones with low transmissivity,
    - 9 AFY/ac for zones with moderate transmissivity,
    - 10 AFY/ac for zones with high transmissivity.
- Advance the requirement to submit aquifer testing plans and resulting technical reports regarding measured aquifer conditions and aquifer characteristics with a deep-saline non-historic-use production permit request to the application submittal stage of the permitting process. (See Rule 6.4.2)
- Simplify the progressive reduction and restoration of authorized production under a deep-saline non-historic-use production permit in response to failures to satisfy and subsequent achievements of performance criteria. (See Rule 6.4.4)

The first step in the formal consideration of proposed rule revisions is to schedule and publish notice of a public rulemaking hearing regarding the proposed rule revisions. A draft notice has been developed for consideration.

VCGCD - Public Hearing Notice - Proposed Rule Revision - 20260710 - Draft.pdf

When authorized, rulemaking notices are posted in accordance with Section 36.101 of the Texas Water Code, at least 20 days in advance of the hearing, including 1) at the District's office, 2) with the county clerks of the county or counties in the district, 3) in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or counties in which the district is located (e.g., Victoria Advocate), and 4) on the website of the district. A copy of the proposed rules will be made publicly available at the District's office and on the District's website.

Upon additional review of the management-recommended rule revisions, originally published within this packet, for presentation to the Board, management identified and incorporated additional revisions into the recommended set of rule revisions. The additional revisions are located at: Rule 6.2.3(1)(1.14); Rule 6.2.3(1)(1.15); Rule

6.3(1)(1.4)(1.41); Rule 6.3(1)(1.4)(1.42); Rule 6.3.1(1)(1.5)(1.5.4)(1.5.4.1); Rule 6.3.1(1)(1.5)(1.5.4)(1.5.4.2); Rule 6.4.3(11); and Rule 6.4.4(1)(1.1).

VCGCD - Rules of the District - Management-Recommended Revisions - 20260605 - Redline.pdf (removed from supplemental documentation)

VCGCD - Rules of the District - Management-Recommended Revisions - 20260605 - No Redline.pdf (removed from supplemental documentation)

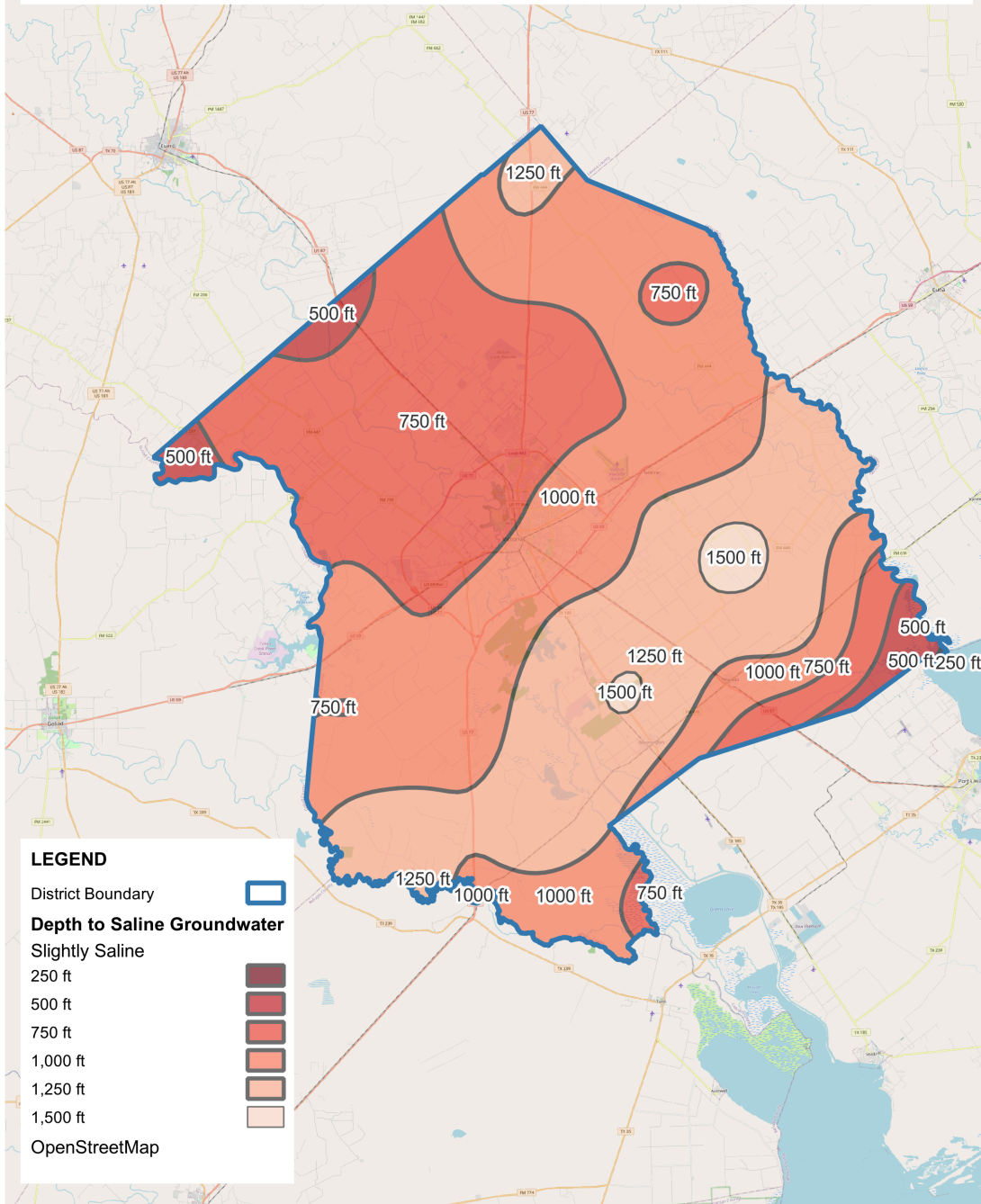
On June 11, 2026, in consultation with Dr. Young of Intera, management developed an alternate version of the management-recommended rule revisions to improve the definition of Deep-Saline Special Groundwater Management Zones (DSGMZs) and improve the figures used to illustrate the depth at which the DSGMZs would be designated under the recommended revisions.

DEEP-SALINE SPECIAL GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ZONE means a special groundwater management zone designated by the district comprised of a water-bearing stratum within the jurisdictional boundaries of the district that:

1. contains saline groundwater existing below the middle depth between the 1,000 TDS contours and the 3,000 TDS contour as illustrated in Figure 1a, and
2. where at least 100 feet of clay thickness composed from individual clay intervals of 10 feet or greater, as determined by interpretation of core samples or geophysical logs, exists between a) the top of 1,000 TDS contour illustrated in Figure 1 and b) the middle depth between the 1,000 TDS contours and the 3,000 TDS contour illustrated in Figure 1a.

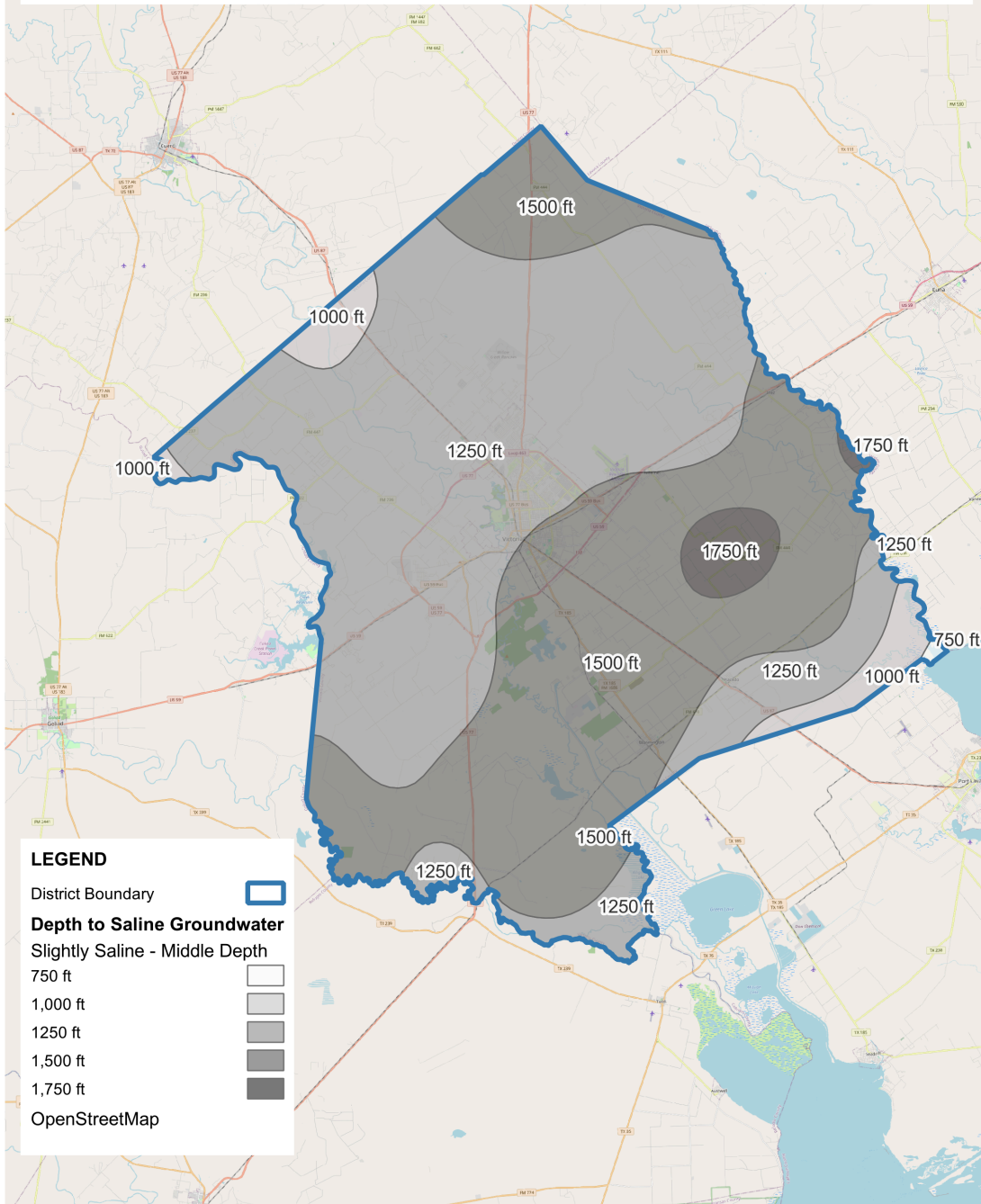
DSGMZ - VCGCD Slightly Saline Groundwater Zone - Figure 1.png

## Victoria County Groundwater Conservation District Depths to Groundwater by Groundwater Quality Classification



DSGMZ - VCGCD Slightly Saline Groundwater Zone - Middle Depth - Figure 1a.png

## Victoria County Groundwater Conservation District Depths to Groundwater by Groundwater Quality Classification



Board Action:

Mr. Meek moved to convene to a closed session at 9:55 AM. Mr. Clements seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board members returned from closed session at 10:46 AM.

**Board Action:**

Mr. Meek moved to authorize the general manager to engage qualified consultants under contract with the District to provide technical services to staff to assist with the review and processing of permitting applications in amounts not to exceed the associated application fee. Mr. Eller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Action:**

Mr. Clements moved to 1) accept the final draft of the project report title: Characterization of Brackish Groundwater Resources for Calhoun, Jackson, Refugio, and Victoria Counties Addendum #1. Simulation of Drawdowns Caused by Large-Scale Production, 2) instruct the General Manager to post the report on the website of the district, and 3) authorize the payment of the invoice associated with the completion of the project in an amount not to exceed \$10,000. Mr. Eller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Action:**

Mr. Clements moved to authorize the General Manager to request that Dr. Young prepare for and attend the District's meeting scheduled for July 10, 2026, to report on and discuss his work to support the district's efforts to develop deep-saline groundwater production regulations and rules. Mr. Eller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Action:**

Mr. Clements moved to temporarily suspend the acceptance, processing, or approval of new High-Capacity Non-Historic-Use Production Permits and new Deep-Saline Non-Historic-Use Production Permits and any related waiver until the earlier of 1) the Board completing a rulemaking process to propose and adopt revisions to the high-capacity and deep-saline production permitting regulations as the Board determines to be appropriate, or 2) January 31, 2027. Mr. Andruss read Resolution Res-20260612-01, regarding a temporary moratorium. Mr. Eller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Action:**

Mr. Clements moved to 1) designate the management-recommended rule revisions the 2026 Proposed Rule of the District, 2) schedule the required rulemaking hearing for the proposed rule revisions at the regular meeting to be held on July 10, 2026, and 3) authorize the general manager to post the required public notices related to the rulemaking process if the public notice requirements associated with rulemaking

hearings can be satisfied. Mr. Hroch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Item 5 - Adjourn Meeting**

**Board Action:**

Mr. Meek moved to adjourn the meeting after concluding all business of the District at approximately 10:57 AM. Mr. Hroch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE ABOVE AND FOREGOING MINUTES WERE READ AND APPROVED ON THIS THE \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ Director of the Victoria County  
Groundwater Conservation District

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_ Director of the Victoria County  
Groundwater Conservation District