

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
OF  
GONZALES COUNTY UNDERGROUND  
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Proposed Amendments to the District's Rules**

The Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District (the "District") will hold a public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments on proposed amendments to District Rules.

The Board of Directors will take public comments on these proposed rules on October 14, 2025, at the Gonzales County Courthouse at 414 Saint Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas. The public hearing will begin at 5:30 p.m. after the public hearing on permits.

**GCUWCD October 14, 2025 Pubic Hearing Draft Rules**

**Oct 14, 2025, 5:30 – 7:00 PM (America/Chicago)**

**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

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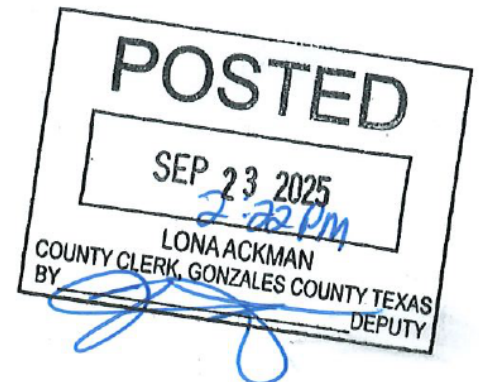
**<https://meet.goto.com/install>**

Agenda is as follows:

1. Call to order.
2. President of the Board to make comments.
3. Receive comments from the public on proposed amendments to the District's rules.
4. Adjourn.

Copies of the current rules of the District and the proposed amended rules are available at the offices of the Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District, 522 Saint Matthew, Gonzales, TX from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. until October 13, 2025, Monday through Friday and are also available on the District website, [www.gcuwcd.org](http://www.gcuwcd.org), or by telephone request to (830) 672-1047.

Written comments should be submitted to the General Manager, P.O. Box 1919, Gonzales, TX 78629 [generalmanager@guwcd.org](mailto:generalmanager@guwcd.org) or presented at the hearing. The deadline for submission of written comments is October 13, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Oral comments will be received on October 14, 2025 at the Public Hearing.



1) Amend Rule 4 – Registration of Water Wells, by adding a new subsection E to read as follows:

**E. Open Loop Geothermal recovery wells.**

2) Amend Rule 6.A, 6.B and 6.D – Annexation into District Boundaries to read as follows:

A. Annexed water wells are ~~subject to-exempt from~~ permitting requirements, spacing, and production limitations in the District's rules.

B. Export of water outside the District from annexed water wells that serve as public water utility supply wells shall ~~be limited to 5,000 acre-feet of water per year in the aggregate and shall~~ pay a fee to the District in accordance with Section 36.122(e-2), Water Code. The export fee rate will be included in the District's fee schedule established by Board resolution. Export fees will be assessed monthly based on the amount of groundwater exported from the District in the preceding month. Monthly fees are due in the District office by the 30th day of the following month. If the amount of groundwater produced and exported is not metered during the month reported, or if any meter fails during that month, the fee shall be based on 1/12 of the annual authorized export permit amount.

D. A registered water well that qualifies for an exemption under this section shall be afforded the same rights as any other permitted ~~or registered~~ water well in the District.

3) Amend Rule 8.B – Historic Use Status to read as follows:

B. Authorization issued by the District for groundwater withdrawals for a specified amount and type of use from a ~~registered water well~~, permitted non-exempt water well, or registered exempt use water well existing and operational prior to or on January 1, 2009, shall be designated under a historic use status certification and subject to any and all applicable rules, regulations, protection, and requirements set forth by the District.

4) Amend Rule 10.B – Application for Drilling and Operating Permits

B. An application for a drilling permit or a permit amendment is subject to spacing and production limitations relative to any approved or pending permit or existing registered ~~exempt use water wells-well~~.

5) Amend Rule 10.D.11 Application for Drilling and Operating Permits to read as follows:

11. The name and address of all existing, ~~and-registered~~ exempt use water well owners and permitted well owners within one-half mile of the proposed water well as shown in the records of the District;



6. Amend Rule 10.E.3 – Application for Drilling and Operating Permits to read as follows:

3. In order to ensure no unreasonable effects on existing groundwater and surface water resources or existing permit holders, the District shall require a mitigation plan, acceptable to the District, to be included in the application to mitigate the effects of the drawdown of artesian pressure or the level of the water table upon the registered ~~exempt use water well owners~~ or permitted well owners potentially affected by ~~the proposed that~~ water well or wells. The plan shall include but not be limited to:

- a. The actions and procedures to be taken by the holder of the drilling and operating permit in the event that pumping causes the water level in a registered ~~exempt use water well~~ or permitted well to drop to an unacceptable level in accordance with the GCUWCD Mitigation Manual section 4.0 Assessing Drawdown Effects on Wells.
- b. The actions and procedures to be taken by the holder of the drilling and operating permit in the event that the pumping from the permitted well causes the water to become objectionable or renders the water unusable to a registered ~~exempt use water well~~ or permitted well owner, or renders the water unusable to a registered ~~exempt use water well owner~~ or permitted well owner.
- c. The actions and procedures to be taken by the holder of the drilling and operating permit in the event that pumping causes the well casing or equipment to be damaged so that the recorded quality or quantity of water cannot be produced by the registered ~~exempt use water well owner~~ or permitted well owner.
- d. The plan shall also include measures to be taken in cases where the reduction of artesian pressure or water level causes an emergency to arise which may threaten human or animal health, safety, or welfare.
- e. The plan shall also contain a specifically enumerated time schedule for the execution of the mitigation plan.

7. Amend Rule 11A.4 – Issuance of Drilling and Operating Permits is amended to read as follows:

4. The proposed use of water unreasonably affects existing groundwater or surface water resources or existing Permit Holders, ~~and registered exempt use water wells~~.

8. Rule 15.D.2 – Exportation of Groundwater from the District is amended to read as follows:

2. The projected effect of the proposed transfer on aquifer conditions, depletion, subsidence, or effects on existing permit holders, ~~registered exempt use water wells~~, or other groundwater users within the District; and

9. Rule 27.B – Enforcement of Rules is amended to read as follows:

B. The ~~Board by rule may set reasonable~~ civil penalties for breach of any rule of the District ~~may~~ not to exceed ~~\$25,000 \$10,000~~ per day per violation, and each day of a continuing violation constitutes a separate violation in accordance with Chapter 36.102 of the Texas Water Code. (See Appendix A).

10. Rule 27.F – Enforcement of Rules is amended to read as follows:

F. Permitted transportation facilities which fail to comply with these rules may be subject to a civil penalty ~~to be determined by the Board~~ not to exceed ~~\$25,000 \$10,000~~ per day of violation and each day of continued violation constitutes a separate violation.