

The South Plains Underground Water Conservation District was created by HB 281 (72nd Legislature) during 1991. The District was confirmed by voter approval, the initial Board elected, and an advalorem tax rate cap of \$0.025/\$100 valuation was set in an election held in August 1992. The District began operating in January 1993.

Originally, the jurisdictional extent of the District was the same as Terry County, Texas. However, in 1994 landowners controlling approximately 1200 acres of Hockley County, Texas, individually petitioned the District for annexation. Each petition was approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

The District covers approximately 902 square miles of the Southern High Plains of Texas of which there are approximately 450,000 acres in cultivation. Of this farmland, about 150,000 acres are irrigated using groundwater.

The District is committed, as permitted by Chapter 36, Texas Water Code, to the conservation, preservation, protection, recharge and prevention of waste of the groundwater resource over which the District has jurisdiction

Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

The Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD) is comprised of local groundwater conservation districts in Texas. TAGD provides members with an efficient means of communicating and exchanging information on the day-to-day management of local groundwater resources. TAGD keeps members current with state law, and is a central point of contact for information on groundwater issues and practices. SPUWCD has been a member of TAGD since 1993.

Regional Planning

Regional planning groups were established as a result of SB 1, 1997, and SB 2, 1999. SPUWCD is included in the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group (Region O). Sixteen planning groups are tasked with developing and adopting regional water plans, which are incorporated into the State Water Plan. Planning group boundaries are mostly along county lines.

GMA #2

Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) were established by the Legislature and require joint planning by groundwater conservation districts. SPUWCD is one of seven districts which comprise GMA #2. Water districts are charged with the task of setting Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for the relevant aquifers in their districts. GMAs were established mostly along aquifer boundaries.



*25 Years of
Service*



**South Plains Underground
Water Conservation District**

**PO Box 986
Brownfield, TX 79316
806-637-7467
www.spuwcd.org**

Water Quality Testing

The District performs in-house testing of both irrigation and domestic wells for its constituents.

Irrigation well owners are concerned about high salinity levels affecting their crops.

Domestic well owners are concerned about the presence of bacteria in their wells. The District typically tests domestic wells for bacteria, as well as nitrates.

Each summer the District conducts a water quality monitoring program. On even years, the District samples approximately 85 irrigation wells. On odd years, samples are taken from approximately 30 private domestic wells. These samples are sent to the LCRA for extensive analysis.

The results of water quality monitoring can be viewed on the District's website.

Pivot/Well Flow Testing

Upon request, the District is available to test the flow of wells or pivots using a polysonic flowmeter. This information helps producers determine which sprinkler package best fits their production.

www.spuwcd.org

The District maintains a website which contains information pertinent to the District's programs and services.

Water Level Monitoring

Each winter, the District makes depth-to-water level measurements on a network of approximately 140 wells. The water levels are measured during the winter months when irrigation demands are lower so that a representative static level can be obtained.

The measurements give information on aquifer changes for the purposes of science, data collection, planning, and IRS depletion allowances.

An interactive map which shows 10 years of water levels is available on the District's website. The information is also published in the March edition of the "*South Plains Groundwater News*".

The District collects daily water level data from 14 continuous recorders. This data is also available on the District website.

Rain Gauge Network

The District maintains a network of electronic rain gauges. These gauges are equipped with data loggers which record rainfall events as small as 0.01". This data is uploaded monthly and the rainfall information is displayed on the District website. Real-time rainfall information is also available on the website homepage.

**Groundwater Conservation Districts
are the State's preferred method of
groundwater management**

Rainwater Harvesting

SPUWCD believes that rainwater harvesting is an important water conservation choice. The District conducts a Rainwater Harvesting Workshop each spring. This workshop gives attendees the basic principles of rainwater harvesting. They also view the District's system and xeriscape garden.

The District has cost-shared several rainwater harvesting projects as a continuing effort to educate and demonstrate the benefits of rainwater harvesting.

Education

In 2007, SPUWCD joined with Llano Estacado UWCD (Gaines County) and Sandy Land UWCD (Yoakum County) to form an education cooperative, the Southern Ogallala Conservation and Outreach Program (SOCOP), to meet the educational needs of the three districts. There are 8 school districts within the education coop. Numerous programs are presented to schools and service organizations.

USGS Hydrology Study

In 2014, the SPUWCD contracted with the USGS to collect data to evaluate water quality and quantity, hydrogeologic structure and aquifer properties. Phase 1 has been completed and Phase 2 is scheduled for completion by early 2020.