



## State of the District - Staff's Annual Report to the Board for FY 2024 - 2025

### COW CREEK GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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This report will summarize the Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District's activities, water well information and management goals for FY 2024 - 2025 (October 1st, 2024 - September 30th, 2025).

### Well Registrations and Completions

All wells within the District are required to be registered. Since FY 2005-2006, new well types make up about 69.1% of registrations while existing well registrations have accounted for about 22%. Well plugs make up about 8.9% of registrations. Since FY 2005-2006, 4,356 well registrations have been processed by the District.

**146** well registrations were filed with the District in **FY 24-25**. That number is down from **163** registrations filed in **FY 23-24** and down further from the **222** registrations filed in **FY 22-23**.  
(management objective 1.3)

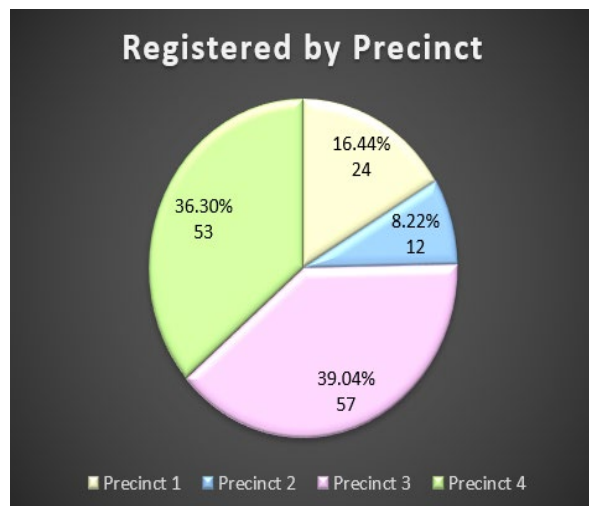


Chart depicts FY 24-25 registered wells by precinct.

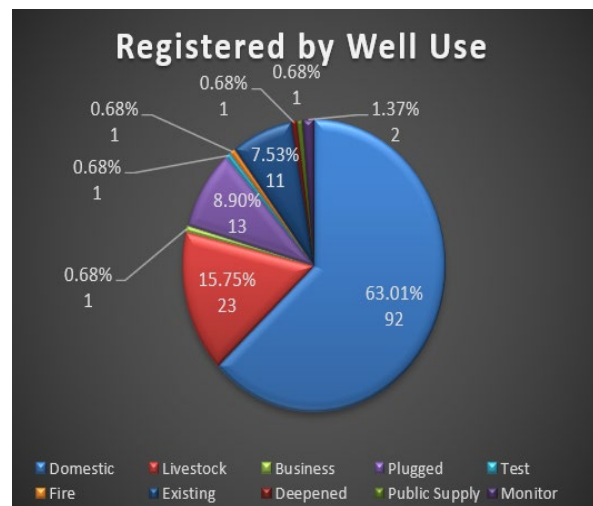


Chart depicts FY 24-25 registered wells by use.

All new wells drilled in the District are inspected for compliance with District and Texas Department of License and Regulation (TDLR) well construction rules. Inspections take place at various stages of the well construction process and inspection reports are made to compare with well reports that are submitted to the TDLR by the well contractors. This creates kind of a two-step process to error check information that is submitted to the District and the TDLR.

The total number of wells completed in **FY 24-25** was **121**. This is equal to the previous **FY 23-24** total of **121** and down from the **FY 22-23** total of **171**. On average, about **10** wells were completed monthly in **FY 24-25** compared to about **10** per month in **FY 23-24** and **14** in **FY 22-23**.

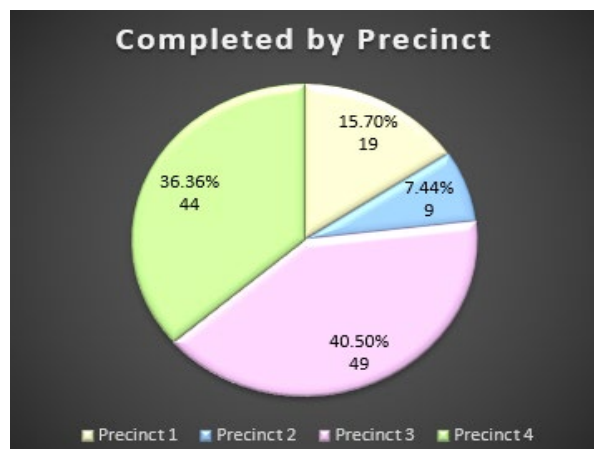


Chart depicts FY 24-25 completed wells by precinct.

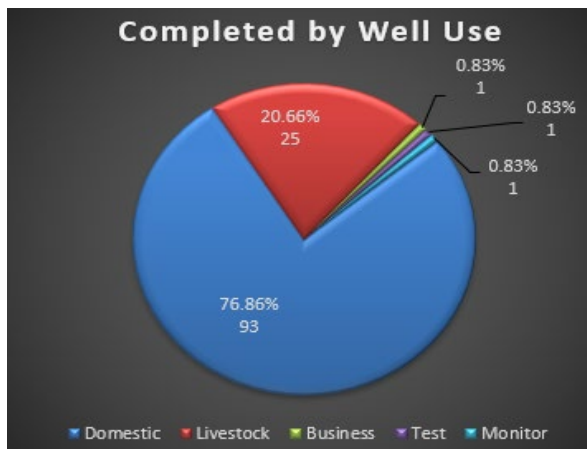


Chart depicts FY 24-25 completed wells by use.

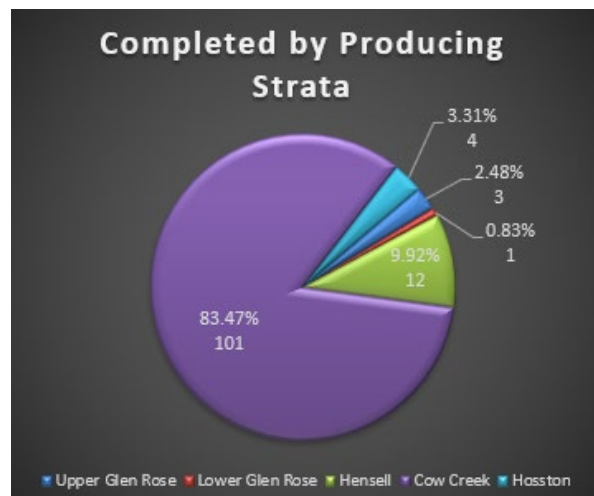


Chart depicts FY 24-25 completed wells by strata.

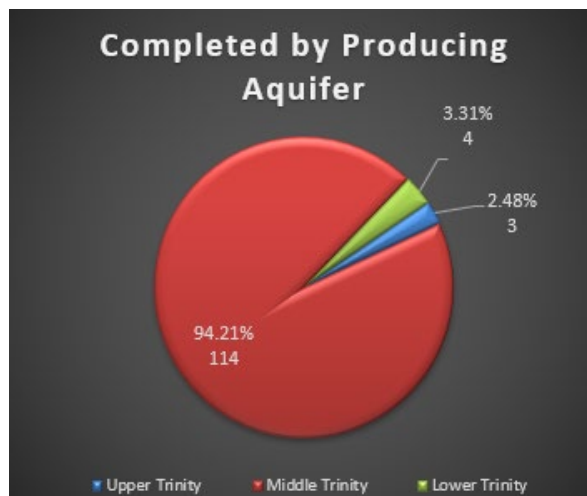
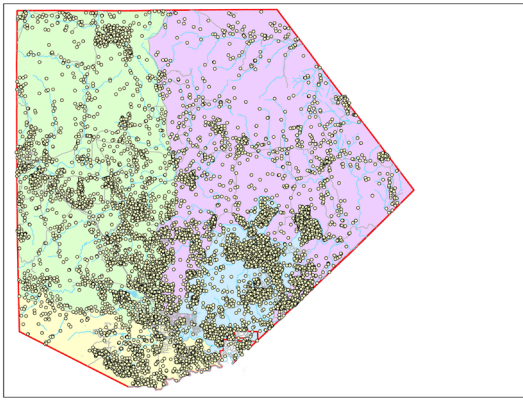


Chart depicts FY 24-25 completed wells by aquifer.

There were **10** replacement well registrations filed with the District in **FY 24-25**. They are accounted for on the above charts based on their use type and not as a separate category. In **FY 23-24** there were **11** and in **FY 22-23** there were **13**.

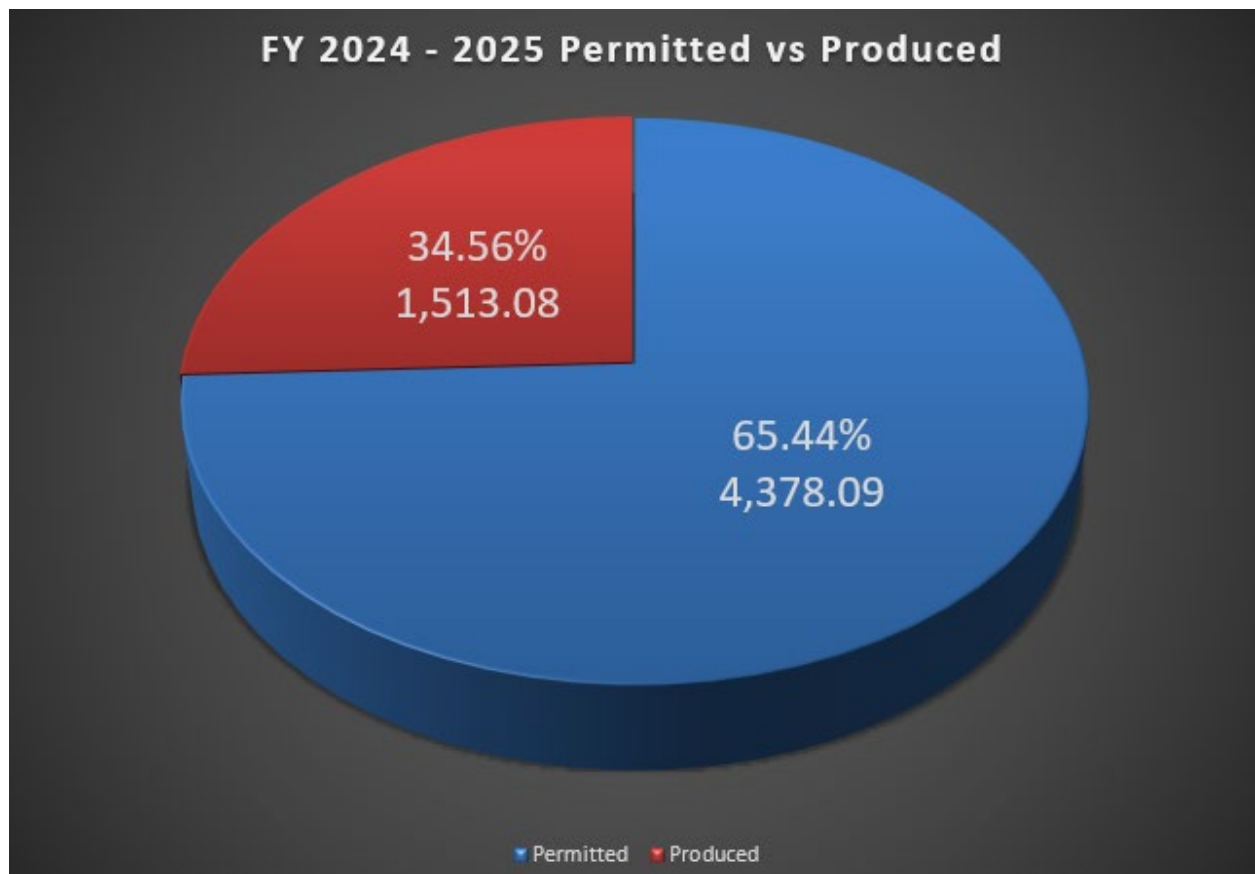


As of September 30th, 2025, the District has registered **9,441** wells. About **8,805** of those are active.

### **Operating Permits for Non-exempt wells**

As of October 1, 2025, the CCGCD has **127** wells with active operating permits issued by the District. These wells have a combined total of **4,378.09 acre feet** of available production per year. The total **actual** production from these permitted wells was about **34.56% (1,513.08 ac/ft)** of what the wells are currently permitted to produce. In **FY 23-24**, **1,400.02 Ac/Ft** was produced and in **FY 22-23**, **1,625.01 Ac/Ft** was produced.

In FY 24-25 the District issued **15** new operating permits and renewed **6** existing permits.  
(management objective 1.1)



Numbers in the chart are in Acre feet. (management objective 1.2)

## **Spacing Requirements**

As of October 1, 2025, the District requires that the spacing between wells are no closer than 100' if they are completed into the same formation. This distance is more stringent than the standards set for well spacing in the Texas Department of License and Regulations Chapter 76 (Water Well Drillers and Water Well Pump Installer Rules). The minimum distance a new well can be from a property line, septic tank, lateral line, aerobic spray area is 50'. The 50' minimum property line spacing was modified in September of 2025. Wells that are capped at 5 gallons per minute (GPM) or less can be 50' from the nearest property line. Wells that are capable of pumping greater than 5 GPM and up to 17.36 GPM must be at least 100' to the nearest property line. Permitted Non-exempt wells have various spacing requirements based on their production capabilities. These requirements can be found in Rule 6.4 of the District's rules.

(management objective 1.4)

## **Public Education and Outreach**

The District provided water efficient literature and handouts, attended local speaking engagements, and provided articles that are run in local papers. The District's website houses many of these resources in addition to various reports, educational videos, and helpful links. Visit us at [WWW.CCGCD.ORG](http://WWW.CCGCD.ORG).

**Water efficient, Drought-oriented, and Conservation related literature provided by CCGCD at speaking engagements and in the District office:** (management objective 2.2, 6.2, 7.2, 7.5):

- Water - Yours, Mine & Ours (CCGCD)
- The Texas Manual on Rainwater Harvesting (TWDB)
- Water Conservation Tips (TWDB)
- Conserving Water Outdoors (TWDB)
- Conserving Water Indoors (TWDB)
- Rainwater Harvesting in Texas (Dr. Krishna)
- Texas Lawn Watering Guide (TWDB)
- Water Conscious Landscaping Tips (Bob Webster)
- Water Conservation – Landscape and Drought (Milan Michalec)

**Newspaper articles and media** (management objective 2.1, 4.2, 7.1):

### **Staff:**

- Aquifer Watch (Bi-monthly)
- Changes in Drought Stage are posted when they happen.
- Bi-Monthly Education Topics provided by TXHCWS (contracted)
- Weekly weather updates provided by TXHCWS (contracted)

## **Speaking engagements** (management objective 2.3):

### **Staff:**

#### **General Manager, Micah Voulgaris**

October 5, 2025 - Spoke at Texas Hydro Geo Workshop held at the Cave Without a Name. The presentation was on the history of GCD's.  
November 18, 2024 – Attended the County-to-County talk.  
November 26, 2024 – Attended the Comfort 590 Meeting.  
January 20, 2025 – Spoke at the Cordillera Men's Club.  
March 21, 2025 – Spoke at Octo-Coots in Comfort.  
April 16, 2025 – Spoke at In the Know Real Estate Group.  
August 14, 2025 – Attended the Texas Well Owner's Network educational event.  
September 17, 2025 – Spoke at Kendall County / Farm Bureau Ag Day to approximately 537, 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

### **Directors:**

#### **Ben Eldredge**

October 2024 – Attended the Conservation Workshop Boerne.  
October 2024 – Appeared on Boerne Radio.  
October 2024 – Attended the Master Naturalist Annual Meeting.  
November 2024 – Appeared on the Build Texas Podcast.  
November 2024 – Attended the Conservation Workshop in Sisterdale.  
April 16, 2025 – Spoke at In the Know Real Estate Group.

#### **Milan Michalec**

November 18, 2024 - Attended the County-to-County meeting at the Cibolo Center for Conservation.  
January 24, 2025 - Participated in a land assessment at a private residence for a pollinator garden with Texas Master Naturalist Kathy Webster.  
June 7, 2025 - Represented the Cow Creek GCD by manning and distributing District literature table at the Comfort Neighbors Rally in Comfort Park.  
June 17, 2025 - Attended the Texas A&M/Texas Water Resources Water Institute Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters Program certification at the Patrick Heath Public Library.  
September 25, 2025 - Represented the Cow Creek GCD at the Hill Country Alliance 2025 Leadership Summit.

## **Conjunctive water management**

The District receives various plats, amending plats, and groundwater availability reports to review and make comments. These documents are exchanged electronically and come in as projects get started.  
(management objective 4.1)

The District meets regularly with representatives from the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority, the City of Boerne, and Kendall County. (management objective 4.3)

Director and current Board President Curt Campbell, met quarterly with Region L for regional water planning.

### **Spring flow monitoring**

Due to the prolonged drought, spring flow was not able to be measured in FY 24-25.  
(management objective 5.1)

### **Cataloging of recharge features**

The District maintains a database of recharge features that are found on occasion during new well inspections. The database consists of location, elevation, date found, approximate depth, approximate opening size, property owner at the time, and pictures are taken. Since 2019, 8 SRF's (sensitive recharge features) have been identified. When an SRF is found, the District reaches out to the landowner to make them aware they have this type of feature on their property. Information is also given on the District's rules regarding such features (rule 12.3).  
(management objective 5.2)

### **Drought planning/management**

The District continues to gather more valuable data on water levels and rainfall. District Operations Manager, Heath Hoffman, correlates stream flows readings from the USGS Comfort and Spring Branch gauges on the Guadalupe with cumulative local rainfall and groundwater levels in the District's 48 monitor wells. The data gathered is used to create the District's Aquifer Watch, which is provided to the local news outlets and posted on the District's website bi-monthly. (management objective 4.2, 6.1)

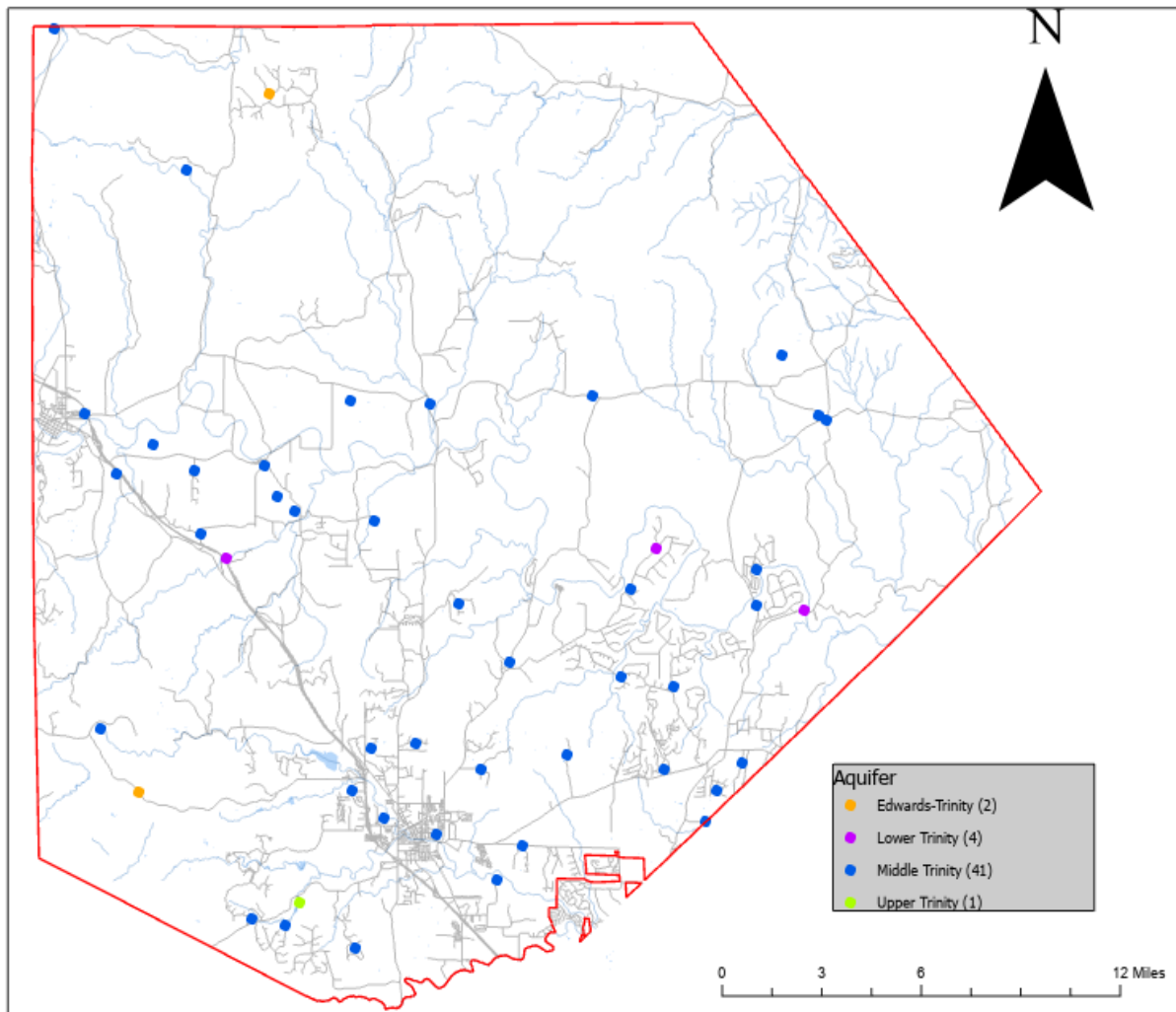
Meeting Date	Drought Stage
June 14, 2016	Stage 0
August 9, 2016	Stage 1
September 13, 2016	Stage 0
June 12, 2017	Stage 1
September 12, 2017	Stage 2
July 10, 2018	Stage 3
November 14, 2018	Stage 1
February 11, 2019	Stage 0
August 12, 2019	Stage 1
July 14, 2020	Stage 2
July 12, 2021	Stage 1
April 11, 2022	Stage 2
June 13, 2022	Stage 3
July 18, 2023	Stage 4
July 14, 2025	Stage 3

The Board currently reviews the drought stage at each regular monthly meeting and makes a determination based on analysis of the District's network of 48 monitor wells, stream flow in the Guadalupe River, cumulative rainfall and/or other factors as deemed appropriate by the Board.  
(management objective 6.1).

The District currently takes manual readings in 24 of the monitor wells on a bimonthly basis (about 576 readings annually). The remaining 24 monitor wells are equipped with either satellite or cellular telemetry. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) recorders account for 22 of the 24 and take hourly readings that are uploaded every 24hs. Most of these recorder sites are installed and maintained by the District with the TWDB providing telemetry, data collection, and technical assistance. The District also uses Wildeye services for 2 of the 24 sites. These sites are maintained by the District with Wildeye providing telemetry and data collection, and technical assistance. These 48 monitor wells consist of (2) Edwards-Trinity well, (1) Upper Trinity well, (41) Middle Trinity Wells, and (4) Lower Trinity wells. (management objective 6.3)

## 2024 - 2025 Monitor Well Locations

### CCGCD Monitor Well Sites



(management objective 8.2)

## Monthly average Middle Trinity levels compared against the previous 10 years.

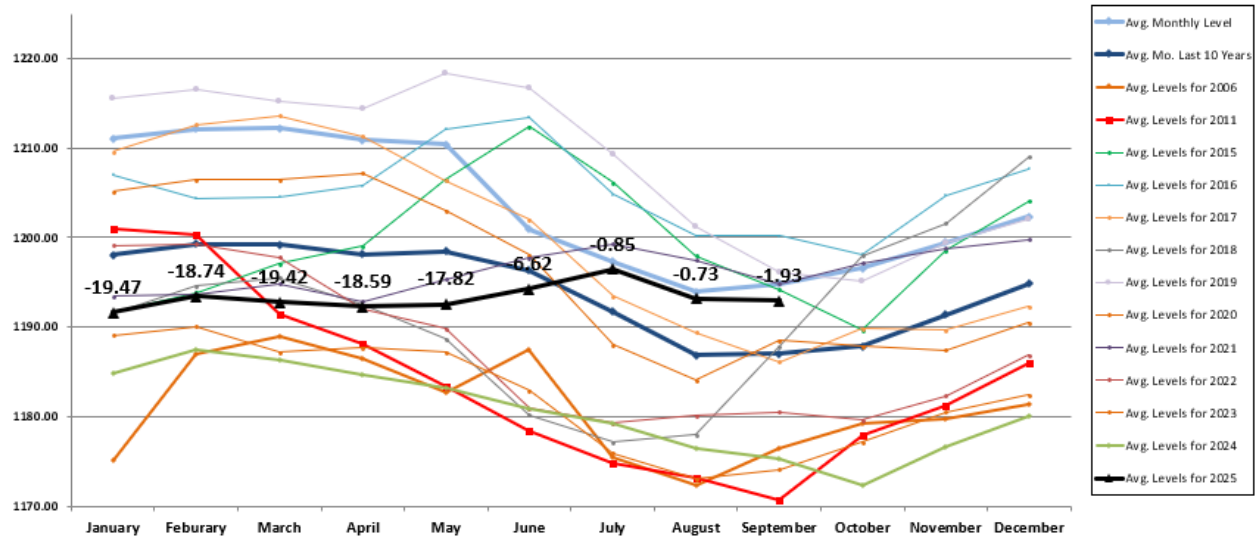


Chart consist of data from Middle Trinity wells being monitored for the last 10 years. The levels from 2006 and 2011 are shown to compare those low levels to the levels experienced in FY 2024-2025.

### Recharge Enhancement (management objective 7.3 & 7.4)

The District has initiated an effort to establish a regional dialogue about recharge features, how to best catalog them, and how to best protect these features. As of this report, several potential recharge features have been located within the District.

Currently the District has a moratorium on the filling, destruction, and removal of caves, sinkholes, swallet holes and critical environmental features, see District Order 2006-021, adopted in May of 2006.

The Board also adopted rules related to the protection of sensitive recharge features (SRF) in FY12-13.

To date, **8** SRFs have been identified and the property owners where these features are located have been notified of their presence and the importance of protecting these features.

### Rainwater Harvesting

The District office has a rainwater harvesting system in place and the public is welcome during regular business hours for tours or to get ideas for their system.

### Brush Control

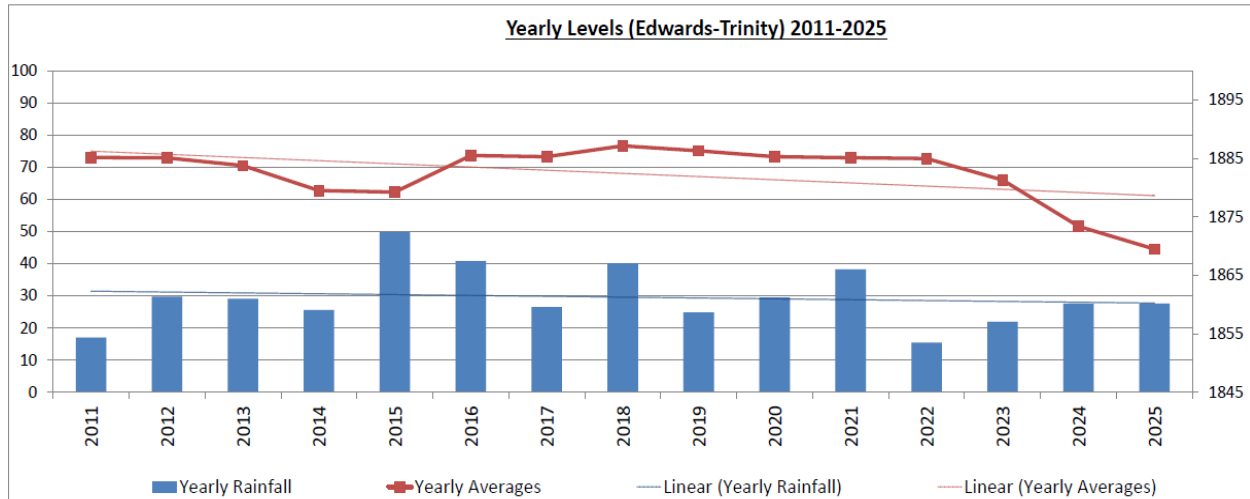
Currently the District has no adopted policies related to brush control/watershed enhancement. District staff believe that this is a valid management strategy that should be investigated further. The District attends the annual meetings about the Watershed Enhancement Project held by the local soil and water conservation District and the NRCS. Numerous studies and examples have shown that selective and ongoing brush management (i.e. removal of ashe juniper) has improved recharge and groundwater availability.

(management objective 7.7)



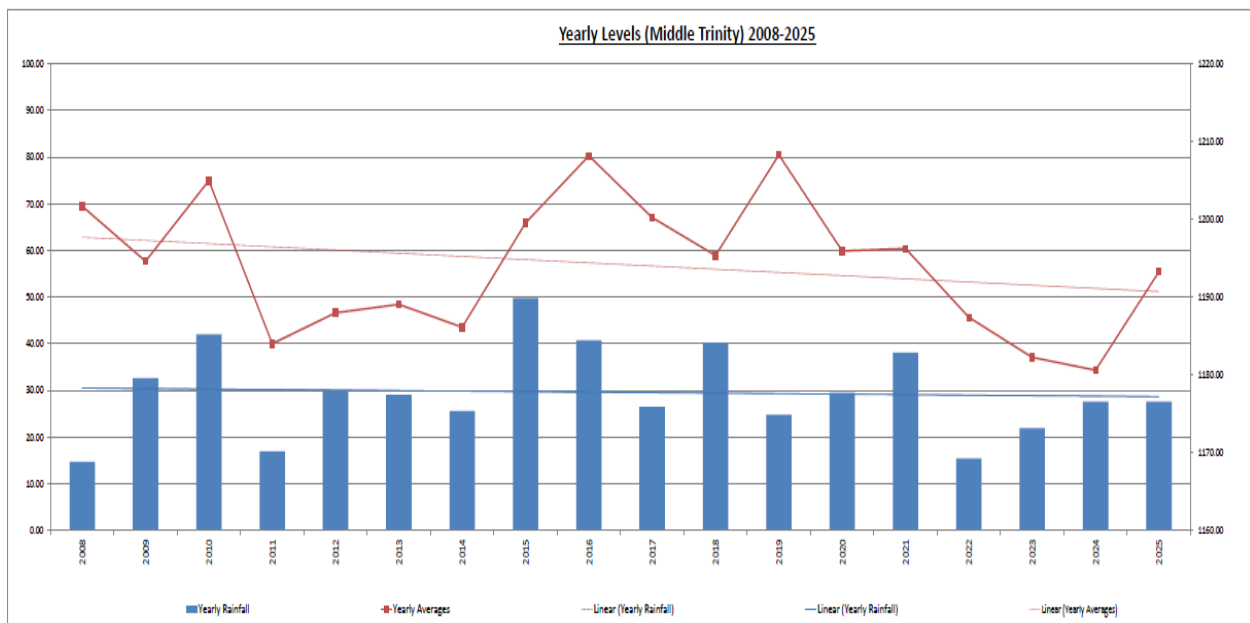
**Addressing Desired Future Conditions in a quantitative manner** (management objective 8.1 & 8.2)

The current management plan addresses the DFC for the Edwards Group of the Edwards-Trinity (Plateau) Aquifer and the Trinity Aquifer. The District monitors the water levels in two Edwards (Kft) wells. One of the wells are located in the Northern portion of the District (Alamo Springs) and the other is in the Southwest portion of the District (Champee Springs). The current DFC adopted by the District allows for no net increase in average drawdown for the Edwards-Trinity through 2080.

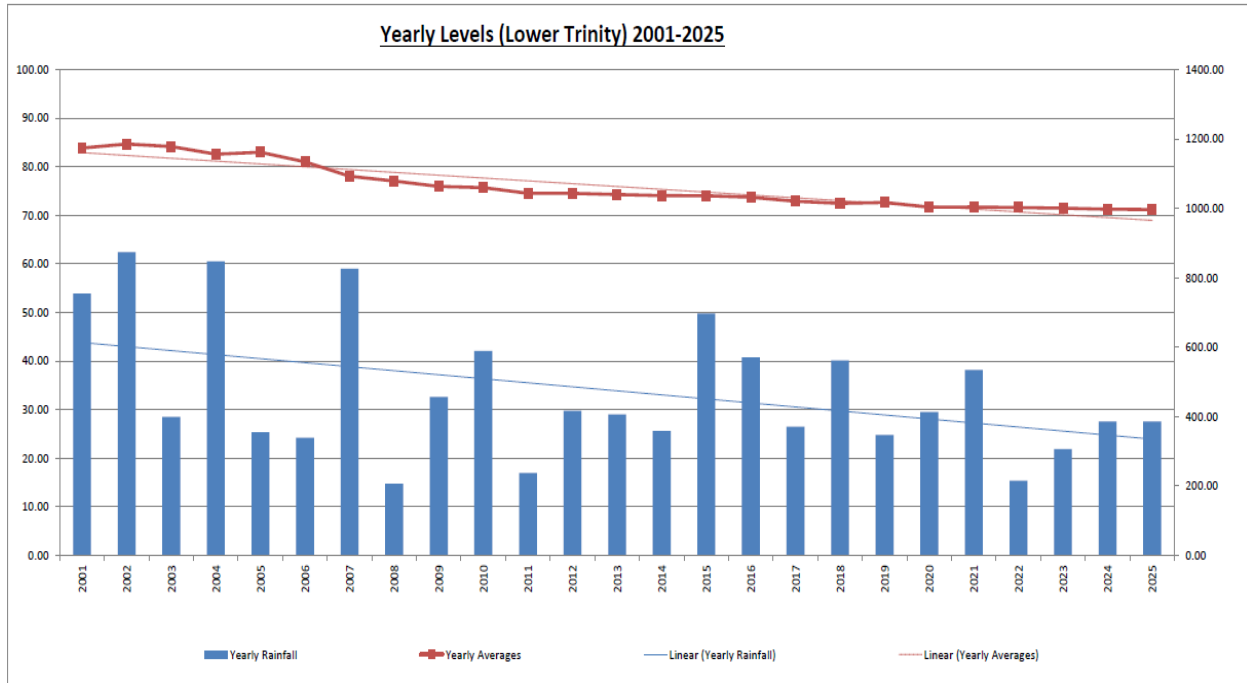


This chart depicts the average level on a yearly basis of all the wells completed in the Edwards-Trinity back to 2011.

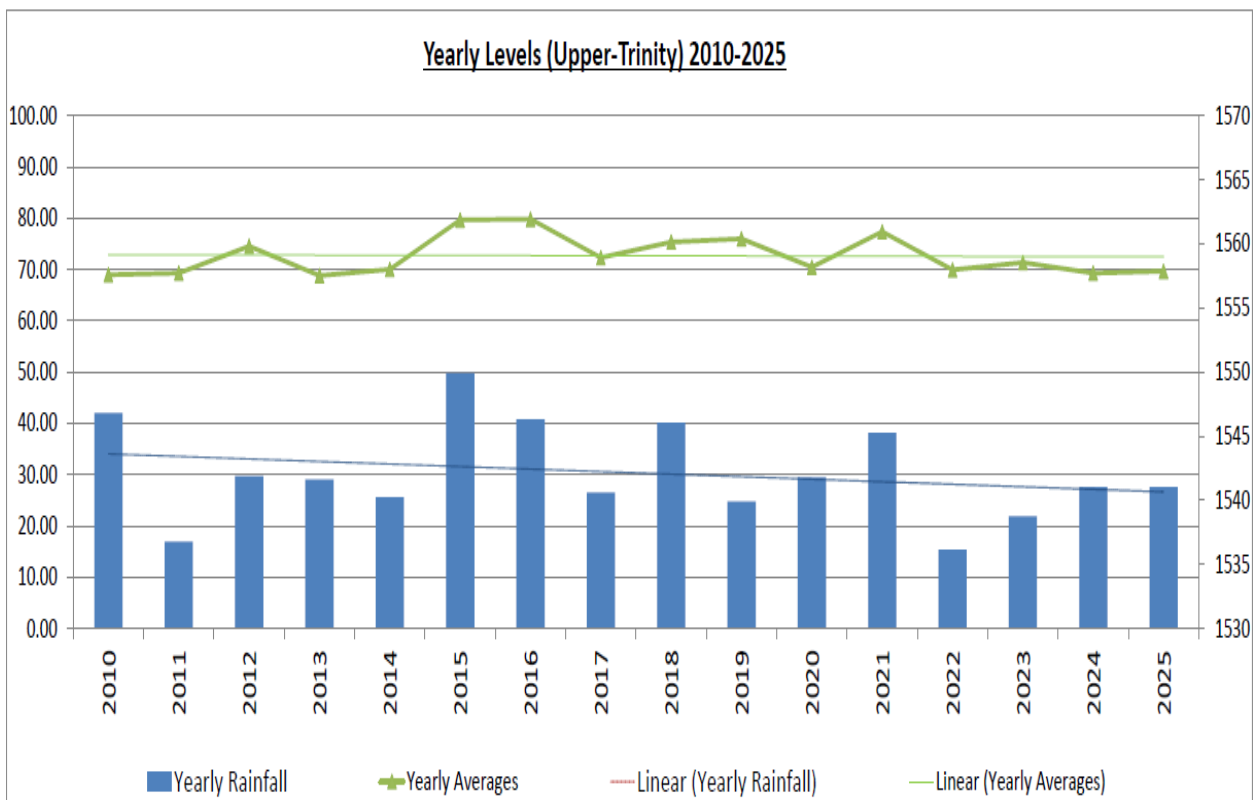
The District also monitors water levels in 1 Upper Trinity, 41 Middle Trinity, and 4 Lower Trinity wells. These readings are collected via automated recorder and transmitted via telemetry or manual checked on a bi-monthly basis. The current DFC for the Trinity was adopted by the District allows for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 30 feet though 2060. Unlike the Edwards-Trinity DFC that is only used for Bandera and Kendall County, the Trinity DFC was adopted by GMA-9 as a whole and is measured GMA wide.



This chart depicts the average level on a yearly basis of all the wells completed in the Middle Trinity back to 2008. The majority of new wells drilled in the District are completed in the Middle Trinity.



This chart depicts the average level on a yearly basis of all the wells completed in the Lower Trinity back to 2001.



This chart depicts the average level on a yearly basis of all the wells completed in the Upper Trinity back to 2010.

