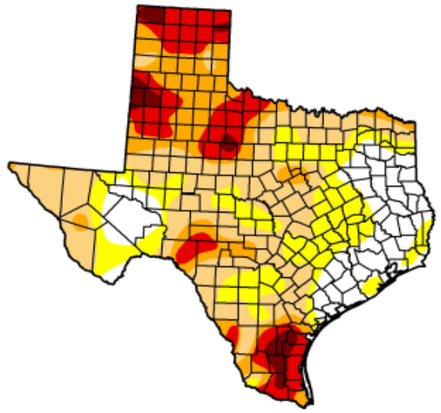
U.S. Drought Monitor

Texas

October 16, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	17.08	82.92	62.47	31.26	15.80	3.20
Last Week (10/09/2012 map)	16.50	83.50	65.38	31.79	15.88	3.23
3 Months Ago (07/17/2012 map)	12.40	87.60	70.95	33.23	8.17	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	0.01	99.99	97.83	84.81	67.32	32.36
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	9.13	90.87	78.73	57.41	24.91	5.18
One Year Ago (10/11/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.15	91.96	73.13



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Released Thursday, October 18, 2012
Matthew Rosencrans, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

DISTRICT APPROVES 2012-2013 TAX RATE & BUDGET

At the CBGCD Board meeting on September 8, 2012, the Board voted to adopt a budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year which began October 1, 2012. Considering all expected expenses, a budget generating $211,000 in tax revenue was adopted. The tax rate was then set at $.00725 cents per $100 valuation which is the same tax rate set for the previous fiscal year.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.CBGCD.COM

CONGRATULATIONS
Leonard Wittig & L.G. Raun

This year we had two directors up for re-election, Precinct 1 Director Leonard Wittig of Boling and Precinct 3 Director and Vice President L.G. Raun Jr. of El Campo. Both Directors were unopposed and the election was cancelled at our September 2012 board meeting. These Directors are beginning their third term on the Coastal Bend GCD Board.

COASTAL BEND GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

November 2012

Coastal Bend Groundwater Conservation District
P.O. Box 341
109 E. Milam
Wharton, Texas 77488
Office: 979-531-1412
Fax: 979-531-1002
Email: thedistrict@cbgcd.com
nhudgins@cbgcd.com

Board of Directors

Ronald Gertson-President
L.G. Raun-Vice President
Ed Weinheimer-Secretary
Leonard Wittig-Director
Arthur Priesmeyer-Director

District Employees

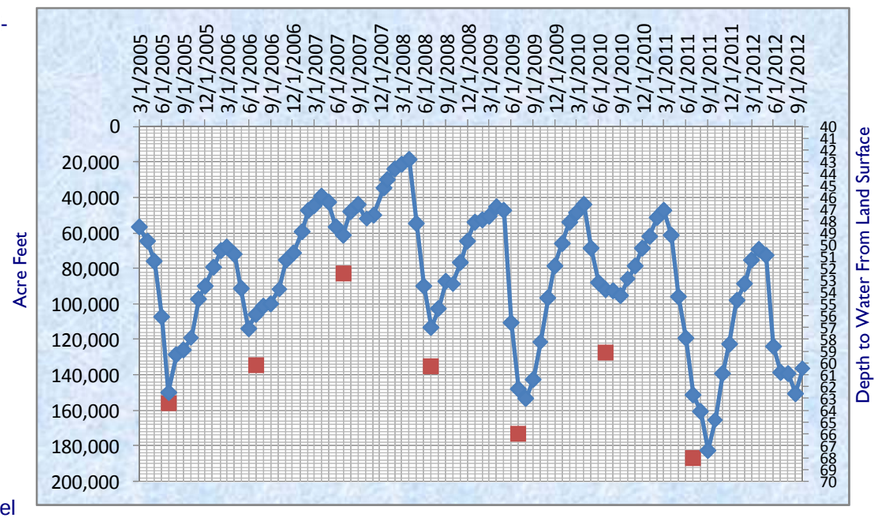
Neil Hudgins-General Manager
Jaime Bosch-Office

2012 WATER USAGE REPORTS

The Coastal Bend GCD staff will be sending out the 2012 water use reports in 2 weeks. Although these reports will be due in by January 31, 2013, we encourage you to fill these forms out and return to the District as soon as possible. CBGCD staff wanted to give those who have completed pumping for the year the chance to begin completing the report. Please note that those that are calculating your usage with an alternate method other than a meter, you must turn in your calculations; whether it is your hour log times capacity of well or fuel consumption records. If a meter is installed on your well, only documenting a meter reading will also be considered incomplete and the form will be returned to you for completion. Please fill in all blanks on your 2012 Water Use Report Form. We appreciate your cooperation.

Water Level Monitoring Update

Since March 2005, CBGCD has been monitoring a selected group of wells monthly to identify the trend in water levels during the pumping season. This helps give the District an estimation of what quantity pumped causes what level of impact to our portion of the Gulf Coast Aquifer. Out of the 14 wells being monitored monthly (mostly wells out of production), 7 were chosen as 'index wells' that seem to follow the trend of high use period impacts. You can view all monitor well water level measurements at www.cbgcd.com. There you will find maps of well locations along with other useful information such as depths and screening internals of each monitored well.



In order to visualize the overall trend of water levels in the District, an average level is calculated from the 7 'index wells' for each monitored month. The graph below shows this trend from March 2005 through October 2012. Also plotted is the reported groundwater pumped through 2011.

Possible Rule Changes

The 2011 Drought has affected water planning throughout the state in both surface water and groundwater planning. With surface water becoming more uncertain with limited supplies and increasing demands, producers have seemed to turn to groundwater. As the shift to groundwater increases, the strain on our aquifer will increase. As you know, the goal of the district is to preserve and conserve groundwater resources for our future generations. One way of identifying whether the district is fulfilling that commitment is to monitor the water level impacts through our monitoring program. When reviewing last year's water level monitoring data, it appears that our portion of the Gulf Coast Aquifer can handle a year when more demand is placed on it, like last year. However, what we do not know is how our aquifer can withstand 2, 3 or 5 years of increased demands due to drought conditions. This has cause the board to re-analyze our rules to see if they are fit to implement production limits on our permitted users if the need arises. The District Board will be having these discussions over the next several months and will consider various options of implementing reduction methods if aquifer conditions demand such actions. The Board knows one day such reductions will be necessary as more and more wells are being drilled, so the board feels compelled to have such processes in place in order for our groundwater users to be aware of that process when we are faced to cut back production. Some topics that will be discussed will include historic use protection options and the continued permitting of new use. All possible reduction options need to be discussed thoroughly and the board is asking for volunteers from the community that could be affected by these regulations to make sure all concerns are addressed. If you would like to serve on our advisory council that the board will turn to for assistance in these discussions, please contact the district and we will notify you when these discussions take place.

New Team Member

The Coastal Bend GCD proudly introduces Jaime Bosch as our new Office Manager. Jaime grew up in Needville, Texas and currently lives in Wharton. She comes to the district after spending several years at Texas AgriLife Extension office serving as their Office Manager. She attended both Wharton County Junior College and the University of Houston – Victoria. Jaime is an active member of the community and currently serves as Club Manager of the Boling 4-H Club. She is excited about her new position and the opportunity to assist all of our permitted users any way she can. Welcome to the staff Jaime!

Making Sure Today's Water Is Here Tomorrow!

Groundwater Production Varies Over Last Four Years

Over the past seven water use reporting years ('05-'11), District-wide use has varied significantly based on rainfall during the growing season.

Below is a breakdown of annual groundwater production for 2005-2008.

2005 Production - 156,144 acre feet

2006 Production - 134,682 acre feet

2007 Production - 82,963 acre feet

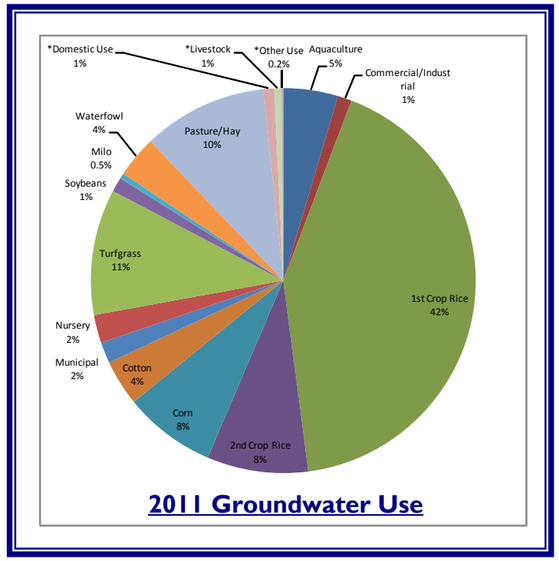
2008 Production - 135,144 acre feet

2009 Production - 177,272 acre feet

2010 Production - 131,091 acre feet

2011 Production - 190,759 acre feet

The chart to the right shows a percentage breakdown for each type of use reported for 2011.



2011 Groundwater Use

Regular Monthly District Meetings:

Monthly meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

- **Agendas are posted at the Wharton County Courthouse and El Campo City Hall.**
- **Check the District's website at www.cbgcd.com for meeting date and time.**
- **Contact the District office for meeting date and time at 979-531-1412.**

Texas Water Development Board Grant

In April 2012, CBGCD applied for grant funds associated with the Texas Water Development Board's Agricultural Water Conservation Fund. The application requested funds to purchase meters for our agricultural irrigation permitted users to monitor the conservation effectiveness of various types of delivery methods to different crops. The District was awarded $25,000 from these funds which allow us to purchase approximately 30 meters for our irrigated producers. Once we find willing participants and meters are installed, the data gathered from this project will allow us to present data to all permitted users to show the conservation benefits associated with these different methods. Our hope is to encourage conservation practices in current and future delivery systems by illustrating the cost effectiveness in upgrading your delivery methods. If you are interested in a meter and participating in this program, please contact our office.