

**Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District**  
**Manager's Report**  
**August 2017**

On August 3<sup>rd</sup> I scouted potential locations for monitor wells along the Carrizo outcrop in the Ottine area.

On August 4<sup>th</sup> I met with representatives of the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority in our District office to discuss their financial obligations in relation to the production permits they were taking over from the Texas Water Alliance.

On August 9<sup>th</sup> I conducted a water well inspection on a water well being installed by Lonestar Drilling near Oak Forest on Highway 90A west. The well appeared to be installed and completed in compliance with the District rules.

On August 14<sup>th</sup> Link Benson and I met with representatives of Maresh Drilling Company, Inc. to discuss the Districts 2016 audit results and subsequent enforcement letter.

On August 15<sup>th</sup> I conducted a water well inspection on a second water well being installed by Hazellett Drilling south of Smiley on FM 108. The water well was being drilled as an exempt frack well. The well appeared to be installed and completed in compliance with the District rules. I also conducted a water well inspection on a water well being installed by Drillink on FM 77 near Nixon. The well appeared to be installed and completed in compliance with the District rules.

On August 17<sup>th</sup> I attended a meeting at the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority office in Seguin to discuss the current status of the surface water groundwater interaction study being conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

On August 17<sup>th</sup> I conducted a well inspection on a water well being plugged by Friedel Drilling Company on FM 2988 near Nixon. An attempt was made to drill out the well casing with a modified tri-cone drill bit however the drill bit was ripping the top of the casing apart in large pieces which would not allow the casing to be circulated out of the borehole. After further discussion, I informed Friedel Drilling Company that they should seal the well off at the surface and we would discuss alternative plugging options at the next board meeting.

On August 22<sup>nd</sup> I conducted a water well inspection on a water well being installed by Thomas Moy on CR 181 near Nixon. The drilling rig had been set up and the mud pit installed but the drilling had not begun and the driller was not present at the site.

On August 23<sup>rd</sup> I conducted a follow-up inspection on the plugging activities being conducted by Alsay, Incorporated on CR 121 near Leesville. Alsay had completed the plugging of one well and was in the process of setting up on a second well to begin drilling out the well casing.

On August 24<sup>th</sup> I conducted a water well inspection on a water well being installed by Lonestar Drilling on CR 151 near Leesville. The well appeared to be installed and completed in compliance with the District rules.

On August 25<sup>th</sup> we received a phone call from a well owner located on PR 4801 near Oak Forest concerning the presence of coliform bacteria in a well water. I travelled to the site to inspect the well and gather information from the well owner. The owner has conducted four coliform sampling events in August and each one has come back positive. The well and associated piping was sanitized between each well sampling event. No well report is available for this well. The owner reports that the well may be about 550 feet deep and may have been installed about 60 years ago. A well installed at this depth at this location would be a Carrizo Aquifer well. The concrete pad around the well is cracked and has shifted over time which may create a conduit for contaminants. The septic system drain for the house is uphill of the water well. I informed the well owner that we would come back to collect a water sample from the well to assist us in determining whether the water quality in the well was consistent with the local Carrizo area water. If not, the well may not be completed in the Carrizo Aquifer or the casing may be deteriorated and receiving water from another strata.

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup> I attended the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts Conference in San Marcos. A copy of the Conference agenda is attached.

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On August 31<sup>st</sup> Greg Ellis and I attended a meeting in Lockhart to discuss groundwater rights issues on the Century Oaks Estates, Noah's Land, and Bison Ranch properties with the following representatives; Judge Blomerth – Settlement Administrator, Esther Chavez – Texas AG's office, Brad Schuelke – Texas AG's office, Ken Cross – Texas AG's office, Fred Weber – Caldwell County DA, Kenneth Phillips – attorney representing Richard Burns.

SSLGC's August production was about 1,106 ac-ft which is about 69% of the monthly allowable production.

CRWA's August production was about 242 ac-ft which is about 39% of the monthly allowable production.

SAWS August production was about 982 ac-ft which is about 101% of the monthly allowable production.

AQUA's July production was about 40 ac-ft which is about 9% of the monthly allowable production.

The Palmer Drought Index, as of August 29, 2017 indicates that the District is currently not under any drought conditions.

**Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District  
Mitigation Fund Manager's Report  
August 2017**

On August 1, 2017, I went to Smiley and met with Mr. Robert Pattillo to discuss mitigation on a well that quit flowing.

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>, I went to Leesville to the Alsay/CRWA location to check on the progress of casing removal.

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, I went to Smiley to meet with B&S at the Pattillo location to discuss mitigation.

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, I went to Smiley to meet with Mr. D.C. Rhodes whose well had quit flowing. I noticed a sign that he sells water. I asked if he had a permit to sell water. His response was, "No, the General Manager said I do not have to have one."

On August 16<sup>th</sup>, I went to Smiley and met B&S at the Pattillo well location. The well was jetted, and did not flow.

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, I went to Smiley and met Mr. Rhodes to sign paperwork and informed him he probably was not eligible for mitigation due to not having a permit to sell water, he should complete permit paperwork and he should discuss the matter with the Board at the next meeting.

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, I went to Pilgrim and met B&S at the Kardoz well location. Water well is still having problems.

On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, I went to Leesville to the Alsay/CRWA location to observe a water well being plugged.

On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, I went to Harwood and met Mr. Wes Davis at the old Ford place to discuss mitigation.

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, I went to Smiley and met B&S at the Pattillo well location to set a solar pump.

On August 30<sup>th</sup>, I went to Harwood to meet B&S at the Davis well location to discuss mitigation.

On August 31<sup>st</sup>, I went to Nixon to meet with B&S to discuss mitigation.

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On June 12, 2017, I received a call from Greg Sengelmann there had been a consumer complaint about a well drilled by Alsay Incorporated for Canyon Regional Water Supply Corp. I met with Greg and proceeded to location. Along the way Adam Foster with TDLR called and said he got the same consumer complaint around 5:00 AM in the morning, that Alsay had not properly completed the surface completion properly. After arriving at location I discovered 5 wells out of compliance and the well that the consumer called the complaint on was not cemented properly, improper well seal and wiring not to code, along with fresh cow manure all over well site and opening of well; meaning possible well contamination. Upon inspection of all five (5) wells there were multiple violations in accordance with TDLR and District Rules; failed to ensure no unprotected openings for a serviced well/pump, failed to adhere to manufacturer specs for pump wiring and sizing, failed to provide proper surface completion on water well, failed to properly cement the annular space of a water well, and failed to properly cap a well. Greg and I discussed the rule violations with on-site Representative of Alsay, Brian Hillard at this time. At this time I asked Mr. Hillard about State Well Reports and his reply was he just drilled the wells in the past month and did not have to have well reports in at this time, he would bring wells into compliance that day. Upon further investigation I found the wells were drilled in February, March and April, Mr. Hillard lied about well logs which put well logs in violation, failed to submit timely well logs. At this time Greg Sengelmann sent enforcement letter authorized settlement fines for each violation and required Alsay, Inc. correct all violations within 10 days.

On June 20, 2017, I went to Leesville to the Alsay, Inc. drilling location and spoke with Mr. Brian Hillard. I told him wells were still out of compliance. Mr. Hillard told me that he nor Alsay, Inc. did not have to do anything that the District told them to do. I explained the rules to him. Mr. Hillard said he would do it his way. I informed Mr. Hillard that I was going to take pictures of the site and leave. I took the photographs and left. I then called Barry Miller and explained to him what happened. Mr. Miller said we need to get a district judge and shut them down. I told Mr. Miller I would call TDLR first and ask for their help. I contacted

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Mr. Adam Foster with TDLR and informed him of the situation. Mr. Foster called Mr. Hilliard and told him he did have to comply with district rules. Mr. Foster called me back and said he spoke with Mr. Hillard and that Mr. Hillard said he would comply.

On June 26, 2017, I went back to the Alsay, Inc. location and there were still several wells out of compliance and the wells that were brought into compliance were not done properly (half-a\*\*). Mr. Hilliard was not on site but drilling was in progress. After reviewing the situation I called Adam Foster with TDLR and asked could he come down and look at the situation with me and we set a date for July 5, 2017

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On July 1, 2017, I went to the Alsay location to see if wells were in compliance to our letter giving Alsay ten (10) days to come into compliance which would have been June 30, 2017 and at this time not all wells were in compliance to TDLR and District rules.

On July 5, 2017, Adam Foster with TDLR and I went to the Alsay , Inc. Location. Upon arrival we found several wells still out of compliance; including improper surface completion on a water well which could lead to contamination to the new Municipality Wells being drilled. Also, failed to adhere to manufacture specs for pump wiring and sizing which could lead to electrocution and death of livestock and human life. Mr. Hillard walked up on Mr. Foster and myself, Mr. Foster introduced himself to Mr. Hillard. Mr. Hillard said Hi and walked off. He did not speak to me. All Alsay employees were gravel packing the Municipality Well at this time. I took pictures of wells that were out of compliance. At this time Mr. Foster with TDLR suggested we return and with an excavator and dig the wells up to see if wells were properly cemented, I said I would line everything up and get a date set and let Mr. Foster know when.

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On July 11, 2017, At a regular scheduled board meeting I informed the board about the situation with Alsay and what Adam Foster with TDLR requested, digging up wells to see if wells were cemented properly. The Board said to continue forward with investigation. I also informed board that Adam Foster with TDLR was out of town and i would try to get hold of him so he could be there when we dug the wells up. After Meeting, Mr. Craig Hines came to me and asked could he be present at well sites when wells were exposed and I said yes and I would let him know when.

On, July 13, 2017, I talked to Adam Foster with TDLR and he said he could be there on the morning of July 18, 2017. I said I would let everyone know, I contacted Steve Bell with Alsay, Inc. and requested his present and he said OK and we set meeting for 10:00 AM. I then contacted Craig Hines and let him know and he said that would work. I then contacted B & S Water Well to schedule the excavator.

On July 18, 2017, Adam Foster with TDLR and myself went to the Alsay location L190 and met Craig Hines and B & S Water well (Brice) at location, Mr. Foster said to proceed and start digging. I called Mr. Steve Bell, he said he was at another location and he would be there in a couple of minutes, upon excavation of well Mr. Foster and myself found well not to be cemented properly and Mr. Bell concurred. At this time, Mr. Foster said the well needs to be plugged. I then told Brice to cover well backup and we would go to next well. As Brice was covering the well up around casing with his excavator on tracks, he backed up and spun the tracks around and Brice hollered at me to come over, low-and-behold, Brice had uncovered another well below ground surface not plugged, and had recently been drilled. I called Mr. Foster to come back over and everyone else to come back and look at the very major problem for potential contamination. I explained to Mr. Bell that with all the past rains in the early months and all the cow shit around location and rain water on location which was definitely going into the well and you could see water rings inside of casing with dirt and silt inside of casing. Mr.

Foster and I explained to Mr. Hines, this would directly affect the quality of the water with manure inside of casing. At this time I also told Mr. Bell there were no logs on this well. Also, at this time Mr. Hines expressed his concern about the contamination possibility and the possibility of landowner cattle breaking a leg by stepping into the well below ground. At this time Mr. Bell said he would have a welding crew over to the well site this afternoon to raise casing above ground and cap the well and agreed that both wells needed plugging according to District Rules to Protect the integrity of the future Municipality Wells. Mr. Foster, Mr. Hines, Mr. Bell and I all agreed. At this time we proceeded to well L192.

Once at the well L192 location Brice with B & S Water Well proceeded to dig beside the well casing, approximately 3 ft. down there was no cement and an open hole. Mr. Foster and I explained to Mr. Bell and Mr. Hines that this did not meet TDLR or District Rules and the well would have to be plugged that the Municipal wells would be at risk if not plugged. Mr. Bell agreed and said that Alsay would plug the well L192, Mr. Foster and I walked around location to see if we could see any sign of another well being dug but could not tell if there was, so we all proceeded to well location L191.

Once at well location L191, Brice proceeded to dig beside casing, as Brice was excavating Mr. Foster and I proceeded to look around the well site when we noticed some new gravel on ground and a piece of broke plastic casing, as we moved the dirt around we found a piece of steel pipe cut long ways buried in ground, I told Mr. Foster I would have Brice dig there next. About that time Brice hollered to come here, about 61' down there was no cement and a large cavern around casing, we took pictures and I told Brice to start digging up the steel pipe. Sure enough there was another well below ground and casing broke off. The steel pipe covering the well below ground was not even sealing the well to keep contamination from occurring. Mr. Foster and I told Mr. Bell that these two (2) wells would have to be plugged, we also told Mr. Bell and Mr. Hines about possible contamination to Municipal Well and at this time I also told Mr. Bell there were no State Well Logs on these two wells that were buried, Mr. Foster

and I also brought up the fact that these were all in the Sanitary Easement of the Municipal Wells. All Wells were approximately 20' to 50' away from the future Municipal Well, also at this time I explained to Mr. Bell that this is a major concern of mine about the wells below ground; that this could be a direct conduit for contamination to enter the Municipal Wells and if we have found 2 wells so far, how many more are out there, Mr. Bell said he would look into it. Also at this time I told Mr. Bell to weld on a piece of casing to the well below ground and extend it up above ground level and cap it. Mr. Bell said it would be done today. At this time we proceeded to well #L188.

Once at well location L188, Brice proceeded to dig be side casing. This well has a pump installed in side of casing, approximately 3' down. There was no cement and there was a piece of black plastic wrapped around the casing to stop the cement from going down. At this time Mr. Foster and I told Mr. Bell this well will have to be plugged. Mr. Bell said he would have well plugged and Alsay would pull the pump out today and cap well. Mr. Foster and I walked around location to look for another well but almost impossible to find with equipment stacked all around location so we proceeded to well location L189.

Once at location L189 I had Brice to start digging be side well casing, I was talking to Mr. Bell about my concerns about if there were any more wells that we did not know about buried underground? Mr. Bell said he would look into it and that he thought that the District Rules were too stringent. At this time I told Mr. Bell that Alsay could not even follow TDLR Rules and I also told him I thought he was out of compliance with TECQ Rules on being in a Sanitary Easement. L189 had steel casing down as far as Brice could dig approximately 8' to 9' down, no cement on outside of steel casing. Mr. Bell said they were going to plug the well anyway. I expressed my concern about other wells being buried and about the vitality of Well Field due to possible contamination because of improper completion of the Rig Supply Wells not meeting TDLR or District Rules and possibly TECQ Rules and not to mention the two (2) buried wells are a direct conduit for contamination and are there anymore wells like this in the Well Field?



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Mr. Bell said all wells would be plugged immediately and the Mr. Brian Hillard would be fired as soon as he got back to the office.

On July 19, 2017, I returned to Alsay location to see if the two (2) wells buried below ground have had the casing extended to bring them above ground level and capped. This was around 5:30 PM and they were just starting on the second one so the wells were not done on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July like they were supposed to. The first well cap is put on top with large  $\frac{3}{4}$ " gaps so mice and snakes can enter well bore and cause contamination.

On July 25, 2017, I returned to Alsay location to see if the plugging process had started, when Mr. Hines pulled up, we walked around rig and saw Mr. Brian Hillard sitting in his pickup (guess he did not get fired). As Mr. Hines and I walked around location I told Mr. Hines that the pump was still installed in the well and hookup to the generator and also the rig was on a different well, so now there is a third (3<sup>rd</sup>) well that was buried below ground. About this time Mr. Hillard walked up to us and started making excuses why there was another well there and also that the other well sanded in and could not be used. Also at this time Mr. Hines asked why they were using the big drilling rig to plug the small wells. Mr. Hillard replied that the small drilling rig was busy and it may take them a while to plug the wells with the big rig because it keeps breaking down; that it is full of electrical gremlins and was broke down over a month while drilling the 1<sup>st</sup> Municipal Well, I told Mr. Hillard that Alsay needs to get these wells plugged, Mr. Hillard replied he'll do what he can if he can keep the rig running. Also at this time I noticed a stack of Drilling Mud that the cattle had gotten into and had been eating. Mr. Hines and I told Mr. Hillard he needs to get something around the mud to keep cattle out of it. Mr. Hillard said he tried but the cattle got into it anyway. There is just a plastic netting around the drilling mud, Mr. Hines told Mr. Hillard the mud is not good for the cattle and I agree.

On July 26, 2017, After reviewing all the facts about ALSAY, on the five (5) rig Supply Wells out of compliance with TDLR and District Rules and Possibly TECQ Rules plus the three (3) buried below ground that are out of compliance on TDLR and District Rules and Possibly TECQ Rules are an even bigger threat to the integrity of the Canyon Reginal Well Field .The possibility of even more wells hidden below ground and not disclosed to Canyon Reginal or to TDLR or the District I made a recommendation to Craig Hines to contact James Bene, Canyon Reginal Hydrologist to think about having someone to sit out on location and watch Alsay plug all 8 wells so far to date to be sure they are properly plugged to District Rules.

**Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District  
Field Technician Report**

**August 2017**

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, I drove part of Hwy 97, and County Roads 140, 148, and 142 looking for non-registered wells. Arc Explorer crashed. I had to return to the office.

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, I drove part of Hwy 90A, part of Farm to Market 466, and County Roads 143, 141, 145, and 111. Arc Explorer would not show already registered wells. Had to stop.

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, I attempted to locate non-registered wells. Arc Explorer crashed again. I drove through Bison Ranch looking for drilling activity, there was none noted.

On August 14<sup>th</sup>, I made first inspection of Beeman well south of Waelder, being drilled by Chandler Drilling.

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, I went to the Beeman well 2 times during the day to complete well inspection.

On August 16<sup>th</sup>, I made final inspection of the Beeman well.

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, I met with Mr. John Tinsley to review and gather data on several of his wells off County Road 119.

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