Cooperative Strategies for Groundwater

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Questions

- How does Texas manage groundwater?
- How do we cooperate/coordinate across boundaries?
- What challenges and opportunities exist?
GCD=Groundwater Conservation Districts

General Statutory Authority + Specific Enabling Legislation
Balancing Act

Conservation, preservation, protection, recharging and prevention of waste of groundwater

Rights of Landowners and the highest practicable level of groundwater production
Groundwater Wells

Spacing

Production
Groundwater Management Areas of Texas

Groundwater Management Areas were created "in order to provide for the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging, and prevention of waste of the groundwater, and of groundwater reservoirs or their subdivisions, and to control subsidence caused by withdrawal of water from those groundwater reservoirs or their subdivisions, consistent with the objectives of Section 74, Article 74A, Texas Constitution, or groundwater management area may be created..." (Texas Water Code §36.002) (Effective: Act 94, 74th Leg., ch. 933, §1, Sept. 1, 1995.

The responsibility for Groundwater Management Area delineation was delegated to the Texas Water Development Board (Article 74A, Chapter 74, Title 3, Texas Water Code). The initial Groundwater Management Area delineations were adopted on December 15, 1983 (580, 33, TWDB Rule).

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## Science & Policy

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### MAG

- Aquifer Uses or Conditions
- Private Property Rights
- Feasibility of achieving DFC

### DFC

- State Water Plan
- Impacts on Subsidence
- Any other relevant information

- Hydrological Conditions
- Socioeconomic Impacts
- Environmental Impacts

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**Any other relevant information**

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Regional Water Planning Areas of Texas

In response to the drought of the 1950s and in recognition of the need to plan for the future, the legislature created the Texas Water Development Board (TWDDB) to develop water supplies and prepare plans to meet the state's future water needs.

Coordinating this water planning process are 18 planning groups, one for each regional water planning area (see map). The planning groups, each made up of about 20 members, represent a variety of interests, including agriculture, industry, environment, public, municipalities, business, water districts, river authorities, water utilities, counties, and power generation.

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MISSION: The Texas Water Development Board’s (TWDDB) mission is to provide leadership, planning, financial assistance, information, and education for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas.
How does Texas manage groundwater?

- Decentralized groundwater management
- Regional planning groups
- Stakeholder driven, ground up state water planning

What challenges and opportunities exist?

- Data, funding, legal vulnerability
- GCD Uniformity
- Groundwater/surface water interaction
- Transboundary management
Questions?

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