

# COW CREEK GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT RULES

## PREAMBLE

### **Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District Rules**

Throughout the State of Texas, groundwater conservation districts embody local representative government at its most basic level: local representatives determining the destiny of our most essential natural resource.

The Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District, like our contemporaries throughout the state, was established to serve the people, while protecting our groundwater--now and for the future. To fulfill its role as a political subdivision of the State of Texas, the Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District strives to be fair, open, consistent, just, and transparent at all times.

To that end, the Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District will:

- Make and implement rules that are understandable while always equitable and legal;
- Welcome and encourage public participation at every opportunity;
- Support and recognize private property rights, thereby ensuring the value of available groundwater resources are shared by all, not just a select few;
- Follow the Texas Water Code, which is the legal framework of water regulation in the state and cannot be changed without Legislative action;
- Comply with all state and federal laws;
- Make rules and regulations that strive to preserve spring flows, and base flows to rivers, streams and creeks;
- Develop rules and regulations that preserve and protect recharge features from pollution and destruction
- Create and foster policies that encourage protection of open space and all the societal benefits that come from the responsible management of land resources;
- Help enable high quality-of-life for all citizens: rural, urban and suburban;
- Encourage policies and programs which reward water conservation, such as the use of drought-tolerant landscaping, by all citizens;
- Establish and enforce drought management rules and policies that are fair, understandable, consistent, and reasonable for everyone;
- Assist relevant state agencies to protect groundwater quality, as appropriate;
- Equitably administer and regulate groundwater resources according to availability as established by sound science and all applicable laws;
- Always focus policies, programs, and rules toward strictly adhering to due process;
- Promote balance between rural water-producing areas and urban water-consuming areas of the district's jurisdiction, without jeopardizing appropriate growth in either;