

Victoria County Groundwater Conservation District Meeting Notice and Agenda

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Government Code and Section 36.064 of the Texas Water Code that the Victoria County Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors will hold a meeting on June 12, 2026, at 9:00 AM at the Crossroads Plaza, Ste 104, 1501 E. Mockingbird Lane, Victoria, Texas.

AGENDA

1. Convene the meeting and receive a report from the general manager.
2. Receive public comments.
3. Consideration of and possible action on matters related to groundwater management, including the efforts and activities of the District regarding permitting, complaints, investigations, violations, and enforcement cases associated with permitting.
 - a. Technical consultant support related to permitting application reviews;
 - b. Report regarding simulations of drawdowns caused by large-scale brackish groundwater production; and
 - c. Temporary moratorium regarding high-capacity non-historic-use production permitting and deep-saline non-historic-use production permitting.
4. Consideration of and possible action on matters related to groundwater policy, including the Management Plan of the District and the Rules of the District.
 - a. Management-recommended draft rule revisions.
5. Adjourn.

The Victoria County Groundwater Conservation District may close the meeting, if necessary, to conduct private consultation with legal counsel regarding matters protected by the attorney-client privilege pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Government Code or to discuss matters regarding personnel pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Government Code. The Victoria County Groundwater Conservation District will return to open meeting, if necessary, to take any action deemed necessary based on discussion in closed meeting pursuant to Section 551.102 of the Government Code.

In Accordance with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we invite all attendees to advise us of any special accommodations due to disability. Please submit your request as far as possible in advance of the event you wish to attend.

Item 1 - Convene Meeting

Table of Contents

1. Item 1 - Convene Meeting
 - a. Topic 1.1 - Roll Call
 - b. Topic 1.2 Report from General Manager
2. Item 2 Receive Public Comment
3. Item 3 - Groundwater Management (Permitting) Considerations
 - a. Topic 3.1 - Technical Consultant Support related to Permitting Application Reviews
 - b. Topic 3.2 Report Regarding Simulations of Drawdowns Caused by Large Scale Brackish Groundwater Production
 - c. Topic 3.3 - Temporary Moratorium regarding High-Capacity Non-Historic-Use Production Permitting and Deep-Saline Non-Historic-Use Production Permitting
4. Item 4 Groundwater Policy Considerations
 - a. Topic 4.1 Management Recommended Draft Rule Revisions
5. Item 11.0 - Adjourn Meeting

Topic 1.1 - Roll Call

Management Discussion:

Staff completed the necessary public notification requirements for the meeting.
VCGCD - Meeting Notice - 20260612 - Final.pdf



Management Recommendation:

Call the meeting to order and call the roll of representatives:

- _____ : Precinct 1 Director: Mr. Jerry Hroch, Vice President.
- _____ : Precinct 2 Director: Mr. Thurman Clements, Jr.
- _____ : Precinct 3 Director: Mrs. Barbara Dietzel, Secretary.
- _____ : Precinct 4 Director: Mr. Mark Meek, President.
- _____ : At Large Director: Mr. Kenneth Eller.
- _____ : General Manager: Tim Andruss.
- _____ : General Counsel: Jim Allison.

Topic 1.2 - Report from General Manager

Regarding Well Registration Processing

As of May 27, 2026, staff had received 17 well registration applications (ARWs) since October 1, 2025.

As of May 27, 2026, staff had received 83 Notices of Intent to Drill a Well (NIDWs) since October 1, 2025.

Regarding Production Permit Renewal Processing

As of May 27, 2026, staff had identified 43 production permits due to expire during the fiscal year. Staff will mail courtesy notices regarding the pending expiration

and the need to renew the subject permit to permittees in April 2026.

Regarding Permit Processing

As of May 27, 2026, staff had received 60 applications related to production permits and waivers since October 1, 2025.

As of May 27, 2026, staff had 41 administratively incomplete applications related to production permits and waivers.

1. AAP-20260429-01 - Bru-San Land Investment - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: **Active Production Permit Renewal**
2. ARP-20260514-01 - Robert A Prochaska - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: **Active Production Permit Renewal**
3. ARP-20260514-02 - Diocese of Victoria - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: **Active Production Permit Renewal**
4. ARP-20260514-03 - Tim Andruss - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: **Active Production Permit Renewal**
5. ARP-20260515-01 - Victoria Navigational District - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: **Active Production Permit Renewal**
6. ARP-20260515-02 - Victoria Navigational District - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: **Active Production Permit Renewal**
7. ARP-20260515-03 - Darwin Hamilton - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: **Active Production Permit Renewal**
8. ARP-20260515-04 - Ed Mckenna - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: **Active Production Permit Renewal**
9. ARP-20260518-01 - Richard Innocenti - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: **Active Production Permit Renewal**
10. ARP-20260519-01 - Allan Miller Enterprises - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: **Active Production Permit Renewal**
11. ARP-20260519-02 - MG Real Properties - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: **Active Production Permit Renewal**
12. ARP-20260519-03 - Ryan Wright- Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: **Active Production Permit Renewal**
13. ARP-20260520-01 - Mechura Investments LLC - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: **Active Production Permit Renewal**
14. ARP-20260521-01 - Jackie Welch - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: **Active Production Permit Renewal**
15. ARP-20260526-01 - Jose Guadalupe - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: **Active Production Permit Renewal**
16. ADSPP-20260402-01 - Port of Victoria - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: **Deep-Saline Non-Historic-Use Production**
 - b. Requested Production Rates: **17,361 GPM, 28,000 AFY**
 - c. Requested Purpose of Use: **For Port of Victoria Developers**
- 17.

ANHUPPW-20260317-01 - Highway 185 Boat and Rv Storage - Administratively Incomplete

- a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
- b. Requested Production Rates: 20 GPM, 1 AFY
- c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial Use

18. ANHUPPW-20260505-01 - Wesley Pratka - Administratively Incomplete

- a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
- b. Requested Production Rates: 20 GPM, 2.5 AFY
- c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial

19. ANHUPPW-20260511-01- Timothy Rampey - Administratively Incomplete

- a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
- b. Requested Production Rates: 50 GPM, 44 AFY
- c. Requested Purpose of Use: Irrigation and RV Park

20. ANHUPPW-20260511-02- Timothy Rampey - Administratively Incomplete

- a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
- b. Requested Production Rates: 20 GPM, 55.62 AFY
- c. Requested Purpose of Use: Irrigation

21. ANHUPPW-20260511-03 - Mark Mize - Administratively Incomplete

- a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
- b. Requested Production Rates: 50 GPM, 4.7 AFY
- c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial

22. ANHUPPW-20260511-05- Arnold Rios - Administratively Incomplete

- a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
- b. Requested Production Rates: 50 GPM, 2.9 AFY
- c. Requested Purpose of Use: RV Park

23. ANHUPPW-20260511-06 - Victoria County - Administratively Incomplete

- a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
- b. Requested Production Rates: 50 GPM, 4.3 AFY
- c. Requested Purpose of Use: Public Water System

24. ANHUPPW-20260513-01 - Craig Lauger - Administratively Incomplete

- a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
- b. Requested Production Rates: 50 GPM, 2.5 AFY
- c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial

25. ANHUPPW-20260513-02 - Craig Lauger - Administratively Incomplete

- a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
- b. Requested Production Rates: 50 GPM, 1.9 AFY
- c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial

26. ANHUPPW-20260513-03 - Jackie Welch - Administratively Incomplete

- a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
- b. Requested Production Rates: 200 GPM, 185 AFY
- c. Requested Purpose of Use: Irrigation and Agricultural Uses

27. ANHUPPW-20260513-04 - Brandun Knocke - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
 - b. Requested Production Rates: 20 GPM, 4 AFY
 - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial
28. ANHUPPW-20260513-05 - Brandun Knocke - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
 - b. Requested Production Rates: 20 GPM, 4 AFY
 - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial
29. ANHUPPW-20260513-06 - Martin Koehne - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
 - b. Requested Production Rates: 20 GPM, 3 AFY
 - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial
30. ANHUPPW-20260514-01 - Phillip Stanley - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
 - b. Requested Production Rates: 50 GPM, 1.5 AFY
 - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial
31. ANHUPPW-20260514-01 - Shawna Stillwell - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
 - b. Requested Production Rates: 60 GPM, 2.2 AFY
 - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial and Manufacturing Uses
32. ANHUPPW-20260514-02 - Andrew Jacob - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
 - b. Requested Production Rates: 18 GPM, 2.7 AFY
 - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial
33. ANHUPPW-20260514-03 - Robert Klimitchek - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
 - b. Requested Production Rates: 100 GPM, 145.82 AFY
 - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Firefighting and Stock
34. ANHUPPW-20260515-01 - Michael Lundin - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
 - b. Requested Production Rates: 50 GPM, 2 AFY
 - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial
35. ANHUPPW-20260515-02 - Michael Lundin - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Requested Production Rates: 50 GPM , 1.1 AFY
 - b. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial
36. ANHUPPW-20260519-01 - Clint Kendall - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
 - b. Requested Production Rates: 20 GPM, 2.46 AFY
 - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial
37. ANHUPPW-20260519-02 - Helena Agri-Enterprises - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production

- b. Requested Production Rates: 55 GPM, 5.43 AFY
- c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial and Agricultural
- 38. ANHUPPW-20260520-01 - Beatrice Navaira - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
 - b. Requested Production Rates: 50 GPM, 1.1 AFY
 - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Commercial
- 39. ANHUPPW-20260522-01 - Stephen McHaney - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
 - b. Requested Production Rates: 75 GPM, 50 AFY
 - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Livestock, Wildlife uses, and Wetland Management
- 40. ANHUPPW-20260522-02 - Stephen McHaney - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
 - b. Requested Production Rates: 75 GPM, 50 AFY
 - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Livestock, Irrigation and Wildlife Use
- 41. ANHUPPW-20260526-01 - Dennis Leita - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: Non-Historic-Use Production
 - b. Requested Production Rates: 125 GPM, 30.75 AFY
 - c. Requested Purpose of Use: Irrigation
- 42. AWR-20260520-01 - Bru-San Land Investments - Administratively Incomplete
 - a. Permitting Request Type: Waiver of Spacing Requirements
 - b. Requested Production Rates: N/A
 - c. Requested Purpose of Use: N/A

As of May 27, 2026, staff had initiated 6 permitting request cases (PRCs) since October 1, 2025.

As of May 27, 2026, staff had 5 permitting request cases pending.

1. VCGCD - GMa - Permitting Request Case - PRC-20251118-01 - ANHUPPW-20251118-01 - LTJ Investments LLC - Pending/Uncontested - James Zafereo for LTJ Investments LLC seeks, under permitting request case PRC-20251118-01, a standard-capacity non-historic-use production permit authorizing the production of groundwater from a non-grandfathered well for Poultry Farm and Commercial uses at rates not to exceed 25 gallons per minute or 5 acre-feet per year. The subject well is located on a 285.85-acre tract of land near the intersection of Levi Sloan Road and Dixie Lane in Victoria County, Texas.
2. VCGCD - GMa - Permitting Request Case - PRC-20251118-02 - ANHUPPW-20251118-02 - LTJ Investments LLC - Pending/Uncontested - Mr. James Zafereo for LTJ Investments LLC seeks, under permitting request case PRC-20251118-02, a standard-capacity non-historic-use production permit authorizing the production of groundwater from a non-grandfathered well for Poultry Farm and Commercial uses at rates not to exceed 25 gallons per minute or 5 acre-feet per year. The subject well is located on a 285.85-acre tract of land near the intersection of Levi Sloan Road and Dixie Lane in Victoria County, Texas.

3. VCGCD - GMa - Permitting Request Case - PRC-20251118-03 - ANHUPPW-20251118-03 - LTJ Investments LLC - Pending/Uncontested - Mr. James Zafereo for LTJ Investments LLC seeks, under permitting request case PRC-20251118-03, a standard-capacity non-historic-use production permit authorizing the production of groundwater from a non-grandfathered well for Poultry Farm and Commercial uses at rates not to exceed 25 gallons per minute or 5 acre-feet per year. The subject well is located on a 285.85-acre tract of land near the intersection of Levi Sloan Road and Dixie Lane in Victoria County, Texas.
4. VCGCD - GMa - Permitting Request Case - PRC-20260113-02 - ADSPP-20251218-01 - VCPFC - Pending/Uncontested - Mr. Sean Stibich for Port of Victoria / Victoria County Port Facilities Corporation seeks, under permitting request case PRC-20260113-02, a permit authorizing the production of saline groundwater for industrial uses at rates not to exceed 1,240 gallons per minute or 2,000 acre-feet per year from a proposed deep saline well screened in the Goliad Saline Groundwater Zone at depths exceeding 1,300 feet below the surface. The proposed well will be located on a 2,723.06-acre tract of land near the intersection of State Highway 185 and McCoy Road in Victoria County, Texas.
5. VCGCD - GMa - Permitting Request Case - PRC-20260505-01- ANHUPPW-20260219-01 - Riotex Swabbing - Pending/Uncontested - Mr. Mario Perez for Riotex Swabbing seeks, under permitting request case PRC-20260505-01, a standard-capacity non-historic-use production permit authorizing the production of groundwater from a non-grandfathered well for Commercial uses at rates not to exceed 20 gallons per minute or 2.5 acre-feet per year. The subject well is located on a 5.04-acre tract of land near the intersection of Coletoville Road and US 59 in Victoria County, Texas.

As of May 27, 2026, staff had 407 active or approved production permits recorded in the permitting database with a combined amount of authorized groundwater production per year of 113,449.762 acre-feet for both historic-use and non-historic-use permits.

Regarding Groundwater Production Report Processing

As of May 27, 2026, staff had processed 239 groundwater production reports for the preceding calendar year since October 1, 2025.

As of May 27, 2026, staff had recorded groundwater production reports for 239 water wells reporting 30,452 acre-feet of groundwater production during Calendar Year 2025. (TWDB estimated the volume of groundwater produced for rural domestic, livestock, mining, and rig supply exempt uses in Victoria County in Year 2020 was 1,920 acre-feet. See: TWDB - Projected Exempt Groundwater Use Estimates.)

Regarding Manage Investigations related to Permitting Violations

As of May 27, 2026, staff had initiated 3 investigations related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting) since October 1, 2026.

As of May 27, 2026, staff had 3 active investigations related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting).

1. INV-20260410-01 - Unpermitted Non-Exempt-Use - 5B Farms - Active
2. INV-20260505-01 - Production Permits - Unexecuted - Active
3. INV-20251006-01 - Unpermitted Non-Exempt-Use - Active

Regarding Manage Enforcement Cases related to Permitting Violations

As of May 27, 2026, the Board had initiated 12 enforcement case violations related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting) since October 1, 2025.

As of May 27, 2026, staff had 11 unresolved enforcement cases related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting).

1. ECV-20250425-06 - KAM Enterprises LTD. - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2024 For Well(s) - Active
2. ECV-20250425-10 - Blake Truax and Merri Truax - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2024 For Well(s) - Active
3. ECV-20260415-02 - Clayton Maxwell - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2025 For Well(s) - Active
4. ECV-20260415-03 - LMFA050 LP - Thomas Margo and Elston Jr. - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2025 For Well(s) - Active
5. ECV-20260415-04 - QES Pressure Control - Great White Pressure Control LLC. - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2025 For Well(s) - Active
6. ECV-20260415-07 - Da Costa Sons of Herman Lodge 265 - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2025 For Well(s) - Active
7. ECV-20260415-08 - Millennium Estate Management LLC - VICTTEC LLC - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2025 For Well(s) - Active
8. ECV-20260415-09 - Jesse Hunt - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2025 For Well(s) - Active
9. ECV-20260415-10 - Bloomington ISD - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2025 For Well(s) - Active
10. ECV-20260415-11 - Buhler - Telferner Partnership - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2025 For Well(s) - Active
11. ECV-20260415-12 - Rebecca S. Muschalek - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2025 For Well(s) - Active

Regarding Permit Report Processing

As of May 27, 2026, staff had processed 0 permit reports to permittees since October 1, 2025.

As of May 27, 2026, staff had 0 permit report outstanding.

Item 2 - Receive Public Comment

Item 3 - Groundwater Management (Permitting)

Considerations

Topic 3.1 - Technical Consultant Support related to Permitting Application Reviews

Management Discussion:

On October 18, 2024, the Board of Directors adopted a resolution establishing a schedule of fees, including fees for applications for high-capacity non-historic-use production permits, applications for deep-saline non-historic-use production permits, applications for transfer permits, and applications for district waiver requests. The purpose of establishing the application fees was to collect sufficient money from applicants to pay for consultation services needed to assist staff with the review and evaluation of the request relative to the rules of the district.

The District has entered into contracts with several consulting firms that provide technical services related to groundwater hydrogeology and groundwater resource management, including INTERA, Daniel B. Stephens and Associates (DBSA), WSP USA, and Collier Consulting. However, with the increased interest and activity related to developing large-volume groundwater production projects, contracting with additional consulting firms may be necessary and prudent, as the District's existing consultants may develop other business relationships that could disqualify them from providing independent and objective technical services to the District associated with a particular permit application.

Typically, management has sought authorization to engage consultants to assist with the review of complex permitting applications from the Board on a case-by-case basis. However, seeking authorization to engage consultants for the review of permitting applications from the Board for each permitting application impedes the timely processing of applications, given the quarterly meeting schedule of the Board of Directors.

Management Recommendation:

Move to authorize the general manager to engage qualified consultants under contract with the District to provide technical services to staff to assist with the review and processing of permitting applications in amounts not to exceed the associated application fee.

Topic 3.2 - Report Regarding Simulations of Drawdowns Caused by Large-Scale Brackish Groundwater Production

Management Discussion:

On April 10, 2026, the Board of Directors accepted and approved the Proposal for Additional Simulations Using the Central Gulf Coast Brackish Groundwater Flow Model submitted by Steven Young of INTERA, Inc., dated April 10, 2026, as a fixed-fee engagement for an amount not to exceed \$10,000. On April 22, 2026, management provided the notice to proceed with the project to INTERA, Inc.

On May 19, 2026, Intera delivered the final draft of the project report title: *Characterization of Brackish Groundwater Resources for Calhoun, Jackson, Refugio,*

and Victoria Counties Addendum #1. Simulation of Drawdowns Caused by Large-Scale Production. The report documents the cumulative drawdowns predicted when simulating large-volume brackish groundwater development projects in Calhoun, Jackson, Refugio, and Victoria Counties using the CGCBGWF Model.

VCGCD - Intera Brackish Cumulative Effects Report - 20260519.pdf

 File

The analysis involved the identification of hypothetical well fields in each county based on TDS zones (slight salinity and median salinity) and aquifer transmissivity categories (maximum transmissivity and median transmissivity) and simulating operation of a well field in each county for each combination of TDS zone and transmissivity category. The identification of hypothetical well field sites attempts to anticipate development locations based on preferable hydrogeologic conditions in terms of well field operation and water quality. The pumping scenarios listed below:

1. Maximum Transmissivity and Slightly Saline Zone,
2. Maximum Transmissivity and Moderately Saline Zone,
3. Median Transmissivity and Slightly Saline Zone, and
4. Median Transmissivity and Moderately Saline Zone.

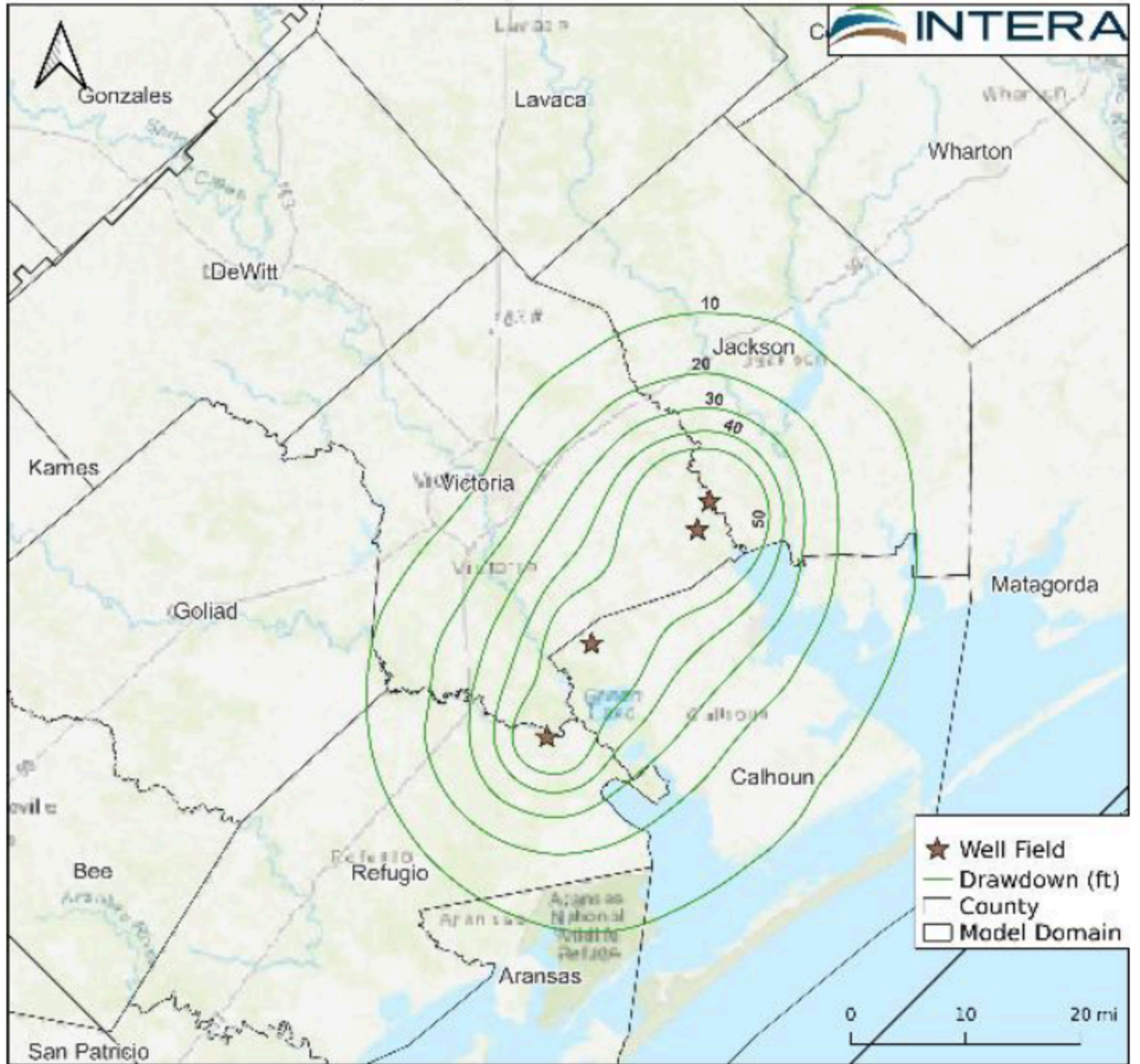
Table 2-3 of the report summarizes the predicted drawdown resulting from 30 years of simulated pumping for the four scenarios based on combinations of TDS zone and transmissivity category.

Table 2-3. Simulated drawdown by pumping at four well fields simultaneously.

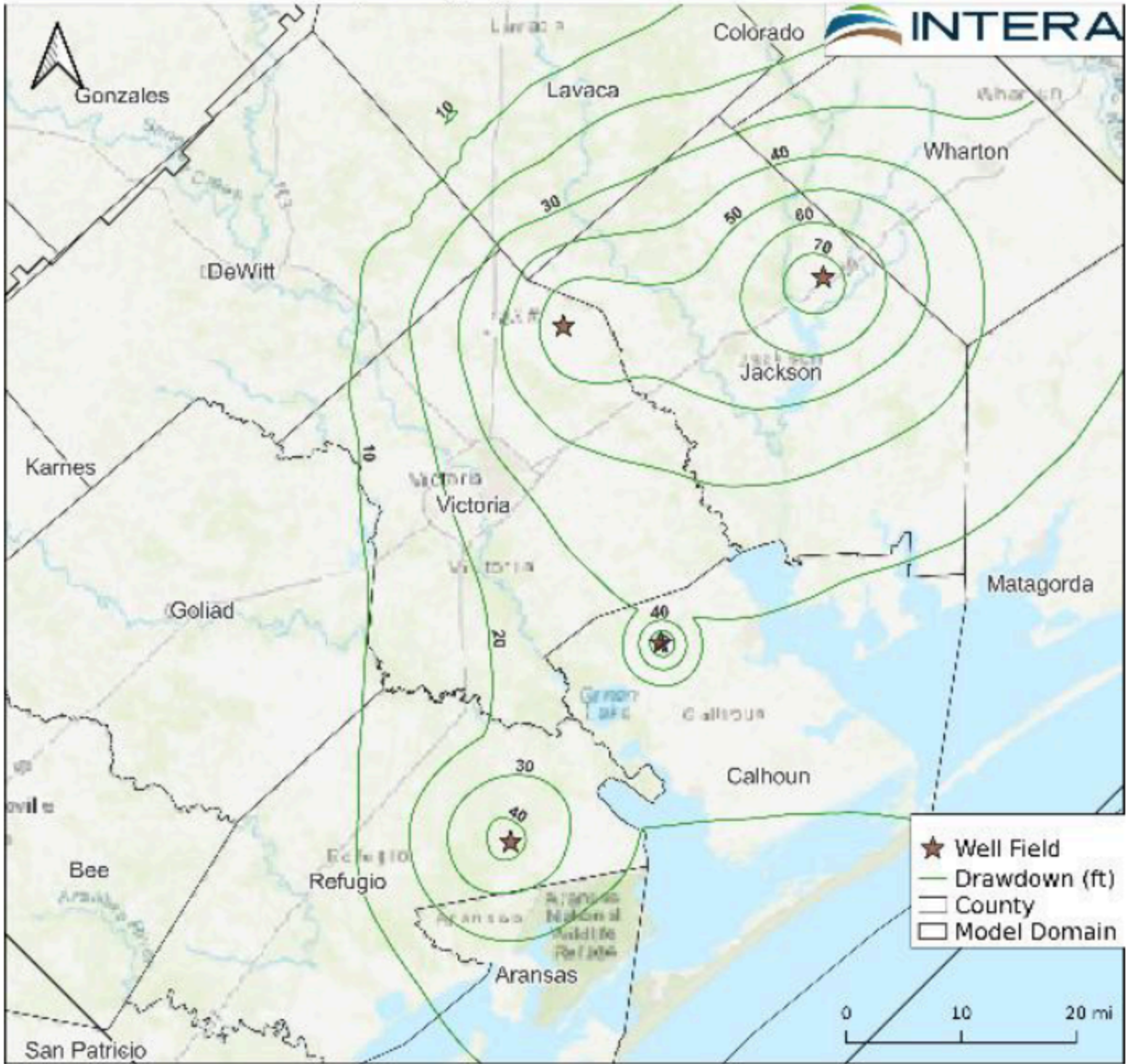
TDS Zone	Maximum Transmissivity				Median Transmissivity			
	Well Field ID	Pumping Rate (AFY)	Drawdown (ft) after 30 Years		Well Field ID	Pumping Rate (AFY)	Drawdown (ft) after 30 Years	
			Brackish Zone	Freshwater Zone			Brackish Zone	Freshwater Zone
Slightly Saline	1	20,000	114	57	9	20,000	166	27
	2	20,000	144	71	10	20,000	363	11
	3	20,000	152	72	11	20,000	272	45
	4	20,000	138	73	12	20,000	366	55
Moderately Saline	5	15,000	152	19	13	15,000	258	13
	6	15,000	161	13	14	15,000	695	16
	7	15,000	129	16	15	15,000	403	17
	8	15,000	175	30	16	15,000	629	2

Figures 2-19 through 2-22 illustrate the drawdowns predicted in lowest fresh groundwater zones and in the pumped brackish zones of the four pumping scenarios. Below are snippets of those figure illustrating the cumulative drawdowns predicted for the fresh groundwater zones for each scenario.

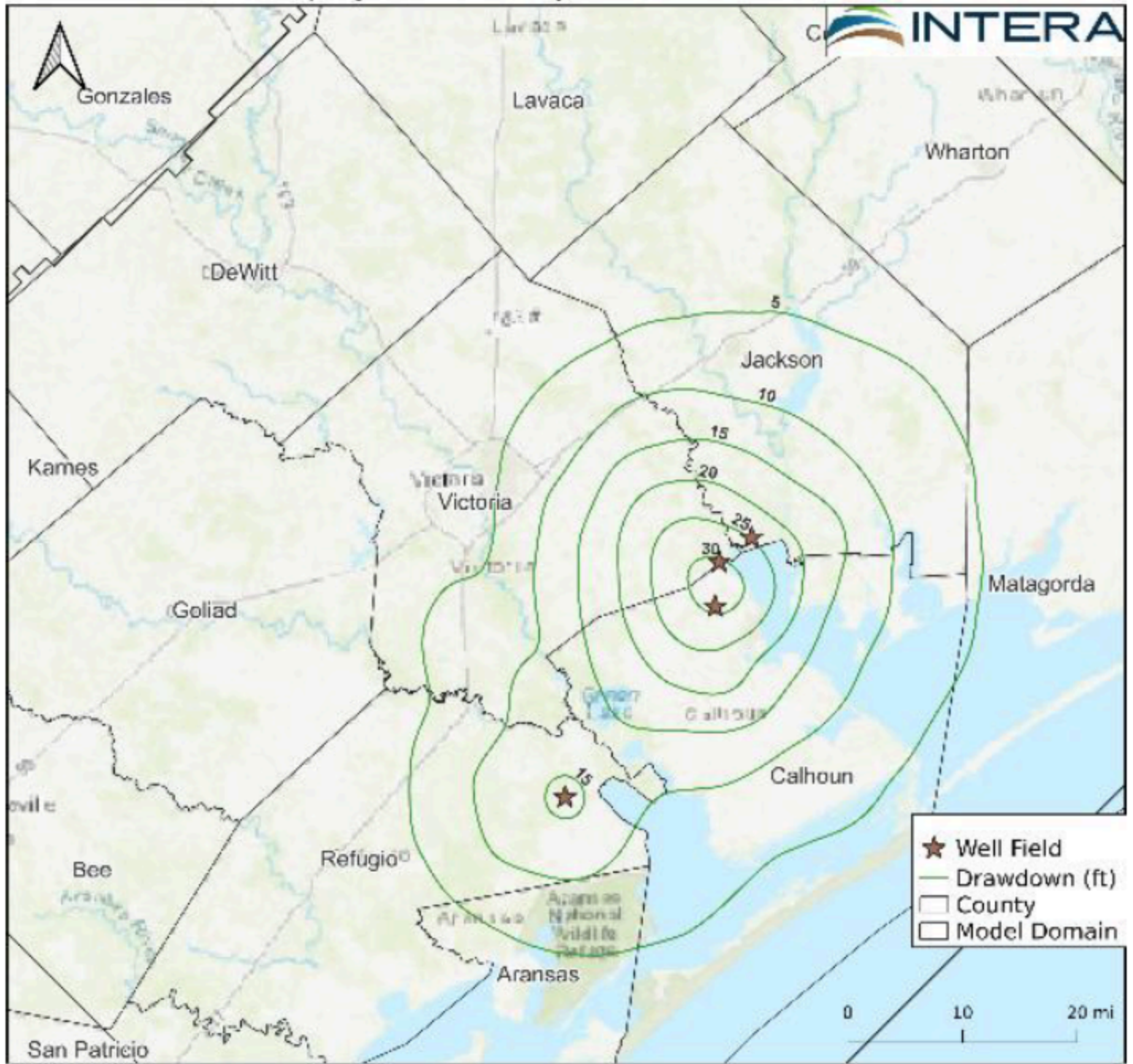
Maximum Transmissivity, Fresh Water,
with 80000 AFY Pumping at Slightly Saline Zone.



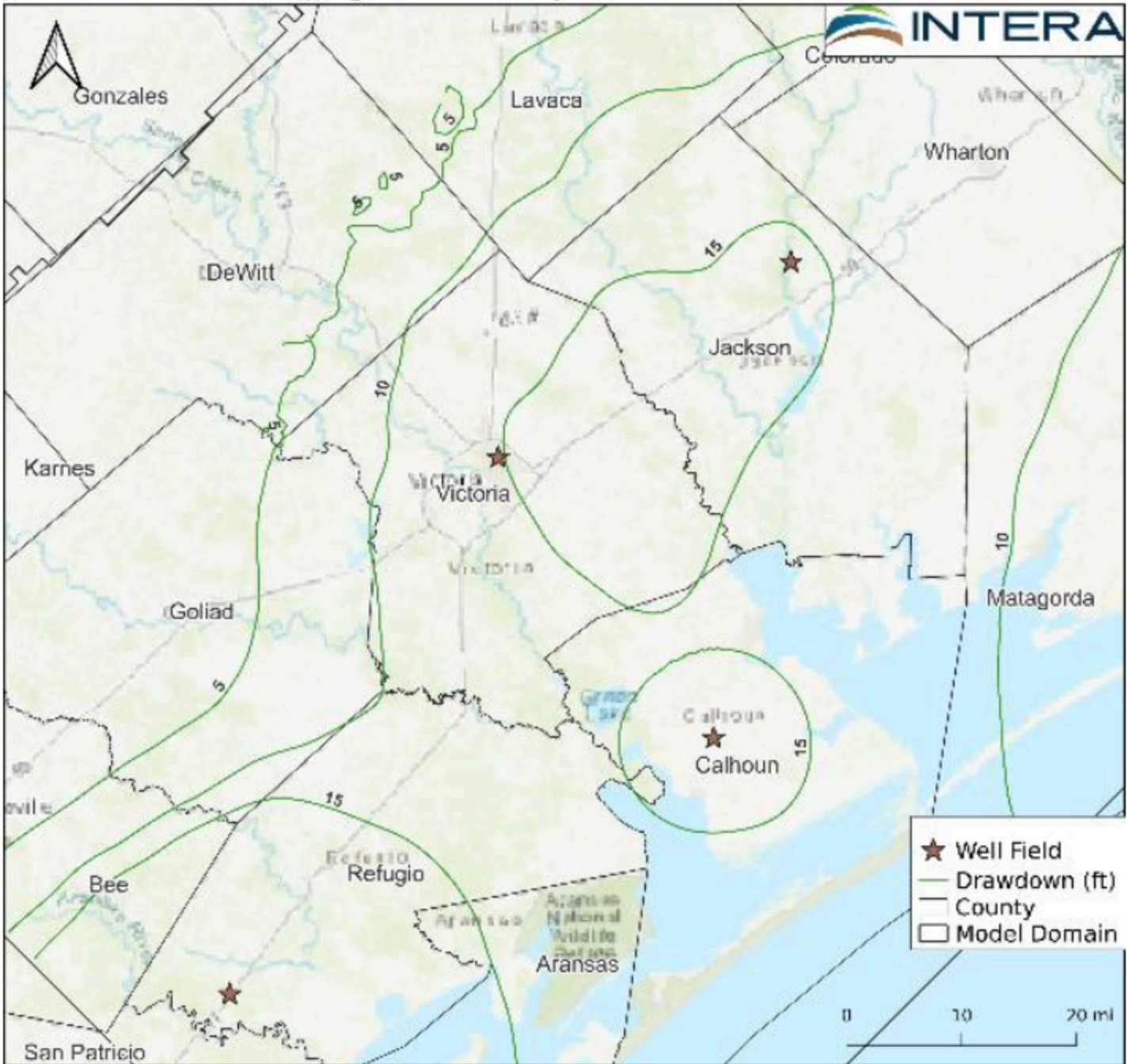
Median Transmissivity, Fresh Water,
with 80000 AFY Pumping at Slightly Saline Zone.



Maximum Transmissivity, Fresh Water,
with 60000 AFY Pumping at Moderately Saline Zone.



Median Transmissivity, Fresh Water,
with 60000 AFY Pumping at Moderately Saline Zone.



Based on the results of the predicted cumulative drawdowns in the fresh groundwater zones in light of the primary policy objective of incentivizing brackish groundwater development (which is to protect and conserve fresher groundwater resources by producing poorer quality groundwater to meet new water demands), management has drafted rule revisions regarding deep-saline non-historic-use production permitting. As anticipated since the original development and approval of the deep-saline groundwater production provisions, the development and actual operation of significant deep-saline groundwater production projects will likely have implications for the District related to Joint Planning and the development of desired future conditions (DFC) within Groundwater Management Area 15. In

particular, management anticipates that amendments to the DFC will be necessary to establish a DFC for fresh groundwater resources and a DFC for deep-saline groundwater resources within the jurisdiction of the District.

Management Recommendation:

Move to 1) accept the final draft of the project report title: *Characterization of Brackish Groundwater Resources for Calhoun, Jackson, Refugio, and Victoria Counties Addendum #1. Simulation of Drawdowns Caused by Large-Scale Production*, 2) instruct the General Manager to post the report on the website of the district, and 3) authorize the payment of the invoice associated with the completion of the project in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.

Topic 3.3 - Temporary Moratorium regarding High-Capacity Non-Historic-Use Production Permitting and Deep-Saline Non-Historic-Use Production Permitting

Management Discussion:

On May 11, 2026, staff received a message from Mr. and Mrs. McCabe, who live near the communities of Olivia and Port Alto in Calhoun County and use groundwater for domestic purposes. The message, addressed to the boards of the cooperating districts, expressed concerns regarding potential impacts associated with a proposed ammonia plant and other potential developments in the central Gulf Coast region. In addition, McCabe requested that each of the districts establish a moratorium on High-Capacity Non-Historic-Use Production Permits and Deep-Saline Non-Historic-Use Production Permits for two and a half years.

Moratorium Request - McCabe - 20260511.pdf



File

Management recognizes that several benefits may be obtained by the District and owners of groundwater resources within Victoria County from a limited, temporary suspension of permitting activities related to deep-saline non-historic-use production permitting. In particular, the temporary suspension would 1) afford the District and other interested parties time to carefully evaluate and assess the recently completed projects related to characterizing brackish groundwater resources within the District and 2) afford the District sufficient time to complete a rulemaking process to revise the Rules of the District to properly incentivize the development of brackish groundwater resources within Victoria County.

After conferring with President of the Board of Directors, Mr. Meek, and obtaining authorization to place the topic of a temporary moratorium on the meeting notice agenda for this meeting, management requested legal counsel draft a moratorium resolution that, if approved by the board, would temporarily suspend the acceptance, processing, or approval of Deep-Saline Non-Historic-Use Production Permits and any related waiver requests to allow the Board to complete a rulemaking process to

propose and adopt revisions to the deep-saline production permitting regulations as the Board determines to be appropriate.

Management Recommendation:

Move to temporarily suspend the acceptance, processing, or approval of High-Capacity Non-Historic-Use Production Permits and Deep-Saline Non-Historic-Use Production Permits and any related waiver requests until the earlier of 1) the Board completing a rulemaking process to propose and adopt revisions to the high-capacity and deep-saline production permitting regulations as the Board determines to be appropriate, or 2) January 31, 2027.

Item 4 - Groundwater Policy Considerations

Topic 4.1 - Management Recommended Draft Rule Revisions

Management Discussion:

On October 18, 2024, the Board of Directors adopted revised Rules of the District. Through the use and implementation of the Rules of the District and the review of technical information (e.g., brackish groundwater characterization reports and water level assessment reports), management has identified numerous instances where revisions would be appropriate to current regulations (i.e. Rules of the District) related to the protection and conservation of groundwater resources within the district, consistent with the established policies and management goals established by the Board of Directors, that: 1) correct typographical errors, 2) clarify existing policies and regulations, 3) eliminate certain provisions and requirements, or 3) propose substantive modifications or additions to certain provisions and requirements.

VCGCD - Rules of the District - Management-Recommended Revisions - 20260603 - Redline.pdf



File

VCGCD - Rules of the District - Management-Recommended Revisions - 20260603 - No Redline.pdf



File

The category of the Rules of the District for which the most extensive revisions are recommended relates to Deep-Saline Non-Historic-Use Production Permitting. The majority of the proposed revisions related to Deep-Saline Non-Historic-Use Production Permitting were developed in response to the technical work and resulting reports produced by Intera, Inc., regarding the expanded characterization of brackish groundwater resources within Calhoun, Jackson, Refugio, and Victoria Counties.

Summary of Management-Recommended Rule Revisions considered substantive:

Description of Revision	Category	Comment
-------------------------	----------	---------

Modification of AQUIFER CONDITION TIER 2 PARAMETERS definition	HCPP-Related; DSPP-Related	Recommended to improve the utility of collected data for the evaluation of impacts
Modification of AQUIFER CONDITION TIER 3 PARAMETERS definition	HCPP-Related; DSPP-Related	Recommended to improve the utility of collected data for the evaluation of impacts
Modification of DEEP-SALINE SPECIAL GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ZONE definition	DSPP-Specific	Recommended to regulate/incentivize based on the degree of separation and isolation of deep-saline groundwater from fresher groundwater, and simplify the regulatory approach for deep-saline groundwater permitting
Modification of DEEP-SALINE SPECIAL GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ZONES definition	DSPP-Specific	Recommended to regulate/incentivize based on the quality/usability of produced saline water and simplify the regulatory approach for deep-saline groundwater permitting
Modification of DEEP-SALINE TRANSMISSIVITY CATEGORY definition	DSPP-Specific	Recommended to regulate/incentivize based on the primary hydrogeologic characteristic that influences drawdown, and simplify the regulatory approach for deep-saline groundwater permitting
Modification of DEEP-SALINE TRANSMISSIVITY ZONES definition	DSPP-Specific	Recommended to regulate/incentivize based on the primary hydrogeologic characteristic that influences drawdown
Deletion of WELL WITH HISTORICALLY LOW PRODUCTION definition	General	Recommended to reduce uncertainty in the District's understanding of groundwater production, improve the efficiency of district administration, and reduce occurrences of inadvertent rule violations.
Modification of item 7 of Rule 4.2 re: requirement to specify amount	General	Recommended to reduce uncertainty in the District's understanding of

transferred out of the district to groundwater production reports		groundwater production
Deletion of items 10-13 of Rule 4.2 re: reporting requirements of historically low production wells	General	Recommended to reduce uncertainty in the District's understanding of groundwater production, improve the efficiency of district administration, and reduce occurrences of inadvertent rule violations.
Addition of items 8-9 of Rule 5.1 re: deadline (12/31/2029) to seek and obtain historic use protection permits	HUPP-Related	Recommended to reduce the possibility of improperly validating historic use and improve the District's ability to manage groundwater resources through permitting
Addition of item 14 of Rule 6.2 re: permit surrender for failure to register a new well for the proposed well of an approved permit	General	Recommended to reduce speculative permitting efforts, improve the District's ability to manage groundwater resources through permitting, and improve the District's ability to balance groundwater production and limit unnecessary restriction of groundwater owner rights to produce their groundwater
Modification to item 1.5 of Rule 6.3.1 re: additional water quality brackets related to acceptable change performance conditions	HCPP-Related	Recommended to address a potential gap in the regulations that limit the degree of allowable negative impacts
Modification of items 1-2 of Rule 6.4 re: capping deep-saline groundwater production within the District's Jurisdiction	DSPP-Related	Recommended to address the possibility of allowing excessive negative impacts caused by potentially excessive permitting and incentivizing large-scale deep-saline groundwater production in the Central Gulf Coast Region
Addition of items 3-5 of Rule 6.4 re: capping deep-saline groundwater production during initial 24-months of a deep-saline production	DSPP-Related	Recommended to reduce the potential for early stages of production under a deep-saline production permit causing excessive impacts on groundwater resources

<p>Addition of items 6-7 of Rule 6.4 re: reducing authorized production of non-deep-saline production permits (existing and future) that overlap deep-saline production permit areas</p>	<p>DSPP-Related</p>	<p>Recommended to reduce the potential for production under a deep-saline production permit causing excessive impacts on groundwater resources and ensure policy goal of conserving better-quality water through the authorization of greater quantities of poorer-quality water.</p>
<p>Modification of items 1-8 of Rule 6.4.1 re: deep-saline groundwater production per acre ratios</p>	<p>DSPP-Related</p>	<p>Recommended to address a potential gap in the regulations that limit the degree of allowable negative impacts caused by improperly incentivizing large-scale deep-saline groundwater production in the Central Gulf Coast Region</p>
<p>Modification of item 1 of Rule 6.4.2 re: expansion of deep-saline permit application requirements</p>	<p>DSPP-Related</p>	<p>Recommended to increase the understanding of potential impacts associated with requests for deep-saline groundwater production permits prior to consideration and preliminary approval of deep-saline permitting requests</p>
<p>Addition of item 6 of Rule 6.4.3 re: required annual review of deep-saline monitoring plan</p>	<p>DSPP-Related</p>	<p>Recommended to increase the understanding of potential impacts associated with the production of deep-saline groundwater and proper monitoring of groundwater impacts</p>
<p>Modification of item 1 of Rule 6.4.4 re: required responses, including production reductions, of a deep-saline production permit for failure to achieve performance criteria</p>	<p>DSPP-Related</p>	<p>Recommended to improve responses to failure to achieve performance criteria of deep-saline production permits and simplify the regulatory approach for deep-saline groundwater permitting</p>
<p>Modification of item 2 of Rule 6.4.4 re: permissible restoration of reduced production a deep-saline production permit for renewal of achieving performance criteria</p>	<p>DSPP-Related</p>	<p>Recommended to improve responses to renewed achievement of performance criteria of deep-saline production permits and simplify the regulatory</p>

		approach for deep-saline groundwater permitting
Modification of figures illustrating estimated depths to 1000 TDS and 3000 TDS	DSPP-Related	Recommended to clarify and support the simplification of the regulatory approach for deep-saline groundwater permitting

(Note: **DSPP** - Deep-Saline Production Permitting; **HCPP** - High Capacity Production Permitting; **HUPP** - Historic Use Production Permitting; **SCPP** - Standard Capacity Production Permitting)

If adopted, the management-recommended revisions to the rules related to wells with historically low production would be eliminated, simplifying the reporting requirements of the district and reducing the potential for permittee confusion regarding permitting matters.

If adopted, the management-recommended revisions to rules related to historic-use groundwater production permitting would achieve the following:

- Establish a deadline of December 31, 2029, for the submittal and approval of any new historic-use non-exempt-use production permits.

If adopted, the management-recommended revisions to rules related to deep-saline groundwater production would achieve the following:

- Establish explicit conservation requirements associated with approval of authorizations to produce brackish groundwater by reducing the non-historic-use production ratio at sites where deep-saline production permits are granted. (See items 8-10 of Rule 6.4) as follows:
 - 20% reduction associated with slightly saline groundwater production.
 - 10% reduction associated with moderately saline groundwater production.
 - 5% reduction associated with extremely saline groundwater production.
- Re-define the term Deep-Saline Special Groundwater Management Zones (zones with increased non-historic-use production ratios) to mean zones that (See Rule 1.1):
 - begin below the estimated elevation of the 3,000 TDS Contour identified in the Characterization Report (ranges between 1,800 feet to 2,100 feet below land surface in the district). See Figure 2.
 - where at least 100 feet of clay is present between the 1,000 TDS - 3,000 TDS zones.
- Eliminate previous designated deep-saline special groundwater production zones (Goliad, Lagarto, and Oakville DSSGPZs) and re-designate (See Rule 1.1):
 - Slightly Saline Groundwater Zone with a TDS range of 2,000 mg/L and 3,000 mg/L.
 - Moderately Saline Groundwater Zone with a TDS range of 3,000 mg/L and 10,000 mg/L.
 - Extremely Saline Groundwater Zone with a TDS exceeding 10,000 mg/L.

Reduce and establish cumulative deep-saline groundwater production limits (i.e., annual district-wide caps) as follows:

- Slightly Saline Groundwater Zone is limited to 10,000 acre-feet per year,
- Moderately Saline Groundwater Zone is limited to 7,000 acre-feet per year,
- Extremely Saline Groundwater Zone is limited to 5,000 acre-feet per year.
- Reduce and establish the cumulative non-historic-use production ratios to (See Rule 6.4.1):
 - Slightly Saline Groundwater Zone:
 - 4 AFY/ac for zones with low transmissivity,
 - 6 AFY/ac for zones with moderate transmissivity,
 - 8 AFY/ac for zones with high transmissivity.
 - Moderately Saline Groundwater Zone:
 - 6 AFY/ac for zones with low transmissivity,
 - 8 AFY/ac for zones with moderate transmissivity,
 - 10 AFY/ac for zones with high transmissivity.
 - Extremely Saline Groundwater Zone:
 - 8 AFY/ac for zones with low transmissivity,
 - 9 AFY/ac for zones with moderate transmissivity,
 - 10 AFY/ac for zones with high transmissivity.
- Advance the requirement to submit aquifer testing plans and resulting technical reports regarding measured aquifer conditions and aquifer characteristics with a deep-saline non-historic-use production permit request to the application submittal stage of the permitting process. (See Rule 6.4.2)
- Simplify the progressive reduction and restoration of authorized production under a deep-saline non-historic-use production permit in response to failures to satisfy and subsequent achievements of performance criteria. (See Rule 6..4.4)

The first step in the formal consideration of proposed rule revisions is to schedule and publish notice of a public rulemaking hearing regarding the proposed rule revisions. A draft notice has been developed for consideration.

VCGCD - Public Hearing Notice - Proposed Rule Revision - 20260710 - Draft.pdf

 File

When authorized, rulemaking notices are posted in accordance with Section 36.101 of the Texas Water Code, at least 20 days in advance of the hearing, including 1) at the District's office, 2) with the county clerks of the county or counties in the district, 3) in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or counties in which the district is located (e.g., Victoria Advocate), and 4) on the website of the district. A copy of the proposed rules will be made publicly available at the District's office and on the District's website.

Management Recommendation:

Move to 1) designate the management-recommended rule revisions as the 2026 Proposed Rule Revisions of the District, 2) schedule the required rulemaking hearing for the proposed rule revisions at the regular meeting to be held on July 10, 2026, and 3) authorize the general manager to post the required public notices related to the rulemaking process.

Item 11.0 - Adjourn Meeting

Management Recommendation:

Move to adjourn the meeting after concluding all business of the District.

Template