

SUTTON COUNTY

**Underground Water
Conservation District**

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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Sonora, Texas 76950
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General Manager: Meredith Allen

Purpose and Scope:

This Annual Report on the Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District’s (District or SUTUWCD) is on achieving its management goals and objectives for the year 2023. It is presented to the Board of Directors of the District (the Board) in accordance with the District’s Management Plan (Methodology for Tracking Progress, pg. 18). Texas Water Code, Chapter 36.1071. The original Management Plan for the District was adopted in 2004. It has been amended and readopted every five years, November 12, 2019 is the latest revision. The District is currently in the pre-review process to readopt the Management Plan for 2024.

The Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District (the District) was created by the 69th Texas Legislature (1985) under the authority of Section 59, Article XVI, of the Texas Constitution, and in accordance with Chapter 51 and 52 of the Texas Water Code. Note, in 1995, by Acts of the 74th Legislature, Chapter 52 of the Texas Water Code was repealed and replaced with Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code effective September 1, 1995. The District, a local government agency, provides for the conservation, preservation, protection, recharge and prevention of waste of the underground water reservoir, Edwards-Trinity (Plateau) Aquifer, located under the District; by consistently adhering to Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code (TWC). The District conducts administrative and technical activities and programs to achieve these purposes by collecting, archiving and analyzing water well and aquifer data. It regulates water well drilling and production of permitted, non-exempt wells, promoting the capping or plugging of abandoned wells. The District also provides information and educational material to local property owners, interacting with other governmental or organizational entities, and undertaking other groundwater-related activities that may help meet the purposes of the District. The District also strives to maintain groundwater ownership and rights of the landowners as provided in the TWC §36.002.

2023 Board of Directors:

Board President: Robert Sol Mayer
Vice-President: James Archer
Secretary/Treasurer: Max Howorth
Director: Dr. Butch Taylor
Director: Dr. Erika Campbell

2023 District Staff:

General Manager: Meredith Allen
Operations Manager: Lana Tolleson
Technician: Sofia Galindo

District Board Meetings:

DATE:	TYPE:
January 10, 2023	Board Meeting
February 14, 2023	Board Meeting
April 11, 2023	Board Meeting
June 13, 2023	Board Meeting
July 11, 2023	Board Meeting
September 12, 2023	Board Meeting & Public Hearing
September 26, 2023	Public Hearing
October 10, 2023	Board Meeting
November 14, 2023	Board Meeting

Requirements of District Management Plan:

Goal 1.0 – Provide for the Efficient Use of Groundwater (36.1071(a)(1))

1.1 – The Board of Directors will receive quarterly briefings by the General Manager regarding the District’s well registration program new wells. The registration data will also be included in the Annual Report to the Board of Directors.

DATE:	Type:	PURPOSE:
January 10, 2023	Board Meeting	Quarterly Well Registration Report
April 11, 2023	Board Meeting	Quarterly Well Registration Report
July 11, 2023	Board Meeting	Quarterly Well Registration Report
October 10, 2023	Board Meeting	Quarterly Well Registration Report

Goal 2.0 - Control and Prevent Waste of Groundwater (36.1071(a)(2))

2.1 – The District will annually provide at least one printed publication, and one public speaking event to provide educational leadership on eliminating and reducing wasteful practices in the use of groundwater.

DATE:	Type:	PURPOSE:
April 27, 2023	Educational Speaking Event	5 th grade Field Tour – Edible Aquifer Soil & Water Cons. District
November 2, 2023	Educational speaking Event	4 th Grade Water Fair – Aquifer Model with Pump Simulations (water quality & well interference)
December 14, 2023	Devil’s River News Article	Protect your Water Well & The Edwards Trinity Aquifer

2.2 – The District will minimize the potential contamination of groundwater by monitoring the spacing and completion of wells. All new registered wells drilled within the District will be in accordance with District Spacing Rules, and maintain information on registered wells to be reported quarterly at regular Board Meetings.

See Table 1.1

Goal 3.0 – Addressing Natural Resource Issues (36.1071(a)(5))

3.1 – The District will measure monthly wells within the water level monitoring network through steel tape, and electronic sensors. The District will report at least quarterly to the Board of Directors the measurement of water levels from at least 20 wells monitored in the District’s water level monitoring network. The water level report will also be included in the District’s Annual Report.

DATE:	Type:	PURPOSE:
January 10, 2023	Board Meeting	Water Level Monitoring Report
February 14, 2023	Board Meeting	Water Level Monitoring Report
April 11, 2023	Board Meeting	Water Level Monitoring Report
June 13, 2023	Board Meeting	Water Level Monitoring Report
July 11, 2023	Board Meeting	Water Level Monitoring Report
Sept 12, 2023	Board Meeting	Water Level Monitoring Report

2023 Water Level Monitoring Report

OWNER	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23
Archer	279.5	279.9	279.9	279.4	279	279.7	279	279.2		279.5	279.8	
Teaff	276.8	276.6	277.1	276.6	277	276.5	276.7	277.0				276.7
Crites	167.0	167.1	167.4	167.8	168.2	168.3	169.7	169.7	169.2	169.6	168.3	168.2
Ray	230.8	231.1	230.8	230.7	231.4	231.6	-	230.8			232.2	232.0
TXDOT/Juno	201.1	202.1	202.4	202.3	202.4	202.4	202.4	202.3	202.5	202.4	202.5	202.4
Whitehead	133.7	133.4	133.8	137.6	-	-	145.3	145.8	145.2		133.7	136.6
Hospital	259.0	258.7	258.5	259.0	258.8	259.0	259.0	258.8				259.9
Brockman	266.8	267.3	267.1	267.3	267.3	267.5	267.5	267.5	267.6	267.6		266.2
Ross (House)	190.2	190.2	190.6	190.2	190.4	190.5	190.6	190.2		190.6		
Glen Fisher	244.8	244.7	244.5	242.6	244.9	244.6	244.3	244.6	244.4		244.2	244.2
Julie Walther	224.0	224.2	223.4	224.0	-	224.1	225.2	224.8			224.5	235.0
Jones, Claire	143	143.3	143.4	143.1	143.4	142.9	142.7	142.8				154.8
TXDOT/MMR	143.0	142.8	142.6	142.5	142.3	142.5	142.1	141.8	142.2	141.9	141.8	142.7
Mayer NW	183.4	184.3	184.5	184.3	184.2	184.8	185.9	185.7		186.2	186.4	186.6
Hardgrave	155.50	-	-	156.2	155.2		157.2	155.4		157.2		159.3
TXDOT/427	153.2	153.4	153.6	153.4	153.0	152.7	152.4	152.3				152.2
Highmount	317.7	317.80	317.9	317.8	318.4	317.9	318.1	318.2	318.1	318.2		325.5
T. Fisher	275.8	275.2	275.5	275.7	271.6	270.4	271.4	271.0				
SUTUWCD	164.00	163.2	164.1	164.0	163.5	163.5	163.7	163.9	164.0	165.3	164.4	163.9
A&M Station	268.5	268.6	268.4	268.9								
Malone	293.20	293.0	292.9	292.8	292.6	292.6	292.4	292.3	292.5	292.5	295.5	292.5
Snodgrass				189.2	189.6	189.4	189.4	189.7	189.5	188.9	189.5	189.7

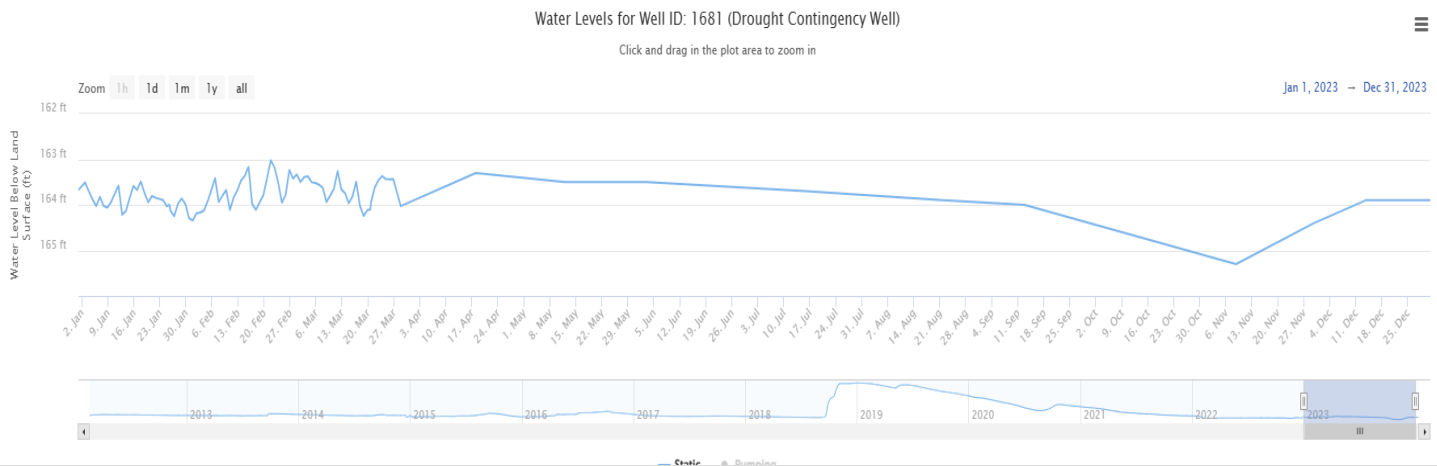
*measurements in feet below ground level

**The 'dif' column is the difference in the January measurement from the October measurement.

Goal 4.0 – Drought Conditions (36.1071(a)(6))

4.1 – The District has an approved Drought Contingency Plan compliant with TCEQ standards, it also has a drought index well with trigger levels. The Drought Contingency Plan can be found on the District’s website here: <http://www.suttoncountywcd.org/drought-contingency-plan>.

4.2 – The District will measure its drought index well at least quarterly to monitor drought conditions in Sutton County. While measuring the Drought Contingency Well, the sensor experienced some issues and measurements after October 2023 are considered questionable. E-Line measurements were taken each month for comparative value.

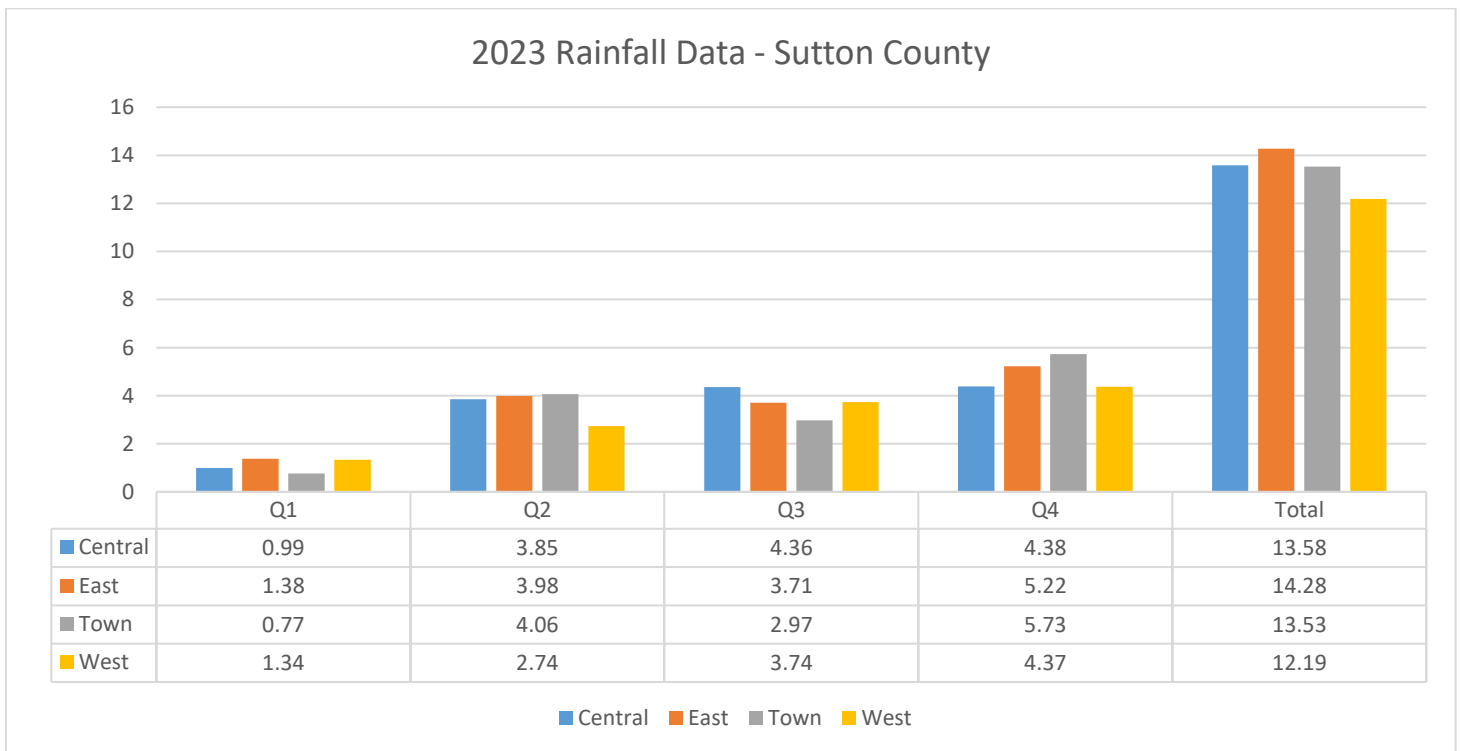


Goal 5.0 – Addressing Conservation & Precipitation Enhancement (36.1071(a)(7))

5.1 – The District will maintain a district-wide rainfall event network using voluntary monitors and automatic digital rainfall collectors to help evaluate recharge. The District will report at least quarterly to the Board of Directors rainfall totals collected from at least 20 of the automated rain gauges around the county and ten Stratus Professional rain gauge (Model RG202) located throughout Sonora, TX in the rainfall monitoring network.

DATE:	Type:	PURPOSE:
January 10, 2023	Board Meeting	Rainfall Monitoring Report
February 14, 2023	Board Meeting	Rainfall Monitoring Report
April 11, 2023	Board Meeting	Rainfall Monitoring Report
June 13, 2023	Board Meeting	Rainfall Monitoring Report
July 11, 2023	Board Meeting	Rainfall Monitoring Report
Sept 12, 2023	Board Meeting	Rainfall Monitoring Report
October 10, 2023	Board Meeting	Rainfall Monitoring Report
November 14, 2023	Board Meeting	Rainfall Monitoring Report

The total average rainfall for 2023 was the lowest in the western portion of the District at 12.19 inches, with the eastern portion of the District showing the highest total of 14.28 inches. The 1st quarter was the worst performing quarter, with a total average of 1.12 inches. The highest amount of rainfall fell in the 4th quarter. While 2023 was slightly better than 2022, the District looks forward to the predicted 2024 El Nino rains.



5.2 – The District will provide the West Texas Weather Modification Association Annual Report to the Board of Directors

The 2023 Annual Report from the West Texas Weather Modification Association can be found on their website at wtwma.com/analysis_and_research.htm and in the District’s files in the Office.

5.3 – The District will Promote public awareness of the need for water conservation. Present a minimum of one public water conservation show, demonstration, event, or educational talk each year.

DATE:	Type:	PURPOSE:
August 1, 2023	Educational Speaking Event	4-H Water Ambassadors – Regional Management at Dolan Falls
September 19, 2023	Educational Speaking Event	AgriLife Rangeland Water Conference

Goal 6.0 – Addressing in a Quantitative Manner the Desired Future Conditions (DFC) of the Groundwater Resources (36.1071(a)(8))

The District covers part of the Edwards-Trinity (Plateau) Aquifer and is within Groundwater Management Area (GMA) 7. The Edwards-Trinity (Plateau) Aquifer is the largest aquifer not subdivided into multiple GMAs. For Sutton County UWCD, drawdown is not to exceed an average of six (6) feet.

6.1 - The Drought Contingency Plan, Drought Index Well and all the monitoring network data will be analyzed and reported in the District’s Annual Report.

Groundwater Management Area 7:

Groundwater Management Area 7: Meetings

DATE:	LOCATION:	PURPOSE:
July 27, 2023	Sutton County Civic Center	Joint Planning

Groundwater Management Area 7: Desired Future Conditions (DFC)

The District shall participate in the joint planning process in Groundwater Management Area (GMA) 7 as defined per TWC § 36.108, including establishment of Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for management areas within the District. In its evaluation of potential DFCs, the District shall consider results from groundwater availability models, scientific reports, and the conditions of the aquifer.

COUNTY	GCD	DROWDOWN (feet)
Coke	Coke County UWCD	0
Crockett	Crockett County GCD	10
Ector	-	8
Edwards	Real-Edwards C&RD	2
Gillespie	Hill Country UWCD	5
Glasscock	Glasscock GCD	40
Irion	Irion County WCD	10
Kimble	Kimble County GCD	1
Menard	Menard County UWD	1
Midland	-	12
Pecos	Middle Pecos GCD	12
Reagan	Santa Rita UWCD	42
Real	Real-Edwards C&RD	4
Schleicher	Plateau UC&SCD	8

Sterling	Sterling County UWCD	7
Sutton	Sutton County UWCD	6
Taylor	-	0
Terrell	Terrell County UWCD	2
Upton	-	16
Uvalde	Uvalde County UWCD	2

Registrations Issued for 2022 Year: 23 Total

Hydros ID	Tracking #	Type Of Work	Proposed Use	Owner Name	Drill Date	Depth ft	Drilling Company
2084	656326	New Well	Stock	Ken Hill	9/26/2023	340	Allison Well Service
2101	652889	New Well	Stock	Schultz Ranch Partnership	11/8/2023	380	OZONA WATER WELL SERVICE INC
2103	652887	New Well	Stock	Schultz Ranch Partnership	11/6/2023	365	OZONA WATER WELL SERVICE INC
2102	652886	New Well	Stock	Schultz Ranch Partnership	11/2/2023	350	OZONA WATER WELL SERVICE INC
2096	652461	Replacement	Stock	JL Bar Ranch, LP	9/22/2023	400	AQUA DOC WELL SERVICE
2080	651812	New Well	Domestic	Tim Tarnowski	10/19/2023	380	Abel Water Systems
2099	651807	New Well	Domestic	Cameron Lavigne	10/17/2023	405	Abel Water Systems
2071	651490	New Well	Stock	ETHAN WHATLEY	10/17/2023	425	woehl drilling no2
2097	649761	New Well	Stock	Paula Friess	9/25/2023	240	OZONA WATER WELL SERVICE INC
2092	649760	New Well	Stock	Carl J. Cahill	9/8/2023	460	OZONA WATER WELL SERVICE INC
2077	641448	New Well	Stock	Daniel Crenwelge	6/14/2023	340	OZONA WATER WELL SERVICE INC
2072	641444	New Well	Stock	Jon Matula	6/1/2023	390	OZONA WATER WELL SERVICE INC
2057	640092	New Well	Stock	Ethan Whatley	1/5/2023	411	Abel Water Systems
2060	639954	New Well	Stock	Cam Campbell	2/22/2023	340	Abel Water Systems
2061	639950	New Well	Stock	Cam Campbell	2/23/2023	400	Abel Water Systems
2066	639947	New Well	Dom & stock	Frane Connolly	3/8/2023	400	LANGE DRILLING CO
2040	639946	New Well	Dom & stock	Eddie martinez	3/7/2023	440	LANGE DRILLING CO
	639940	New Well	Domestic	Arthur Pike	2/23/2023	340	LANGE DRILLING CO
2063	636695	New Well	Stock	Nicholas Williams	2/17/2023	440	Abel Water Systems
2058	636466	New Well	Domestic	Ethan Whatley	1/3/2023	401	Abel Water Systems
2042	633543	New Well	Domestic	AARON PESAK	2/13/2023	165	Allison Well Service
2065	633541	New Well	Stock	Jason Lindner	2/27/2023	410	Allison Well Service
2064	632558	New Well	Domestic	Kenneth Gold	2/16/2023	310	OZONA WATER WELL SERVICE INC

Plugged Wells in 2023: 6 Total

Tracking #	Type Of Work	Proposed Use	Owner Name	Well Address	Drill Date	Depth (ft.)	Drilling Company	Plugging #
654937	New Well	Stock	Floyd Parks	RR 189 South Draw,	11/8/2023	360	MICHAEL C HOELSCHER	
654821	New Well	Test Well	Floyd Parks	RR 189, Sonora,	11/16/2023	400	MICHAEL C HOELSCHER	234143

654819	New Well	Test Well	Floyd Parks	RR 189 North Draw,	11/15/2023	390	MICHAEL C HOELSCHER	234142
654818	New Well	Stock	Floyd Parks	RR 189 #3, Sonora,	11/6/2023	450	MICHAEL C HOELSCHER	
654816	New Well	Test Well	Floyd Parks	RR 189 #2, Sonora,	11/3/2023	430	MICHAEL C HOELSCHER	234141
654814	New Well	Test Well	Floyd Parks	RR 189 #1, Sonora,	11/1/2023	500	MICHAEL C HOELSCHER	234140

No Permits Issued for 2023 Year

Meetings & Events Attended in 2023 by Staff

DATE	EVENT	Reason	Staff Member
January 21, 2023	Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership	Program	Tolleson
February 21, 2023	TAGD Bootcamp	Taxation & Elections	Tolleson
April 11, 2023	West TX Weather Mod	Monthly Meeting	Tolleson
April 24, 2023	Sutton County Commissioners Court	Subdivision Regs	Allen
April 27, 2023	5 th Grade Field Tour	Edible Aquifer	Allen, Tolleson, Galindo
May 9, 2023	West TX Weather Mod	Monthly Meeting	Tolleson
May 25, 2023	TML Health Annual Meeting	Updates to Health Ins.	Tolleson
June 2, 2023	Well Intel meeting Monitoring Equipment	Equipment Review	Allen, Galindo
June 6-7, 2023	TAGD Spring Business Meeting	State Updates	Allen, Tolleson
July 10, 2023	Sutton County Commissioners Court	GMA 7 Meeting Request	Tolleson
June 13, 2023	West TX Weather Mod	Monthly Meeting	Tolleson
June 20, 2023	TAGD & TWDB Roundtable Discussion	GMA updates	Allen
July 27, 2023	GMA 7 Meeting – Sonora	Joint Planning	Allen, Tolleson
August 2, 2023	WTRGMA Meeting	Legislative Updates	Allen
August 8, 2023	West TX Weather Mod	Monthly Meeting	Allen
August 29-31, 2023	TAGD Summit	Annual Conference	Allen, Tolleson, Galindo
September 12, 2023	West TX Weather Mod	Monthly Meeting	Tolleson
September 19, 2023	AgriLife Rangeland Water Conference	Speaker Event	Tolleson
October 10, 2023	West TX Weather Mod	Monthly Meeting	Allen
October 11, 2023	415 Range Class	Experiment Station	Tolleson
October 18, 2023	WTRGMA Meeting	Legislative Updates	Allen
October 26, 2023	TWCA Risk Management Webinar	Risk Management Info	Tolleson
October 27, 2023	TAGD Roundtable Discussion	SB 2440 Subdivision changes	Allen
November 14, 2023	West TX Weather Mod	Monthly Meeting	Allen

Financial Reports and Annual Financial Audit:

Financial reports are given at each meeting of the District’s Board of Directors. The Financial Audit of the District for FY 2021 - 2022 was presented to the Board at the September 12, 2023 Board meeting and was approved at the October 10, 2023 Board meeting.