



Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District Declares Temporary Suspension of New Non-Exempt Drilling, Operating and Transport Permit Applications

JOHNSON CITY, TEXAS – JANUARY 15, 2026 — The Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District (BPGCD) Board of Directors adopted Resolution 2026-001, temporarily halting the acceptance of new non-exempt drilling, operating, and transport permit applications, as well as any amendments that would increase authorized groundwater production.

The resolution, effective immediately, is intended to give the Board a reasonable timeframe to (1) evaluate existing district rules and propose amendments that align with the District’s Comprehensive Management Plan, (2) incorporate forthcoming legislative actions from the 88th and 89th Texas Legislative Sessions, and (3) publish rule amendments required to meet the Texas Water Code § 36.1071 mandates.

Key provisions of the resolution

- **Prohibited Applications** – All new non-exempt drilling, operating, or transport permit applications, and any amendments that would increase non-exempt permit production, are suspended.
- **Exceptions** – The District will continue to accept and process:
 - Exempt well registrations,
 - Non-exempt operating and transport permit renewals,
 - Amendments that do not increase authorized production,
 - Permit ownership transfers, and
 - Replacement wells, provided they do not raise production levels.
- **Pending Applications** – Administratively complete applications received prior to the resolution’s effective date will be reviewed and processed without interruption.
- **Future Lift of Suspension** – The suspension will remain in place until the Board formally adopts the necessary rule amendments to implement the Management Plan’s Desired Future Conditions and the Texas Water Development Board’s modeled available groundwater projections.

“The temporary suspension allows us to act responsibly while we update our rules to reflect the latest science, legislative changes, and the District’s long-term groundwater sustainability goals,” said Erik Kubinski, General Manager of BPGCD.

About the Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District (BPGCD)

The Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District is a political subdivision of the State of Texas created by a petition approved by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission on October 11, 2000, and later ratified by Blanco County voters in a 2001 election. Governed by a five-member Board of Directors, the District is empowered under Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code to conserve, preserve, protect, and recharge all groundwater and aquifers within Blanco County.

Key functions and attributes include:

- **Regulatory Authority** – Enforces groundwater-related rules, provides authoritative information on Texas and Blanco County groundwater regulations, and assists well owners in understanding their rights and responsibilities.
- **Funding** – Operates primarily through an ad valorem property tax (\$0.016176 per \$100 valuation) and assessment fees on new wells, ensuring sustainable financing for its programs.
- **Regional Collaboration** – Participates in Groundwater Management Area 9 (GMA 9), a broader Hill Country groundwater-planning entity that coordinates with neighboring districts.
- **Public Services** – Maintains an online database of well records, detailed aquifer maps, a monthly newsletter, and volunteer opportunities to keep the community informed and engaged.

Through these activities, BPGCD works to safeguard the region's vital groundwater resources for current and future generations.

For More Information

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