



# NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY  
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## GBRA Adopts Groundwater Policy Guidelines

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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SEGUIN – A groundwater policy adopted May 15 by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) Board of Directors addresses concerns associated with groundwater development water supply projects recommended by the Region L Planning Group, and expected to be part of the new State Water Plan.

"Combined use of ground and surface water are included in Region L's recommendation," said W. E. 'Bill' West, Jr., GBRA general manager. "However, because of the lack of uniformity concerning groundwater management in the State of Texas, it was absolutely essential that GBRA develop the groundwater policy adopted Wednesday by our Board. This policy will provide internal guidance for our staff and external declaration that groundwater development will be conducted responsibly within the boundaries of our district."

"It will also be the foundation for all future programs and projects in which the use of groundwater will be a component," West said. "We hope it answers some of the questions and lessens some of the concerns associated with these projects. We want to reassure our constituents that the sound management and protection of groundwater will be in the forefront of all our planning."

GBRA's Enabling Act gives it the authority to develop groundwater as part of its overall mission to 'protect, conserve, reclaim and steward the resources of the District.' West said the new policy will guide groundwater development in areas where a groundwater conservation district exists, as well as in areas where there is no district. Significant points in the new policy include:

- When appropriate, GBRA may develop and use groundwater resources as a base source of water supply, or to supplement the supply of surface water.

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- GBRA supports the use of groundwater in a manner that provides for the long-term viability of the aquifer.
- In general, GBRA will conjunctively use surface and groundwater, maintaining an appropriate balance between the two resources.
- GBRA will coordinate with established groundwater districts. Where a groundwater conservation district has been established, the annual recharge, allowable drawdown and yield should be determined by the district based upon the best available science.
- Where a new district is becoming established, GBRA will support the creation of the district and will provide reasonable assistance with setting up the district in accordance with the district's wishes.
- Where a district has not been established, GBRA will use the best available science, in consultation with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC), to guide its activities.
- In the absence of rules and policies adopted by a groundwater conservation district, GBRA will conduct a study prior to its development and use of groundwater. At a minimum, the study will evaluate the effect of the proposed use on local groundwater quality, drawdown and subsidence.
- The development and use of groundwater by GBRA will be in compliance with applicable state and federal law.
- GBRA supports the study of, and where feasible and appropriate, the development of recharge projects and aquifer storage and recovery (aquifer storage and recharge) projects.
- In the areas where GBRA is developing or plans to develop groundwater resources, it will support ongoing research to gain additional data on the characteristics of the aquifer.
- In areas where research that is based upon the best available science shows that groundwater can be used on a long-term basis, but localized adverse impacts will result, GBRA will develop a reasonable mitigation program if it develops and uses groundwater.

The groundwater policy, and other information about GBRA programs and projects, is available for review at [www.gbra.org](http://www.gbra.org).