

# Refugio Groundwater Conservation District Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020 October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020 Annual Report

## **Section 1 - Review of management goals, objectives and performance standards of the District.**

The Management Plan of the District ([Management Plan of the District](#)), as adopted on April 15, 2019, specifies the method for tracking progress in achieving the goals of the District. The management plans states "staff of the DISTRICT will prepare and present an annual report to the Refugio Groundwater Conservation [District] Board of Directors regarding the DISTRICT's performance in achieving management goals and objectives for the fiscal year. The report will be presented within 120 days following the completion of the DISTRICT's fiscal year."

Based on the review of the activities and projects of the Refugio Groundwater Conservation District Management Plan between October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020 and an assessment of the performance standards, the District has determined that seven of eight objectives of the seven goals have been fully achieved during the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020.

### **Goal 1: Providing the most efficient use of groundwater – TWC §36.1071(a)(1) and 31 TAC 356.52(a)(1)(A)**

Objective G1O1: Develop and maintain a water well registration program for tracking well information for wells within Refugio County.

Performance Standard: Each year, the DISTRICT will summarize within the annual report the changes related to water well registration including the number of non-grandfathered and grandfathered wells registered.

The District provided for the efficient use of groundwater by maintaining a water well registration program for tracking well information for wells within Refugio County. The District received or retrieved 16 water well driller's logs in FY 2020. The District processed 4 applications to register water wells in FY 2020. The District maintained a registry of 583 non-grandfathered wells and 440 grandfathered wells in FY2020.

#### **Achievement Level: Full**

Objective G1O2: Develop and maintain a water well permitting program for processing and tracking all permits authorizing groundwater production.

Performance Standard: Each year, the DISTRICT will summarize within the annual report the changes related to water well permitting including the number of new applications and the disposition of the applications.

The District initiated two permitting request cases related to groundwater production permits during the fiscal year. The District received two permitting applications related to groundwater

production permits during the fiscal year.

The District approved 1 production permit during the fiscal year.

As of June 30, 2021, the total volume of permitted groundwater production for the permits totals 3,249.810 acre-feet per year for non-aggregate production permits. The total volume of permitted groundwater production for the active permits totals 617.00 acre-feet per year for non-aggregate production permits.

As of June 30, 2021, the total volume of permitted groundwater production for the permits totals 1,537.810 acre-feet per year for aggregate production permits. The total volume of permitted groundwater production for the active permits totals 378.710 acre-feet per year for aggregate production permits.

As of June 30, 2021, the volume of aggregate production permitted for well groups (well fields and well systems) and non-aggregate production permitted for individual wells in Refugio County totals 5,012.620 acre-feet per year. The volume of aggregate production permitted for well groups (well fields and well systems) and non-aggregate production permitted for individual wells in Refugio County under active permits totals 1,220.710 acre-feet per year.

**Achievement Level: Full**

**Goal 2: Controlling and preventing waste of groundwater - TWC §36.1071(a)(2) and 31 TAC 356.52(a)(1)(B)**

Objective G2O1: Develop and maintain a water well inspection program for non-exempt wells.

Performance Standard: Each year, the DISTRICT will summarize within the annual report the findings of the inspection activities including information regarding the number of wells that require improvement to control or prevent waste of groundwater.

The District addressed controlling and preventing waste of groundwater by maintaining a water well inspection program during the fiscal year. The District has performed ten well inspections during the fiscal year. Of those wells inspected, none of the wells require improvement to control or prevent waste of groundwater.

**Achievement Level: Full**

**Goal 3: Addressing conjunctive surface water management issues - TWC §36.1071(a)(4) and 31 TAC 356.52(a)(1)(D)**

Objective G3O1: Participate in the regional water planning process by attending at least one South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region L) meeting per year.

Performance Standard: Each year, the DISTRICT will summarize within the annual report the representatives of the DISTRICT, dates, and the number of meetings of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group attended.

The District addressed conjunctive surface water management issues through the attendance of meetings by district directors and the general manager, participating in the regional water planning process by attending at least one South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region L) meeting during the fiscal year. District representatives attended meetings of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region L) on the following dates:

- Region L Meeting on November 7, 2019
- Region L Meeting on January 23, 2020

- Region L Meeting on February 20, 2020
- Region L Meeting on July 30, 2020
- Region L Meeting on September 3, 2020

**Achievement Level: Full**

**Goal 4: Addressing natural resource issues which impact the use and availability of groundwater, and which are impacted by the use of groundwater – TWC §36.1071(a)(5) and 31 TAC §356.52(a)(1)(E)**

Objective G4O1: Develop and maintain a water quality monitoring program.

Performance Standard: Each year, the DISTRICT will summarize within the annual report the monitoring activities including the number of wells monitored and the year-to-year change of water quality.

The District Failed to address natural resource issues which impact the use and availability of groundwater by maintaining a water quality monitoring program during the fiscal year due, in part, to the operational impacts resulting from the 2019 COVID Pandemic. The District recognizes the importance of achieving the goal, objective, and performance standard related to addressing natural resource issues which impact the use and availability of groundwater. The District will collect water quality measurement during FY2021 for the purposes of achieving the goal, objective, and performance standard related to addressing natural resource issues which impact the use and availability of groundwater.

**Achievement Level: None.**

**Goal 5: Addressing drought conditions - TWC §36.1071(a)(6) and 31 TAC 356.52(a)(1)(F)**

Objective G5O1: Collect and review drought condition information related to Refugio County and the surrounding region of Texas.

Performance Standard: Each year, the District will summarize within the annual report the drought condition information collected and reviewed.

The District addressed drought conditions by collecting and reviewing drought condition information related to Refugio County and the surrounding region of Texas by considering drought monitoring index information during meetings of the Board of Directors during the fiscal year. Drought condition information was reviewed at the meetings held in the following months: October 2019, January 2020, March 2020, July 2020, and September 2020.

**Achievement Level: Full**

**Goal 6: Addressing conservation, recharge enhancement, rainwater harvesting, precipitation enhancement, or brush control, where appropriate and cost-effective - TWC §36.1071(a)(7) and 31 TAC 356.52(a)(1)(G)**

Objective G6O1: Promote conservation, rainwater harvesting or brush control within Refugio County.

Performance Standard: Each year, the DISTRICT will summarize within the annual report the activities directly related to conservation, rainwater harvesting or brush control including participation in scientific investigations and studies, educational materials developed and delivered to local schools, cooperative educational contributions and grants, public speaking events and presentations, community event participation, and educational publications.

The District addressed and promoted conservation, recharge enhancement, rainwater harvesting, precipitation enhancement, or brush control by participating in scientific investigations and studies, public speaking events and presentations at community events. The District attended and operated an information booth at the South Texas Farm and Ranch Show in October 2019 at which promotional materials relating to groundwater conservation, recharge enhancement, rainwater harvesting and brush control were on display and distributed to show attendees.

**Achievement Level: Full**

**Goal 7: Addressing the desired future conditions adopted by the district under Section 36.108 - TWC §36.1071(a)(8) and 31 TAC 356.52(a)(1)(H)**

Objective G7O1: Develop and maintain a water level monitoring program.

Performance Standard: Each year, the DISTRICT will summarize within the annual report the water level monitoring activities including the number of wells monitored and the year-to-year change of water level.

The District addressed the desired future conditions adopted by the District by maintaining a water level monitoring program during the fiscal year. The District collected 20 separate water level measurement from water wells within Refugio County during the fiscal year.

The average water level of wells measured in year 2000 was 24.9 feet below the surface. The average water level of wells measured in year 2019 was 28.8 feet below the surface.

**Achievement Level: Full**

Objective G7O2: Analyze water level monitoring information to evaluate water level trends and determine the degree to which the DISTRICT is complying with the desired future conditions of Gulf Coast Aquifer in Refugio County.

Performance Standard: Each year, the DISTRICT will summarize within the annual report the water level trends and the conclusions regarding the District's compliance with the desired future condition of the Gulf Coast Aquifer in Refugio County.

Based on an assessment of water levels in Refugio County completed by Dr. Young of Intera, Inc. on behalf of the District, the average water level for the Gulf Coast Aquifer System, the Chicot and Evangeline Aquifers specifically, the average drawdown in year 2020 as compared to water levels in year 2000 was less than 5 feet and the recent 5-year trend illustrates a general recovery. Based on the assessment, the District concludes that the desired future condition for Refugio County (less than a 5 foot drawdown at year 2070) is being achieved.

**Achievement Level: Full**

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**Section 2 - Evidence of Achievement**

**Goal 1: Providing the most efficient use of groundwater - TWC §36.1071(a)(1) and 31 TAC 356.52(a)(1)(A)**

Objective G1O1: Develop and maintain a water well registration program for tracking well information for wells within Refugio County.

Evidence of Achievement:

Well Logs Received by District during FY2020

1. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Well Log Reports - WL-20191112-01 - NIPCR-000083 - O'Connor Brothers River Ranch, LLC - Completed](#)
2. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Well Log Reports - WL-20191112-02 - NIPCR-000081 - O'Connor Brothers River Ranch, LLC - Completed](#)
3. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Well Log Reports - WL-20200110-01 - NIPCR-000092 - Braman Ranches, LLC - Administratively Complete](#)
4. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Well Log Reports - WL-20200114-01 - - John McIntyre - Administratively Incomplete](#)
5. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Well Log Reports - WL-20200114-02 - - John McIntyre - Administratively Incomplete](#)
6. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Well Log Reports - WL-20200114-03 - NIPCR-000091 - Stephen S. Williams - Administratively Incomplete](#)
7. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Well Log Reports - WL-20200114-04 - NIPCR-000090 - KO'C Land - Administratively Incomplete](#)
8. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Well Log Reports - WL-20200114-05 - NIPCR-000088 - Bernell Odell Borden - Administratively Incomplete](#)
9. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Well Log Reports - WL-20200114-06 - NIPCR-000089 - Rawhide Cattle Co., Inc. - Administratively Incomplete](#)
10. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Well Log Reports - WL-20200114-07 - - Kenneth Cortines - Administratively Incomplete](#)
11. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Well Log Reports - WL-20200114-08 - - Eugene Ibrom - Administratively Incomplete](#)
12. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Well Log Reports - WL-20200114-09 - - Dell Weathersby - Administratively Incomplete](#)
13. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Well Log Reports - WL-20200114-10 - NIPCR-000094 - Glen Boenig - Administratively Incomplete](#)
14. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Well Log Reports - WL-20200114-11 - NIPCR-000095 - Johnny Dobecka - Administratively Incomplete](#)
15. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Well Log Reports - WL-20200320-01 - NIPCR-000093 - Billy and Genevieve Tolleson - Administratively Incomplete](#)
16. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Well Log Reports - WL-20200320-02 - NIPCR-000098 - Diamond EAW Holdings, LLC - Administratively Complete](#)

Applications to Register Water Wells Received during FY2020

1. [RGCD - GMa - PR - Registration Requests - ARW-20191113-01 - O'Connor Brothers River Ranch, LLC - WL-20191112-02- Administratively Complete](#)
2. [RGCD - GMa - PR - Registration Requests - ARW-20191113-02 - O'Connor Brothers River Ranch, LLC - WL-20191112-01 - Administratively Complete](#)
3. [RGCD - GMa - PR - Registration Requests - ARW-20200110-01- Braman Ranches, LLC - WL-20200110-01 - Administratively Complete](#)
4. [RGCD - GMa - PR - Registration Requests - ARW-20200604-01 - Diamond EAW Holdings, LLC - WL-20200320-02 - Administratively Complete](#)

Last Well Registration Certificate Create in FY2019 or before by grandfathered status:

1. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Well Registration Certificates - WRC - NW-00579 - 20190912](#)
2. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Well Registration Certificates - WRC - GW-00440 - Brett Family Land Partners](#)

Last Well Registration Certificates Created in FY2020

1. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Well Registration Certificates - WRC - NW-00583 - 20200604](#)
2. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Well Registration Certificates - WRC - GW-00440 - Brett Family Land Partners](#)

Objective G102: Develop and maintain a water well permitting program for processing and tracking all permits authorizing groundwater production.

Evidence of Achievement:

Production permits issued during FY2020

1. none. Diamond EAW Holdings

Production Permit Renewals approved in FY2020:

1. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Production Permit Renewal - OPWR-20200908-01 - OPW-20160418-03 - Equistar Chemicals, LP - Draft](#)
2. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Production Permit Renewal - OPWR-20200908-02 - OPW-20160418-04 - Equistar Chemicals, LP - Draft](#)

Production Permit Permitting Request Cases initiated in FY2020

1. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Permitting Request Cases - PRC-20191219-01 - ADW-20191118-01/AOW-20191118-02 - Diamond EAW Holdings, LLC - Complete](#)

Production Permit Renewal Permitting Request Cases initiated in FY2020:

1. [RGCD - GMa - Pe - Permitting Request Cases - PRC-20200615-01- ARPP-20200507-01/20200526-01 - Equistar Chemicals, LP - Pending / Uncontested](#)

Production Permit Requests received in FY2020

1. [RGCD - GMa - PR - Production Permit Requests - AOW-20191118-02 - Diamond EAW Holdings, LLC - Administratively Complete](#)

Production Permit Renewal Requests received in FY2020

1. [RGCD - GMa - PR - Production Permit Renewal Requests - ARPP-20200507-01 - OPW-20160418-03 - Equistar Chemicals, LP - Administratively Complete](#)
2. [RGCD - GMa - PR - Production Permit Renewal Requests - ARPP-20200526-01 - OPW-20160418-04 - Equistar Chemicals, LP - Administratively Complete](#)

RGCD - Production Permit Areas - 20210630.xlsx



RGCD - Production Permit Areas Summary - 20210630.pdf



RGCD - Production Permit Areas Summary by Well Group - 20210630.pdf



**Goal 2: Controlling and preventing waste of groundwater** - TWC §36.1071(a)(2) and 31 TAC 356.52(a)(1)(B)

Objective G2O1: Develop and maintain a water well inspection program for non-exempt wells.

Evidence of Achievement:

Well Inspection Forms created during FY2020

1. [RGCD - GP - Insp - Well Inspections - WIF-20191014-01 - GW-00124](#)
2. [RGCD - GP - Insp - Well Inspections - WIF-20191014-02 - GW-00234](#)
3. [RGCD - GP - Insp - Well Inspections - WIF-20191014-03 - GW-00235](#)
4. [RGCD - GP - Insp - Well Inspections - WIF-20191014-04 - NW-00475](#)
5. [RGCD - GP - Insp - Well Inspections - WIF-20191014-05 - GW-00085](#)
6. [RGCD - GP - Insp - Well Inspections - WIF-20191014-06 - GW-00439](#)
7. [RGCD - GP - Insp - Well Inspections - WIF-20191014-07 - NW-00570](#)
8. [RGCD - GP - Insp - Well Inspections - WIF-20191014-08 - NW-00539](#)
9. [RGCD - GP - Insp - Well Inspections - WIF-20200826-01 - GW-00234](#)
10. [RGCD - GP - Insp - Well Inspections - WIF-20200826-02 - GW-00124](#)

Well Inspection Forms indicating corrective action was needed to prevent waste or potential contamination of groundwater

1. none.

**Goal 3: Controlling and preventing waste of groundwater** - TWC §36.1071(a)(2) and 31 TAC 356.52(a)(1)(B)

Objective G3O1: Participate in the regional water planning process by attending at least one South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region L) meeting per year.

Evidence of Achievement:

Source:

1. November 7, 2019 - Region L Meeting: [http://www.regionltexas.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Agenda-Packet\\_01232020-1.pdf](http://www.regionltexas.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Agenda-Packet_01232020-1.pdf)
2. January 23, 2020 - Region L Meeting: <http://www.regionltexas.org/current-planning-effort/5th-cycle-2021/2020-rwpg-meeting-materials/>
3. February 20, 2020 - Region L Meeting: <http://www.regionltexas.org/current-planning-effort/5th-cycle-2021/2020-rwpg-meeting-materials/>
4. July 30, 2020 - Region L Meeting: <http://www.regionltexas.org/current-planning-effort/5th-cycle-2021/2020-rwpg-meeting-materials/>
5. September 3, 2020 - Region L Meeting: <http://www.regionltexas.org/current-planning-effort/5th-cycle-2021/2020-rwpg-meeting-materials/>

**Goal 4: Addressing natural resource issues which impact the use and availability of groundwater, and which are impacted by the use of groundwater** - TWC §36.1071(a)(5) and 31 TAC §356.52(a)(1)(E)

Objective G4O1: Develop and maintain a water quality monitoring program.

Evidence of Achievement: None.

**Goal 5: Addressing drought conditions** - TWC §36.1071(a)(6) and 31 TAC 356.52(a)(1)(F)

Objective G5O1: Collect and review drought condition information related to Refugio County and the surrounding region of Texas.

Evidence of Achievement:

Meeting Minutes for meetings held during FY2020 in which drought conditions were considered

1. [RGCD - Adm - MM - Meeting Minutes - 20191014 - Board of Directors](#)
2. [RGCD - Adm - MM - Meeting Minutes - 20200121 - Board of Directors](#)
3. [RGCD - Adm - MM - Meeting Minutes - 20200316 - Board of Directors](#)
4. [RGCD - Adm - MM - Meeting Minutes - 20200720 - Board of Directors](#)
5. [RGCD - Adm - MM - Meeting Minutes - 20200908 - Board of Directors](#)

**Goal 6: Addressing conservation, recharge enhancement, rainwater harvesting, precipitation enhancement, or brush control, where appropriate and cost-effective - TWC**

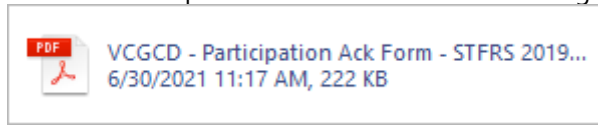
§36.1071(a)(7) and 31 TAC 356.52(a)(1)(G)

Objective G6O1: Promote conservation, rainwater harvesting or brush control within Refugio County.

Evidence of Achievement:

Participation Acknowledgment Forms and related materials for conservation-related events during FY2020

VCGCD - Participation Ack Form - STFRS 2019 - Signed.pdf



VCGCD - South Texas Farm and Ranch Show 2019 Packet.pdf



**Goal 7: Addressing the desired future conditions adopted by the district under Section 36.108 - TWC §36.1071(a)(8) and 31 TAC 356.52(a)(1)(H)**

Objective G7O1: Develop and maintain a water level monitoring program.

Evidence of Achievement:

Water Level Measurements collected during FY2020

1. [RGCD - GMo - Mea - Water Level - WLM-20200212-01 - NW-00340](#)
2. [RGCD - GMo - Mea - Water Level - WLM-20200212-02 - GW-00234](#)
3. [RGCD - GMo - Mea - Water Level - WLM-20200212-03 - GW-00124](#)
4. [RGCD - GMo - Mea - Water Level - WLM-20200212-04 - NW-00474](#)
5. [RGCD - GMo - Mea - Water Level - WLM-20200212-05 - NW-00475](#)
6. [RGCD - GMo - Mea - Water Level - WLM-20200212-06 - GW-00085](#)
7. [RGCD - GMo - Mea - Water Level - WLM-20200212-07 - GW-00439](#)
8. [RGCD - GMo - Mea - Water Level - WLM-20200212-08 - NW-00570](#)
9. [RGCD - GMo - Mea - Water Level - WLM-20200212-09 - NW-00539](#)
10. [RGCD - GMo - Mea - Water Level - WLM-20200826-01 - NW-00340](#)
11. [RGCD - GMo - Mea - Water Level - WLM-20200826-02 - GW-00234](#)
12. [RGCD - GMo - Mea - Water Level - WLM-20200826-03 - GW-00124](#)
13. [RGCD - GMo - Mea - Water Level - WLM-20200826-04 - NW-00474](#)
14. [RGCD - GMo - Mea - Water Level - WLM-20200826-05 - GW-00085](#)
15. [RGCD - GMo - Mea - Water Level - WLM-20200826-06 - NW-00539](#)
16. [RGCD - GMo - Mea - Water Level - WLM-20200826-07 - GW-00439](#)
17. [RGCD - GMo - Mea - Water Level - WLM-20200826-08 - NW-00570](#)

Objective G7O2: Analyze water level monitoring information to evaluate water level trends and determine the degree to which the DISTRICT is complying with the desired future conditions of Gulf Coast Aquifer in Refugio County.



Evidence of Achievement:

[RGCD - Adm - MM - Matter For Consideration - MFC-20210119-5.1 - Report regarding Groundwater Level Analysis](#)

RGCD - Intera - Geostats\_Refugio\_INTERA\_v2.pdf



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**Minutes of Board of Director Meetings held during the report period:**

1. [RGCD - Adm - MM - Meeting Minutes - 20191014 - Board of Directors](#)
2. [RGCD - Adm - MM - Meeting Minutes - 20200121 - Board of Directors](#)
3. [RGCD - Adm - MM - Meeting Minutes - 20200203 - Board of Directors](#)
4. [RGCD - Adm - MM - Meeting Minutes - 20200316 - Board of Directors](#)
5. [RGCD - Adm - MM - Meeting Minutes - 20200720 - Board of Directors](#)
6. [RGCD - Adm - MM - Meeting Minutes - 20200908 - Board of Directors](#)