



PANHANDLE WATER NEWS

PANHANDLE GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

OCTOBER 2023

7TH BIENNIAL TEXAS PANHANDLE WATER CONSERVATION SYMPOSIUM

Save the date for our 7th Biennial Texas Panhandle Water Conservation Symposium! The event will take place in the Heritage Ballroom at the Amarillo Civic Center Complex on Wednesday, February 28th, 2024. The agenda will be provided in the January 2024 Newsletter.

Thank you to our generous sponsors so far!



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POINTS OF INTEREST

7th Biennial Symposium

Rules Update

Precipitation Enhancement Update

Tax Rate Update

"Conserving Water for Future Generations"

PGCD ADPOTS RULE CHANGES

PGCD Board of Directors approved amendments to District rule changes at their last meeting in September. The rule changes were a direct result of the 88th Texas Legislative Session. Legislators made various changes to Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code, which governs PGCD. Many of the changes were signed into law by the governor this summer and went into effect on September 1.

The District made no other major changes to the rules except those that were legally required.

Most of the substantive changes can be found in Rules 5, 10 and 14. District Rules can be viewed online at www.pgcd.us/rules. For a detailed explanation of the changes, please don't hesitate to contact the District Office at 806-883-2501, option 2.

PROPOSITION 6: TEXAS WATER FUND

Proposition 6 aims to support the development of new water supplies that can meet the needs of our growing population, particularly during prolonged droughts. It will also facilitate the repair and replacement of leaky water infrastructure, promote conservation awareness, and enhance water and wastewater infrastructure in local communities, all to safeguard Texas' economy.

Early voting begins Monday, October 23, 2023, through Friday, November 3, 2023, and election day is Tuesday, November 7. You can learn more about Proposition 6 and other infrastructure ballot initiatives by visiting txinfrastructurecoalition.com/proposition-6-texas-water-fund.

2023 PLAYA FESTIVAL



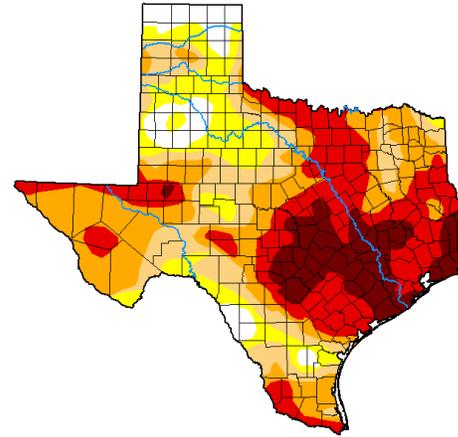
On Tuesday, October 3rd, 2023, PGCD and Ogallala Commons co-hosted the 2023 Playa Festival. The event was held at the Carson County Ag Barn, where 5th grade students from Groom, Panhandle, and White Deer gathered to learn about the significance of playa lakes. The students participated in four presentations, which covered a wide range of topics related to playa lakes. The presenters included Justin Trammel, a faculty member of Ogallala Commons Playa Festival, who talked about Playas-What they are and why they are important; Jim Steiert, a waterfowler and outdoor writer, who demonstrated Wetland Buffers & Waterfowl; Robert Martin, another faculty member of Ogallala Commons Playa Festival, who spoke about Playa Amphibians and Reptiles; and lastly, Aspen Edgar, PGCD's Education and PR Director, who educated the students about The Ogallala Aquifer in the Texas Panhandle.

PRECIPITATION ENHANCEMENT UPDATE

The first three months of the year started off very dry as Amarillo received less than 1.00 inch of total precipitation. By April, rainfall slowly started to pick up with one seeding mission being conducted before an onslaught of moisture was seen from May into June. Some locations within the district saw over 15 inches of rain in just a couple of weeks. From the middle of May through early June, three seeding missions were flown. Operations were then put on hold for a few weeks as flooding was seen over much of the district. By July, the entire district was drought-free, the first time since August of 2021. The active weather pattern lasted through the middle of July with three additional seeding missions being performed before a strong ridge of high pressure moved overhead and suppressed rainfall through the end of the month. A transition was then seen in August with the first half of the month seeing several storm systems traversing the region which allowed for three seeding missions to take place. Much like in July, strong ridging reinserted itself towards the middle of August with calm conditions commencing. Relatively uneventful weather has been seen since with only two more seeding missions flown. The dry weather has brought minor to moderate drought conditions back to the Panhandle. Some relief looks to be in sight as long-term forecasts show an increase in precipitation as we head through the next several months with El Niño having a 95% chance of continuing into the winter. Additionally, NOAA has a 71% chance of the event being a strong one. If forecasts are correct, this will limit the extent of the current drought. As for temperatures, the synoptic pattern that tends to develop with El Niño will also lead to near-normal readings.

U.S. Drought Monitor Texas

October 3, 2023
(Released Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:
None
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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TWDB AWARDS GRANT FOR TELEMTRY SYSTEMS

PGCD has received grant funds from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to assist local producers in purchasing telemetry systems for their center pivots. These systems can be from any provider (such as AgSense, PivoTrac, FieldNET, etc.), and are an excellent solution to replace meters that are reaching the end of their lifespan.

The TWDB will share the cost of the system 50/50 with producers who are interested in participating in the program. Since funds are limited, the program will operate on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please contact Meter Specialist Jake Robinson at 806-883-2501 or jrobinson@pgcd.us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 16: Board of Directors Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
- November 28, 29, 30: Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show

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Panhandle Water News is published quarterly.
Subscriptions are free, upon request.

TAX RATE UPDATE

During the September 21 Board Meeting, Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District's Board of Directors approved the 2023-2024 tax rate. As required, the District placed proper notices in newspapers and online. PGCD received no public comment regarding the tax rate.

Directors voted to adopt the tax rate of \$0.008643 per \$100 of taxable valuation. All funds will be used to fund the District's general operations.