
Refugio Groundwater Conservation District

Meeting Minutes for July 20, 2026

THE STATE OF TEXAS

REFUGIO COUNTY

The Board of Directors of the Refugio Groundwater Conservation District convened a meeting at the First Baptist Church of Woodsboro Fellowship Hall, 309 Johnson St., Woodsboro, Texas, on July 20, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

Item 1 - Convene the Meeting and receive a report from the general manager.

Topic 1.1 - Roll Call

Mr. Andruss explained that the staff completed the necessary public notification requirements for the meeting.

Board Action:

Mr. Borden called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM and, called the roll of representatives:

Present: Precinct 1 Director: Mr. John Snyder, Vice President.

Present: Precinct 2 Director: Mr. Carroll Borden, President.

Present: Precinct 3 Director: Ms. Cynthia Rose, Treasurer.

Present: Precinct 4 Director: Mr. Fredric Biery, Secretary.

Present: At Large Director: Ms. Stephanie Blaschke.

Present: General Manager: Tim Andruss.

Present: General Counsel: Jim Allison.

Topic 1.2 - General Manager Report

Mr. Andruss discussed the following information:

Regarding [General Groundwater Permitting](#)

Regarding [Well Registration Processing](#)

As of July 7, 2026, staff had received 19 well registration applications (ARWs) since October 1, 2025.

As of July 7, 2026, staff had received 20 Notices of Intent to Drill a Well (NIDWs) since October 1, 2025.

Regarding Production Permit Renewal Processing

As of July 7, 2026, staff had identified 3 Production permits due to expire during the fiscal year. Staff mailed courtesy notices regarding the pending expiration and the need to renew the subject permit to permittees in April 2026.

Regarding Permit Processing

As of July 7, 2026, staff had received 2 applications related to production permits since October 1, 2025.

As of July 7, 2026, staff had 0 administratively incomplete applications related to production permits.

Applications to amend a production permit: **NONE**.

Applications to renew a production permit: **NONE**.

Applications for Historic-Use Production Permit: **NONE**.

Applications for Standard-Capacity Non-Historic-Use Production Permit: **NONE**.

Applications for High-Capacity Non-Historic-Use Production Permit: **NONE**.

Applications for Deep-Saline Non-Historic-Use Production Permit: **NONE**.

Applications for a Waiver: **NONE**.

As of July 7, 2026, staff had initiated 2 permitting request cases (PRCs) since October 1, 2025.

As of July 7, 2026, staff had 2 permitting request cases pending.

1. PRC-20260506-01- AAP-20260304-01 - T Michael O' Connor - Mr. T. Michael O'Connor May seeks, under permitting request case PRC-20260506-01, an amendment to reflect change of ownership to L. O'Connor Exempt Trust, T. O'Connor Exempt Trust, and N. O'Connor Exempt Trust, T. Michael O'Connor Trustee. for non-grandfathered well NW-00597.
2. PRC-20260513-01- AAP-20260304-02 - T Michael O' Connor - Mr. T. Michael O'Connor May seeks, under permitting request case PRC-20260513-01, an amendment to reflect change of ownership to L. O'Connor Exempt Trust, T. O'Connor Exempt Trust, and N. O'Connor Exempt Trust, T. Michael O'Connor Trustee. for non-grandfathered well NW-00596.

As of July 7, 2026, staff had 48 active or approved production permits recorded in the permitting database with a combined amount of authorized groundwater production per year of 1,879.26 acre-feet.

Regarding [Groundwater Production Report Processing](#)

As of July 7, 2026, staff had processed 38 groundwater production reports for the preceding calendar year since October 1, 2025.

As of July 7, 2026, staff had recorded groundwater production reports for 38 water wells reporting 924.712 acre-feet of groundwater production during CY2025. (TWDB estimated the volume of groundwater produced for rural domestic, livestock, mining, and rig supply exempt uses in Refugio County in Year 2020 was 580 acre-feet. See: TWDB - Projected Exempt Groundwater Use Estimates.)

Regarding [Manage Investigations related to Permitting Violations](#)

As of July 6, 2026, staff had initiated 2 investigations related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting) since October 1, 2025.

As of July 6, 2026, staff had 2 active investigations related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting).

1. [INV- 20260206-01 - Unpermitted Non-Exempt Use - Active](#)
2. [INV- 20260205-01 - Failure to Satisfy Rules of the District - Production Reporting for CY2025 - Active](#)

Regarding [Manage Enforcement Cases related to Permitting Violations](#)

As of July 6, 2026, the Board had initiated 0 enforcement case violations related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting) since October 1, 2025.

As of July 6, 2026, staff had 0 unresolved enforcement cases related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting).

Regarding [Permit Report Processing](#)

As of July 6, 2026, staff had processed 0 permit reports to permittees since October 1, 2025.

As of July 6, 2026, staff had 0 permit report outstanding.

Groundwater Protection

Regarding [General Groundwater Protection](#)

Regarding [Well Inspections](#)

As of July 7, 2026, staff had recorded 15 well inspection forms (WIFs) since October 1, 2025.

Regarding [Manage Investigations related to Groundwater Protection](#)

As of July 6, 2026, staff had initiated 1 investigations related to Groundwater Protection since October 1, 2025.

As of July 6, 2026, staff had 1 active investigations related to Groundwater Protection.

1. [INV-20191202:1017 - Potential Contamination of Groundwater at Woodsboro Farmers Cooperative - Active](#)

Regarding [Manage Enforcement Cases related to Groundwater Protection](#)

As of July 7, 2026, the Board had initiated 0 enforcement case violations related to Groundwater Protection since October 1, 2025.

As of July 7, 2026, staff had 0 unresolved enforcement case violations related to Groundwater Protection.

Regarding [Well Plugging Sponsorship](#)

As of July 7, 2026, staff had received 0 requests for assistance with well plugging since October 1, 2025.

Groundwater Monitoring

Regarding [General Groundwater Monitoring](#)

Regarding [Drought Condition Monitoring](#)

As of July 7, 2026, the U.S. Drought Monitor (<https://www.drought.gov/states/texas/county/refugio>) indicates that 0% of Refugio County was experiencing drought conditions.

As of July 7, 2026, drought condition information related to the district and the surrounding region of Texas collected from the Water Data for Texas website (<https://www.waterdatafortexas.org/drought/>) indicates that 0% of Refugio County was experiencing drought conditions.

Regarding [Water Level Monitoring](#)

As of July 7, 2026, staff had collected 15 water level measurements since October 1, 2025.

Regarding [Water Quality Aquifer Monitoring](#)

As of July 7, 2026, staff had collected 5 water quality field measurements since October 1, 2025.

As of July 7, 2026, staff had collected 0 water quality samples since October 1, 2025.

As of July 7, 2026, staff had received 0 water quality lab reports since October 1, 2025.

Regarding [Advanced Aquifer Monitoring](#)

The charts of automated measurements can be viewed at the following web address: <https://www.rgcd.org/real-time-aquifer-monitoring-charts>.

Regarding [Water Level Assessment](#)

Regarding [Water Quality Assessment](#)

Regarding [Subsidence Assessment](#)

Groundwater Conservation

Regarding [General Groundwater Conservation](#)

Regarding [Promote Conservation](#)

Groundwater Resource Planning

Regarding [General Groundwater Resource Planning](#)

Regarding [Regional Water Planning Participation](#)

On June 24, 2026, Tim Andruss, General Manager of the District, participated in a meeting of the Guiding Principles and By-Laws Subcommittee of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region L). The next meeting of the planning group is scheduled for August 27, 2026 at 9:30 AM at the offices of the San Antonio Water System.

Regarding [GMA 15 Joint Planning](#)

On May 13, 2026, the staff of the District completed the public notice requirements to conduct a public hearing, beginning at 6:30 PM, to receive public comment and consider possible action on the proposed desired future conditions of Groundwater Management Area 15.

Regarding [GMA 15 Administration](#)

Groundwater Policy

Regarding [General Groundwater Policy](#)

Regarding [Management Plan Revisions](#)

Regarding [Rule Amendments](#)

On June 19, 2026, the staff of the District completed the public notice requirements to conduct a rulemaking hearing to receive public comment and consider possible action on the 2026 Proposed Rules of the District.

Regarding [Legislative Support and Lobbying](#)

Administration

The next meetings of the Board is scheduled for August 17, 2026, and October 19, 2026, with each meeting to convene at 6:00 PM. Regular meetings will be rescheduled as necessary, and special meeting may be scheduled to address unforeseen issues.

On June 25, 2026, the Victoria County GCD received informal notification that the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) authorized the negotiation of terms of grant agreements associated with its Groundwater Science, Research, and Data Collection Grant Program. The District submitted a grant application for funding of a proposed project to complete a comprehensive subsidence analysis and installation of a long-term subsidence monitoring station, with a total estimated cost of \$281,000. The grant application submitted on behalf of the cooperating districts sought a grant of \$231,000. TWDB authorized the partial

funding of the project in an amount of \$158,500. Management anticipates the staff-negotiated grant agreement and details regarding administrative and financial commitments of the cooperating districts will be presented to the Board for consideration in August 2026.

Item 2 - Receive Public Comment

No public comments were offered at the meeting.

Item 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.

Item 4 - Consideration of and possible action on matters related to groundwater protection including complaints, investigations, violations, and enforcement cases related to groundwater contamination and waste.

Item 5 - Consideration of and possible action on matters related to groundwater monitoring.

Topic 5.1 - Water Quality Assessment

Mr. Andruss discussed the following information:

On January 17, 2025, the Board authorized a cost-share arrangement with the cooperating districts to fund a project by DBSA to evaluate water quality across the Victoria, Jackson, Calhoun, and Refugio Counties to serve as a baseline for future evaluations and trend analysis. The project was funded at \$74,000, with \$55,500 contributed by the other cooperating districts. The District has paid \$66,288.45 to DBSA for the project to date.

On March 27, 2026, Neil Blandford of Daniel B. Stephens and Associates (DBSA) submitted the final report regarding the general groundwater quality within Victoria, Jackson, Calhoun, and Refugio Counties. The report is titled *Four County Groundwater Quality Study*. Through the completion of the project, DBSA compiled and documented water quality information regarding total dissolved solids concentration of groundwater, assigned formation information where possible, analyzed the data, and developed time-based water quality charts, and water quality contours for Calhoun, Jackson, Refugio, and Victoria Counties. DBSA provide recommendations regarding monitoring that would be useful for improving water quality monitoring by the districts.

Board Action:

Mr. Borden moved to accept the report titled *Four County Groundwater Quality Study*. Ms. Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 6 - Consideration of and possible action on matters related to groundwater conservation.

Item 7 - Consideration of and possible action on matters related to groundwater resource planning including Joint Planning of Groundwater Management Area 15, regional water planning, and proposed Desired Future Conditions (DFCs)

Topic 7.1 - Public Hearing regarding Proposed Amended Desired Future Condition for GMA 15

NOTE: this topic cannot be considered before 6:30 PM due to the publication of the associated hearing notice identifying a 6:30 PM start time.

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

On April 7, 2026, the proposed desired future conditions were mailed to the districts, marking the beginning of the public comment period for the member districts of Groundwater Management Area 15.

The proposed amended desired future condition for Groundwater Management Area 15 does not include revisions to the condition specified for Refugio County.

On May 13, 2026, the staff of the District completed the public notice requirements to conduct a public hearing to receive public comment and consider possible action on the proposed desired future conditions of Groundwater Management Area 15.

RGCD - GMA 15 DFC Hearing Notice - PN-20260720-01a.pdf

Per 36.108(d-2) of the Texas Water Code, "A period of not less than 90 days for public comments begins on the day the proposed desired future conditions are mailed to the districts. During the public comment period and after posting notice as required by Section 36.063, each district shall hold a public hearing on any proposed desired future conditions relevant to that district. During the public comment period, the district shall make available in its office a copy of the proposed desired future conditions and any supporting materials, such as the documentation of factors considered under Subsection (d) and groundwater availability model run results. After the close of the public comment period, the district shall compile and submit to the district representatives for consideration at the next joint planning meeting: (1) a summary of relevant comments received; (2) any suggested revisions to the proposed desired future conditions, and the basis for those revisions; and (3) any supporting materials, including new or revised groundwater availability model run results."

Board Action 1:

Mr. Borden moved to open the Public Hearing at 6:37 PM regarding Proposed Amended Desired Future Condition for GMA 15. Mr. Biery seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Action 2:

Mr. Borden moved to close the Public Hearing at 6:55 PM regarding Proposed Amended Desired Future Condition for GMA 15 after receiving no written or public comments. Mr. Snyder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Action 3:

Mr. Borden moved to instruct the General Manager to compile and submit to the district representatives for consideration at the next joint planning meeting:

1. a summary of relevant comments received;
2. any suggested revisions to the proposed desired future conditions, and the basis for those revisions; and
3. any supporting materials, including new or revised groundwater availability model run results.

Mr. Snyder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 8 - Consideration of and possible action on matters related to groundwater policy, including the Management Plan of the District, and the 2026 Proposed Rules of the District.

Topic 8.1 - Brackish Groundwater Characterization and Rule Development

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

On June 15, 2026, the Board acted to request that Dr. Young prepare for and attend the District's meeting scheduled for July 20, 2026, to report on and discuss his work to support the district's efforts to develop deep-saline groundwater production regulations and rules.

On June 18, 2026, Intera, Inc. submitted a proposal in response to management's request for a project to simulate drawdowns resulting from deep-saline production scenarios that correspond to the recommended deep-saline production caps, recommended deep-saline special groundwater management zones, and recommended transmissivity classes. The cost of the proposed work is \$10,000 with resulting report being submitted before the next meeting of the directors scheduled for July 20, 2026.

VCgcd - Intera Proposal - Cumulative Effect Simulations - 20260618 .pdf

On June 22, 2026, the Board of the Calhoun County GCD acted to approve the *Proposal to perform additional simulations of brackish groundwater production in Calhoun, Jackson, Refugio, and Victoria Counties*, authorize the payment of the associated fees, and instruct the general manager to seek cost-sharing arrangements with cooperating districts.

On July 9, 2026, Intera delivered the resulting report titled *Characterization of Brackish Groundwater Resources for Calhoun, Jackson, Refugio, and Victoria Counties Addendum #2. Simulation of Drawdowns Caused by Brackish Groundwater Production*.

VCgcd - Intera Brackish Proposed Rules Production Simulations - 20260709.pdf

The report documents the simulation of brackish groundwater water resources in the four county area within the cooperating districts' jurisdictions at production levels and production zones that align with the deep-saline non-historic-use production caps proposed under the 2026 Proposed Rules of the District of each of the cooperating districts. The simulations predict significantly smaller drawdown impacts as compared to the pumping simulations evaluated in the report titled *Characterization of Brackish Groundwater Resources for Calhoun, Jackson, Refugio,*

and Victoria Counties Addendum #1. Simulation of Drawdowns Caused by Large-Scale Production produced by Intera for the cooperating districts.

On July 10, 2026, Victoria County GCD reviewed the proposal, accepted the resulting report titled *Characterization of Brackish Groundwater Resources for Calhoun, Jackson, Refugio, and Victoria Counties Addendum #2. Simulation of Drawdowns Caused by Brackish Groundwater Production*, authorized the cost sharing arrangement with Calhoun County GCD, and instructed management seek support for the cost-sharing arrangement by the other cooperating districts.

On July 16, 2026, Intera provided a comparison, by county, of drawdown impacts simulated under the two addendum reports .

VCGCD - INTERA Impact Summary by County - 20260716.pdf

Board Action:

Mr. Borden moved to 1) accept and approve the proposal, 2) share the cost for the project with the cooperating districts, and not to exceed \$2,500.00 3) accept the resulting report titled *Characterization of Brackish Groundwater Resources for Calhoun, Jackson, Refugio, and Victoria Counties Addendum #2. Simulation of Drawdowns Caused by Brackish Groundwater Production*. Mr. Snyder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Topic 8.2 - Rulemaking Hearing

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

On June 15, 2026, the Board of Directors instructed the General Manager to post a rulemaking notice regarding the 2026 Proposed Rules of the District.

On June 16, 2026, the public notice for the rulemaking hearing was posted on the website of the district with a copy of the proposed rules and a comparison document of the proposed rules to the current rules of the district.

On June 19, 2026, the public notice requirements for the rulemaking hearing were completed.

In order to assist the Board in its consideration of public comments regarding deep-saline non-historic-use production permitting a summary of substantive changes (additions, modification, and deletions) related to deep-saline non-historic-use production permitting in the 2026 Proposed Rules of the District has been developed.

DEFINITIONS

The proposed revisions to the following definitions represent substantive changes as compared to the existing definitions and fundamentally alter the regulatory framework associated with brackish groundwater permitting within the District: DEEP-SALINE SPECIAL GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ZONE, DEEP-SALINE SPECIAL GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ZONES, DEEP-SALINE TRANSMISSIVITY CATEGORY, and DEEP-SALINE TRANSMISSIVITY ZONES.

1. **DEEP-SALINE SPECIAL GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ZONE** means a special groundwater management zone designated by the district comprised of water-bearing strata at least 1,000 feet below the surface of the ground within the jurisdictional boundaries of the district that:
 1. contains saline groundwater existing below the middle depth between the 1,000 TDS contours and the 3,000 TDS contour as illustrated in Figure 1a, and
 2. where at least 100 feet of clay thickness composed from individual clay intervals of 10 feet or greater, as determined by interpretation of core samples or geophysical logs, exists between a) the top of 1,000 TDS contour illustrated in Figure 1 and b) the middle depth between the 1,000 TDS contours and the 3,000 TDS contour illustrated in Figure 1a.
2. **DEEP-SALINE SPECIAL GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ZONES** designated by the district are limited to:
 1. **SLIGHTLY SALINE GROUNDWATER ZONE** means the deep-saline special groundwater management zone with groundwater with a total dissolved solids concentration 1) equal to or greater than two thousand milligrams per liter (2,000 mg/L) and 2) equal to or less than three thousand milligrams per liter (3,000 mg/L).
 2. **MODERATELY SALINE GROUNDWATER ZONE** means the deep-saline special groundwater management zone [with] groundwater with a total dissolved solids concentration 1) greater than three thousand milligrams per liter (3,000 mg/L) and 2) equal to or less than ten thousand milligrams per liter (10,000 mg/L).
 3. **EXTREMELY SALINE GROUNDWATER ZONE** means the deep-saline special groundwater management zone [with] groundwater with a total dissolved solids concentration 1) greater than ten thousand milligrams per liter (10,000 mg/L)

The use of measured hydrogeological parameters (e.g., depth to slightly saline groundwater, depth to moderately saline groundwater, and sediment lithology) at a proposed production area to define the DSGMZ creates a flexible regulatory approach of establishing any particular deep-saline production zone at a production area and establishing the associated zone of protection by identifying the presence of aggregate clay barriers.

The use of calculated hydrogeological parameters (e.g., transmissivity) at a proposed production area to define the production ratios of a particular DSGMZ creates a flexible regulatory approach that accounts for a primary factor influencing the amount of impact (i.e. drawdown) anticipated by the production of groundwater from the DSGMZ at the specific production area.

Management's goal for recommending the proposed definitions was to articulate clear criteria for defining specific deep-saline special groundwater

management zones (DSGMZs) using parameters that can be measured, sufficiently protect better-quality groundwater resources, and increase the certainty that deep-saline non-historic-use production permits issued will achieve the policy goal to increase the protection and conservation of shallower better-quality water through the incentivization of safe development of deep brackish groundwater resources.

SPACING LIMITATIONS

The proposed revisions to the well spacing limitations of deep-saline wells represent substantive changes as compared to the existing limitations as follows:

- a. Under Rule 2.3(1), the required offset of a deep-saline well from the boundary of the contiguous tract of land ownership is increased from 0.5 feet to 1.0 feet per gallon per minute for each gallon per minute of groundwater production capacity of the deep-saline well.
- b. Under Rule 2.3(1), the required offset of a deep-saline well from the boundary of the contiguous tract of groundwater ownership is increased from 0.5 feet to 1.0 feet per gallon per minute for each gallon per minute of groundwater production capacity of the deep-saline well.

Management's goal for recommending the proposed revisions was to avoid authorizing production of groundwater, through the issuance of a deep-saline non-historic use production permit and potentially greater impacts (e.g., increased encroachment on existing or future water well, increased proximity of production impacts such as drawdown or well interference) on adjacent landowner through deep-saline groundwater production than would be authorized under standard-capacity or high-capacity production permits.

PRODUCTION LIMITATIONS

The proposed revision to the aggregate production limitations of deep-saline groundwater by GROUNDWATER QUALITY CLASSIFICATIONS (production caps) represents substantive changes as compared to the existing limitations as follows:

1. Under Rule 6.4(2), the total volume of slightly saline groundwater production per year to be permitted in the District is set to 10,000 acre-feet per year.
2. Under Rule 6.4(2), the total volume of moderately saline groundwater production per year in the District is set to 7,000 acre-feet per year.
3. Under Rule 6.4(3), the total volume of extremely saline groundwater production per year in the District is set at 5,000 acre-feet per year.

With the proposed annual production volume for slightly, moderately, and extremely saline groundwater production, the combined proposed limits for

deep-saline groundwater production within the District represents 22,000 acre-feet of groundwater production per year.

Management's goal for recommending the proposed revisions was to 1) avoid over-permitting deep-saline groundwater production that results in excessive regional groundwater production-related impacts such as significant wide-spread subsidence or wide-spread excessive drawdown, 2) avoid issuing deep-saline non-historic-use production permits under which the permitted production cannot be sustained and satisfy regional management goals such as achievement of desired future conditions (DFCs), and 3) avoid issuing unreliable production permits and the potential development of a district-level water crisis.

The proposed addition of production limitations for the initial 24-months of production under a deep-saline non-historic-use production permit represent substantive changes to regulations associated with deep-saline non-historic-use production permitting.

1. Under Rule 6.4(4), the maximum annual production of **slightly** saline groundwater during the initial **24-month** period of a deep-saline non-historic-use production permit is limited to **5,000** acre-feet per year.
2. Under Rule 6.4(5), the maximum annual production of **moderately** saline groundwater during the initial **24-month** period of a deep-saline non-historic-use production permit is limited to **3,500** acre-feet per year.
3. Under Rule 6.4(6), the maximum annual production of **extremely** saline groundwater during the initial **24-month** period of a deep-saline non-historic-use production permit is limited to **2,500** acre-feet per year.

Management's goal for recommending the proposed revisions was to avoid excessive or unanticipated impacts associated with intense, large-scale production authorized based limited data, modeling, and monitoring data associated with deep-saline production in accordance with the general understanding that deeper zones tend to have greater clay percentages under greater overburden pressures that could lead to subsidence during intense and prolonged pumping (i.e., depressurization in the production zone).

The proposed additions of production limit reductions of cumulative authorized production amounts for existing and future non-historic production permits with overlapping production areas with deep-saline non-historic-use production permits represent substantive changes to regulations associated with deep-saline groundwater production permitting.

1. Under Rule 6.4(8), the volume of groundwater production authorized under existing and future non-historic-use production permits with production areas that intersect the production area of a deep-saline non-historic-use production area for **slightly** saline groundwater, other than the volumes authorized under the deep-saline non-historic-use production permits, would be reduced by **20%**.
2. Under Rule 6.4(9), the volume of groundwater production authorized under existing and future non-historic-use production permits with production areas that intersect the production area of a deep-saline non-historic-use production area for **moderately** saline groundwater, other than the volumes authorized under the deep-saline non-historic-use production permits, would be reduced by **10%**.
3. Under Rule 6.4(10), the volume of groundwater production authorized under existing and future non-historic-use production permits with production areas that intersect the production area of a deep-saline non-historic-use production area for **extremely** saline groundwater, other than the volumes authorized under the deep-saline non-historic-use production permits, would be reduced by **5%**.

Management's goal for recommending the proposed revisions was to 1) establish a minimum level of conservation to be achieved through the incentivization of deep-saline groundwater production, and 2) establish increasing incentives for the production of deeper, poorer-quality groundwater.

The proposed revisions to define deep-saline groundwater production ratios (i.e., acre-feet/acre controlled production ratios) based on groundwater quality classification and transmissivity categories represent substantive changes to regulations associated with deep-saline non-historic-use production permitting.

1. Under Rule 6.4.1(2-4), the groundwater production ratio for production areas associated with **slightly** saline deep-saline non-historic-use production permits would be set to a range of **4 to 8** acre-feet of groundwater production per acre per year depending on the designated transmissivity category established for the DSGMZ.
2. Under Rule 6.4.1(5-7), the groundwater production ratio for production areas associated with **moderately** saline deep-saline non-historic-use production permits would be set to a range of **6 to 10** acre-feet of groundwater production per acre per year depending on the designated transmissivity category established for the DSGMZ.
3. Under Rule 6.4.1(8-10), the groundwater production ratio for production areas associated with **extremely** saline deep-saline non-historic-use production permits would be set to a range of **8 to 10** acre-feet of groundwater production per acre per year depending on the designated transmissivity category established for the DSGMZ.

Production Ratio Matrix based on 2026 Proposed Rules of the District

		Better-Quality ---> Poorer-Quality		
		Slightly Saline DSGMZ	Moderate Saline DSGMZ	Extremely Saline DSGMZ
Salinity - Transmissiv ity Ratio Matrix				
Greater Spatial Production Impacts ----> Smaller Spatial Production Impacts per Unit of Production	Low	Rule 6.4.1(2): 4 AFY	Rule 6.4.1(5): 6 AFY	Rule 6.4.1(8): 8 AFY
	Moderate	Rule 6.4.1(3): 6 AFY	Rule 6.4.1(6): 8 AFY	Rule 6.4.1(9): 9 AFY
	High	Rule 6.4.1(4): 8 AFY	Rule 6.4.1(7): 10 AFY	Rule 6.4.1(10): 10 AFY

Management's goal for recommending the proposed revisions was to 1) create a progressive incentivization for the development of poorer-quality groundwater relative better-quality groundwater while recognizing the inverse relationship between transmissivity and size and extent of cones of depression caused by groundwater production.

PERFORMANCE CONDITIONS

The proposed revisions to performance conditions represent substantive changes to regulations associated with deep-saline non-historic-use production permitting.

1. Under Rule 6.4.(12)(12.3), the maximum level of impact (i.e., increase in TDS concentrations) observed in slightly saline DSGMZ would be reduced to 3,000 mg/L to align with the definition of GROUNDWATER QUALITY CLASSIFICATION.
2. Under Rule 6.4.(12)(12.4), the maximum level of impact (i.e., increase in TDS concentrations) observed in moderately saline DSGMZ would be reduced to 10,000 mg/L to align with the definition of GROUNDWATER QUALITY CLASSIFICATION.

Management's goal for recommending the proposed revisions was to properly limit the amount of change, in terms of maximum TDS concentrations, that can result from the groundwater production under a deep-saline non-historic-use production permit issued by the District.

MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

The proposed revisions related to monitoring requirements represent substantive changes to regulations associated with deep-saline non-historic-use production permitting.

1. Under Rule 6.4.3(1), the minimum number of dedicated aquifer monitoring wells is increased from 1 to 3 wells.

Management's goal for recommending the proposed revisions was to ensure that the monitoring efforts associated with deep-saline non-historic-use bound and monitor the perimeter of the associated production area.

PERFORMANCE RESPONSES

The proposed revisions related performance responses represent substantive changes to regulations associated with deep-saline non-historic-use production permitting.

1. Under Rule 6.4.4(1)(1.1), groundwater owners and well operators associated with a deep-saline non-historic-use production permit must submit hydrogeological report assessing the degree on cause or contribution to drawdown when the drawdown levels in fresh groundwater monitoring wells exceed drawdown performance conditions.
2. Under Rule 6.4.4(1)(1.2), groundwater owners and well operators associated with a deep-saline non-historic-use production permit must adjust groundwater production to prevent fresh drawdown in fresh groundwater monitoring wells from exceeding 20 feet when drawdowns reach 15 feet relative to initially measured conditions.

3. Under Rule 6.4.4(1)(1.3), groundwater owners and well operators associated with a deep-saline non-historic-use production permit must reduce non-exempt-use groundwater production located within the production permit area of a deep-saline non-historic-use production permit in subsequent reporting periods to the lesser of **80%** of volume produced in the subject reporting period or the remainder of the unpumped annual production volume when performance conditions are not achieved for **2 or more** consecutive reporting periods (i.e., 6 months of continuous failure to achieve the performance conditions).
4. Under Rule 6.4.4(1)(1.4), groundwater owners and well operators associated with a deep-saline non-historic-use production permit must reduce non-exempt-use groundwater production located within the production permit area of a deep-saline non-historic-use production permit in subsequent reporting periods to **1%** of volume produced in the preceding reporting period when performance conditions are not achieved for **8 or more** consecutive reporting periods (i.e., 2 years of continuous failure to achieve the performance conditions).
5. Under Rule 6.4.4(2)(2.1), groundwater owners and well operators associated with a deep-saline non-historic-use production permit may increase non-exempt-use groundwater production located within the production permit area of a deep-saline non-historic-use production permit in subsequent reporting periods to **110%** of volume produced in the subject reporting period or the remainder of the unpumped annual production volume when performance conditions are achieved for **2 or more** consecutive reporting periods (i.e., 6 months of continuous success to achieve the performance conditions).
6. Under Rule 6.4.4(2)(2.1), groundwater owners and well operators associated with a deep-saline non-historic-use production permit may increase non-exempt-use groundwater production located within the production permit area of a deep-saline non-historic-use production permit in subsequent reporting periods to **100%** of annual production volume when performance conditions are achieved for **8 or more** consecutive reporting periods (i.e., 2 years of continuous success to achieve the performance conditions).

Management's goal for recommending the proposed revisions was to develop a simple production curtailment and production restoration system to address repeated failure to achieve performance conditions and repeated success in achieving performance conditions.

PERMITTING PROCEDURES

The proposed revisions related to the permitting procedures represent substantive changes to regulations associated with deep-saline non-historic-use production permitting.

Under Rule 6.4.2, applicants for deep-saline non-historic-use production permits must develop and submit of required technical information and operation plans regarding aquifer characteristics present at a proposed production area of a deep-saline non-historic-use production permit with the permit application instead of deferring the development and submittal of the required technical information and operation plans to after the initial permit approval and prior to operation of the associated deep-saline production well(s).

Management's goal for recommending the proposed revisions was to increase the certainty/confidence that deep-saline non-historic-use production permits issued will achieve the policy goal to increase the protection and conservation of shallower better-quality water through the incentivization of safe development of deep brackish groundwater resources.

The following revisions to the 2026 Proposed Rules of the District are recommended by management:

1. The definition DEEP-SALINE SPECIAL GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ZONES should be modified to read as follows: "designated by the district are limited to:
 - a. SLIGHTLY SALINE GROUNDWATER ZONE means the deep-saline special groundwater management zone with groundwater with a total dissolved solids concentration 1) equal to or greater than two thousand milligrams per liter (2,000 mg/L) and 2) equal to or less than three thousand milligrams per liter (3,000 mg/L~~).~~ with a spatial extent illustrated in Figure 4.
 - b. MODERATELY SALINE GROUNDWATER ZONE means the deep-saline special groundwater management zone with groundwater with a total dissolved solids concentration 1) greater than three thousand milligrams per liter (3,000 mg/L) and 2) equal to or less than ten thousand milligrams per liter (10,000 mg/L~~).~~ with a spatial extent illustrated in Figure 5.
 - c. EXTREMELY SALINE GROUNDWATER ZONE means the deep-saline special groundwater management zone with groundwater with a total dissolved solids concentration 1) greater than ten thousand milligrams per liter (10,000 mg/L~~).~~ with a spatial extent illustrated in Figure 6."
2. Rule 2.4(9) should be revised to read as follows: "A person drilling a deep-saline well shall not install the well screen of the well above the middle depth between the top of the 1,000 mg/L TDS groundwater-bearing stratum and the 3,000 mg/L TDS groundwater-bearing stratum ~~a depth of one thousand two hundred feet (1,200 feet)~~ below the land surface."

3. Rule 2.4 should be revised to add item (10) that reads as follows: "A person drilling a deep-saline well shall seal the annular space between the wall of the borehole and casing from the top of the 1,000 mg/L TDS groundwater-bearing stratum to the middle depth between the top of the 1,000 mg/L TDS groundwater-bearing stratum and the 3,000 mg/L TDS groundwater-bearing stratum."
4. Rule 4.3(10) should be revised to read as follows: "~~10.~~The applicant, by failing to provide the information requested by the general manager needed to fully evaluate the application relative to the rules of the district within 60 days, causes the application to be automatically terminated."
5. Rule 6.2.1(1) should be revised to add item 1.17 that reads as follows: "a statement certifying, under penalty of law, that the applicant shall avoid waste and achieve water conservation and that reasonable diligence will be used to protect groundwater quality and that the applicant will follow well plugging guidelines at the time of well closure; and"
6. Rule 6.4(12)(12.5) should be clarified as follows: "the amount of drawdown attributed ~~from the operation~~ to the operation of the subject well or subject well field, as determined from the modeled drawdown and the monitored water levels, calculated for any reporting period, shall not exceed ten feet (10 feet) at any well outside the production area, registered with the district on or before the date of issuance of the production permit, relative to the initial average aquifer conditions established under the production permit for deep-saline non-historic use;"
7. Add Figure 4: Spatial Extent of the Slightly Saline Groundwater Zone.
8. Add Figure 5: Spatial Extent of the Moderately Saline Groundwater Zone.
9. Add Figure 6: Spatial Extent of the Extremely Saline Groundwater Zone.

DSGMZ - RGCD Slightly Saline Groundwater Zone - Spatial Extent.pdf

DSGMZ - RGCD Moderately Saline Groundwater Zone - Spatial Extent.pdf

DSGMZ - RGCD Extremely Saline Groundwater Zone - Spatial Extent.pdf

Mr. Andruss submitted the Characterisation report - Addendum 1 and 2 to the record of the hearing.

Board Action 1:

Mr. Borden moved to open the public hearing at 7:45 PM regarding the 2026 Proposed Rules of the District and accept public comments. Mr. Biery seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Borden notified the attendees that the Board would convene a closed session at 7:45 PM.

Mr. Borden notified the attendees that the Board would return to open session at 8:07 PM.

Board Action 2:

Mr. Borden moved to:

1. recess and hold open the public hearing regarding the 2026 Proposed Rules of the District,
2. designate the Rules of the District with the management-recommended revisions described above as the "2026 Proposed Rules of the District - Version 20260720",
3. instruct the General Manager to post a notice for a rulemaking hearing to receive public comment and consider the adoption of the 2026 Proposed Rules of the District - Version 20260720 for the district meeting scheduled for October 19, 2026.
4. authorize the General Manager to submit proposed rule revisions for review by the technical consultant and incur associated costs in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.

Mr. Biery seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 9 - Consideration of and possible action on matters related to administration and management including the minutes of previous meetings, amendments to the annual budget of the district, bank accounts, investments, financial reports of the district, bills and invoices of the district, management goals and objectives of the district, administrative policies, staffing, consultant agreements, interlocal cooperation agreements, the financial audit for Fiscal Year 2025, the Annual report of the District, budget preparation and tax rates, and support services provided to and from other groundwater conservation districts.

Topic 9.1 - Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Andruss explained the following information:

The minutes for the previous meeting were drafted by the Administrative Coordinator, reviewed by the alternate Administrative Coordinator, and available to the directors for review prior to the meeting. The minutes appear to accurately reflect the actions taken by the board and the context in which those actions were taken. The minutes for the previous meeting were sent to the board members prior to the meeting.

Board Action:

Mr. Borden moved to accept and approve the meeting minutes for May 18, 2026 and June 15, 2026, as drafted. Ms. Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Topic 9.2 - Investments of the District

Mr. Andruss explained the following information:

The investment reports for March, April, and May 2026 have been developed by Lisa Ramirez, Administrator Coordinator, and reviewed and approved by Caitlynn Davenport, Investment Officer of the District and were sent to the directors prior to the meeting.

The balance of all funds of the district as of May 2026, was \$1,555,296.74.

Board Action:

Mr. Biery moved to accept the investment reports for March, April and May 2026. Mr. Snyder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Topic 9.3 - Financial Transaction Report

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

Since April 1, 2026, as of July 20, 2026, there have been 32 accounts payable transactions and 9 accounts receivable transactions recorded.

Topic 9.4 - Financial Reports of the District

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

The internal financial reports of the District for March, April, and May 2026, have been compiled by the district administrative coordinator and sent to the directors prior to the meeting.

Board Action:

Ms. Rose moved to accept and approve the financial reports for March, April and May 2026. Ms. Blaschke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Topic 9.5 - Unpaid Invoices and Bills

Mr. Andruss explained the following information:

The District has outstanding bills and invoices that are NOT considered regular and routine nor has the Board previously authorized the requested payment.

Board Action: Mr. Borden moved to authorize the general manager to pay the following items:

1. [RGCD - ACCTP-20260518-04 - \\$960.00 - ABM, LLC - Nov. - Dec. 2026 - Legal Counsel](#)
2. [RGCD - ACCTP-20260720-01 - \\$250.00 - C. Borden - June Board Meeting](#)
3. [RGCD - ACCTP-20260720-02 - \\$250.00 - J. Snyder - June Board Meeting](#)
4. [RGCD - ACCTP-20260720-03 - \\$250.00 - F. Biery - June Board Meeting](#)
5. [RGCD - ACCTP-20260720-04 - \\$250.00 - C. Rose - June Board Meeting](#)
6. [RGCD - ACCTP-20260720-05 - \\$250.00 - S. Blaschke - June Board Meeting](#)

7. RGCD - ACCTP-20260720-06 - \$250.00 - C. Borden - July Board Meeting
8. RGCD - ACCTP-20260720-07 - \$250.00 - J. Snyder - July Board Meeting
9. RGCD - ACCTP-20260720-08 - \$250.00 - C. Rose - July Board Meeting
10. RGCD - ACCTP-20260720-09 - \$250.00 - F. Biery - July Board Meeting
11. RGCD - ACCTP-20260720-10 - \$250.00 - S. Blaschke - July Board Meeting
12. RGCD - ACCTP-20260720-14 - \$250.00 - F. Biery - VCGCD - July Board Meeting

Ms. Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Topic 9.6 - Budget Planning

Mr. Andruss explained the following information:

To assist the Board in its efforts to allocate the budget for FY2027 and to adopt a budget during the meeting scheduled for August 17, 2026, staff provides the District's FY2026 budget and descriptions of the FY2026 project for review.

Board Action: None

Item 10.0 - Consideration of and possible action on matters related to legal counsel report.

Mr. Allison was present and gave a report.

Item 11.0 - Adjourn.

Board Action:

Mr. Borden moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM, after concluding all business of the District. Mr. Biery seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE ABOVE AND FOREGOING MINUTES WERE READ AND APPROVED ON THIS THE 19th DAY OF October A.D. 2024.

Canell E. Borden Director of the Refugio
Groundwater Conservation District

ATTEST:

John D. Snyd Director of the Refugio
Groundwater Conservation District