

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 5
JULY 26, 2010, JOINT PLANNING MEETING GMA9

GMA9 Members and Ronald G. Fieseler, GMA9 Coordinator:

My name is David Glenn and I live on the Blanco River in Wimberley, Texas, and have a Middle Trinity groundwater well within the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District boundaries. Today you are considering Agenda Item 5 GMA9 Resolution 072610-1 setting DFCs for aquifers within GMA9.

The DFC process has gone on for three years and is now reaching a decision point due to water planning deadlines by the Texas Water Development Board. The purpose of the DFC process is to allow the TWDB to determine the quantity of Managed Available Groundwater that each conservation district will be allowed to permit for its groundwater users. Although we have come a long way with Groundwater Availability Models, I'm not sure that we 1) understand them, 2) know how to effectively use them, or 3) can realistically evaluate their unintended consequences on related processes such as specific springs and base stream flows. Also the assertion that DFCs only apply to an aquifer and not surface waters is hereby challenged. In Hays County the karstic limestone geology, climatology, and topography connect surface and groundwater systems uniquely and inseparably. Using more technical jargon, in this hydrogeologic setting, surface and ground waters are closely and dynamically integrated. Impacts (good or bad) on one will quickly manifest as impacts on the other. Both resources must be collectively managed. A falling aquifer is readily apparent in diminished spring and stream flows. The public will **IMMEDIATELY SEE THE FAILURE OF OVERPUMPED AQUIFERS AS SPRINGS AND STREAMS DRY UP** while falling well water levels remain hidden underground and out of sight until it is too late.

In the Wimberley Valley, Jacobs Well, a Middle Trinity artesian spring, is the source of Cypress Creek which flows through the villages of Woodcreek and Wimberley some five miles before joining the Blanco River. The famous Blue Hole swimming site is located here as the centerpiece of a developing park. Cypress Creek is the economic engine driving ecotourism and increasing property values in this part of Hays County. During the summer of 2000, Jacobs Well stopped flowing for the first time in recorded history. **JACOBS WELL AND CYPRESS CREEK MUST BE SUSTAINED AND NOT DRAINED.**

GMA9 and each of you voters **ARE STRONGLY URGED** to be conservative in this initial round of DFCs and support **NO ADDITIONAL DRAWDOWN OF THE TRINITY AQUIFER IN HAYS COUNTY** in order to prevent irreparable economic and environmental damage.

“Average” aquifer drawdown over an area as large as GMA9 is misleading. Recent GAM runs no longer include “drawdown” maps illustrating extreme variations in pumping/withdrawal centers. This leads to the following questions for GMA9 concerning the 20', 30', and 40' DFC draw downs: 1) what is the average drawdown for Hays County under each of the three scenarios? 2) what is the range of drawdowns in these three scenarios near Jacobs Well? and 3) how often does Jacobs Well stop flowing in each scenario?

REMEMBER, WATER IS THE ELIXIR THAT MAKES OUR HILL COUNTRY MAGIC!

Thank you, David Glenn, P.G. 5255