

Summary of Public Comments Received

GMA-9 Public Meetings

Kerrville, Monday June 21, 2010

Boerne, Wednesday June 23, 2010

Dripping Springs, Thursday, June 24, 2010

Oral Comments Interpretive Tally Sheet (31 Speakers)

<u>DFC</u>	<u>Edwards Group</u>
No net increase in average drawdown through 2060	6
No more than a 9' increase in average drawdown through 2060	0
Declare the Edwards Group "not relevant" for all or part of GMA 9	2
No Specific DFC Recommendation	23

<u>DFC</u>	<u>Trinity Aquifer</u>
No net increase in average drawdown through 2060	10
No more than a 20' increase in average drawdown through 2060 (Scenario 5)	5
No more than a 30' increase in average drawdown through 2060 (Scenario 6)	2
No more than a 40' increase in average drawdown through 2060 (Scenario 7)	2
None stated, but comments trending toward no net increase in average drawdown through 2060	2
None stated, but comments trending toward 20'-30'-40' increase in average drawdown through 2060	4
Other Recommendation (% of rainfall, recharge, spring flow, etc.)	2
No Specific DFC Recommendation	4

Individual Oral Comment Summaries (by R. Fieseler)

Kerrville:

Twenty people signed the Attendance List. An estimated 5 people did not sign in. Two people made public comments.

1. Jonathan Letz - Kerr County Commissioner and Chair of Region J. Stated that, for the Edwards Group, Option 1 is not acceptable, Option 2 works, and that Option 3 also works and may be the best solution. He said that the three options for the Trinity were getting closer but did not state a preference. He recommended that GMA 9 needed to set a specific DFC and delay its proposed vote until August to allow the public to be able to comment on the specific DFC rather than a range of DFCs.
2. Tyson Broad - Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club. Will also provide written comments. They were looking at the 5% exceedance trend line rather than the average. Since spring and baseflow reductions are critical on several levels, they preferred a DFC that resembles current aquifer conditions.

Boerne:

Thirty-three people signed the Attendance List. An estimated 12 people did not sign in. Nine people made public comments.

1. Frances Lovett - Kerr Co. well owner along Guad. River. Preferred no increase in drawdown for Edwards and 20' for Trinity.
2. Bob Webster - Urged the GMA 9 Committee to be conservative and noted that it will be hard to reduce pumping once it is in place. He preferred no increase in drawdown for Edwards and 20' for Trinity.
3. Bebe Fenstermaker - Northern Bexar County ranch, well, and spring owner. Stated that Northern Bexar County did not act hydrologically like NE Bexar County. Also said that it is hard to reduce pumping once it is in place. Preferred no increase in drawdown for Edwards and 20' for Trinity.
4. Quinten Scott - Bandera County. Noted the high demand in Bandera County for commercial and agricultural needs. Believed that the demand estimates needed revision. He felt that Scenario 7 (40' drawdown) may not be enough to meet projected demands.
5. John Kight - Cow Creek GCD Board Member. Noted that population projections needed revision. Urged the committee to be conservative and set the lowest reasonable drawdown for the DFC.
6. Mike Luckey - He said that more research in water use impacts was needed. He preferred that the Edwards be declared not relevant and a 40' drawdown for the Trinity DFC.
7. Ron Green - Southwest Research Institute hydrologist and well owner. He noted that the model is sensitive to boundary conditions and recharge input

assumptions. He urged caution and a conservative approach due to the uncertainty of the model. He preferred no increase in drawdown for Edwards and 20' for Trinity.

8. Lee Kneupper - Bandera River Authority & Groundwater District Board Member. He said to use averages for planning purposes when making calculations and decisions, but don't entirely ignore variable drawdown. He said varying rainfall (wet/dry conditions) can be handled by GCDs. He urged a conservative approach since it will be hard to reduce pumping once it is in place. He supported Scenario 5 (20' drawdown), but felt that Scenarios 6 and 7 were too reckless.
9. Myfe Moore - Helotes. Wanted no increase in drawdown. GCDs need more data on wells, demand, etc. Wanted to protect spring and base flow as wells as plant and animal species. Wanted to stop exploitation of resources and population growth and provide financial aid to landowners for recharge enhancement projects.

Dripping Springs:

Fifty-seven people signed the Attendance List. An estimated 15 people did not sign in. Twenty people made public comments.

1. Susan Nenney - Wimberley. GMA 9 needs reality based decisions and should base the plan on existing resources.
2. Jim McMeans - Wimberley. He commented on the need to consider exempt wells. He favored a conservative approach and preferred no more drawdown.
3. David Baker - Wimberley. Noted that current demand in Hays-Trinity GCD is 5671 acre feet. He said the exempt wells demand calculations will be very important. He preferred Scenario 3, but agreed that 4 would be OK. He said Scenarios 5, 6, and 7 will create problems.
4. Newton Hammet - Dripping Springs. Noted that dry wells are a big issue in parts of Hays County.
5. Walt Krudop - Dripping Springs. Recommended a "balanced budget" approach to groundwater management...pumping should equal recharge. He asked "when will the aquifer go dry?"
6. Joe Day - Wimberley. Water use should be equitable. GMA 9 needs to be extremely conservative to maintain Hill Country lifestyle and ambiance. He preferred none to minimal drawdown so that there would be room to adjust as growth occurs.
7. Al Broun - Dripping Springs geologist. Models work well for large areas – Central Texas for example, but in his opinion, they break down when trying to evaluate a small area or a small Groundwater District. Local aquifers do not fit a standard and vary greatly in saturated thickness and other aquifer characteristics. He believes that until we have a model with smaller cell sizes that can include local geotechnical data, no additional drawdown is

acceptable. He said to move forward cautiously but not panic. Hays County has sufficient groundwater for managed growth if combined with surface water, rainwater collection, conservation and common sense.

8. Mark Key - Hays-Trinity GCD Board Member, Dripping Springs. He believes groundwater is a vested property right and that exempt wells will continue to increase demand. He noted that water utilities were required to provide water to customers. He preferred Scenario 6 (30' drawdown).
9. Steve Klepfer - Wimberley. He wanted to see a DFC that would maintain flow in Blue Hole, Cypress Creek, Wimberley. He said perennial spring flow was important to the area and its people.
10. Frank Sullivan - Wimberley. Urged GMA 9 to promote surface water supply and limit future groundwater pumpage. He said water utilities need to reduce line loss. He said 20-30-40' of drawdown is the wrong way to go.
11. Dianne Wassenich - San Marcos. Stated that the aquifer cannot take increased pumping without wells going dry. Current pumpage should be DFC. Need to look at local impacts and ensure local well owners can maintain water use. Need educational efforts. Need to revisit drought trigger levels to protect well users during dry periods.
12. Sheila Cook - Dripping Springs. She said "people will come" to the area and will need water. She mentioned the new HEB store being built in Dripping Springs and that growth would continue to occur with a corresponding need for more water.
13. Charlene Farmer - Dripping Springs. She urged the GMA 9 Committee to consider fiscal impacts and how DFC decisions will affect local businesses and their need for water. The DFC must account for future growth.
14. Doug Wierman - Dripping Springs, former HTGCD Director. The Trinity Aquifer in Hays County has two "sweet spots"...bottom of the Lower Glen Rose and top of the Cow Creek. The Glen Rose can be drained relatively quickly and the Cow Creek is being more stressed all the time. Jacob's Well is vital for maintaining Cypress Creek flow and its associated environmental and economic impacts. A drop of 2-4 feet in aquifer levels can result in a loss of flow... Hays County pumping demand is already at that level today. HTGCD should also review and revise the exempt pumpage estimates for Hays County.
15. Charles O'Dell - Austin. Since lots of Hays County wells went dry in 2009, he recommends no additional pumping. GMA 9 should preserve existing well usage and protect private property rights.
16. David Glenn - Wimberley. Emphasized the importance of surface and groundwater interaction in the Wimberley area. It is closely tied with local lifestyles, ambiance, businesses, etc. He described the need to preserve spring and base flow in order to protect local property values and lifestyles. He preferred no increase in pumpage or drawdown for the DFC.
17. Myfe Moore - Helotes. Wanted to protect spring and base flow as wells as plant and animal species. Wanted to stop exploitation of resources and

population growth. Described how Texas is famous for water exploitation. Gave example of how oil and gas well usage of groundwater is exempt from regulation. Wanted no increase in drawdown.

18. Jack Hollon - Wimberley, former HTGCD Director. Noted that the Hill Country is a special place. Described how rainwater harvesting is becoming more important in the area as a water source and how more money is needed for rainwater harvesting research and assistance. Rainwater harvesting will help protect downstream flow as groundwater demand is reduced. He urged GCDs to work to require new construction to incorporate rainwater harvesting systems, replace existing wells with rainwater harvesting systems, and to fund these changes by increasing production fees on groundwater well production.

19. Glynn Schanen - Wimberley. Pointed out how climate change will affect rainfall and recharge data. Noted that a rise in temperature will result in a rise in evaporation. Urged GMA 9 to consider climate change issues when setting a DFC.

20. Steve Marceau - San Antonio. Urged GMA 9 to focus on science and note how amount of precipitation has more effect than usage. Urged GMA 9 to be aware of current information and data. Models showed about 100' or more drop in water levels in Northern Bexar County, but recent data shows an increase of 10'. He discussed the importance of looking at pumpage, recharge, and rainfall numbers in context. He noted that the difference between the "average" and the "maximum" drawdown in Scenario 6 is only about 5' for all of GMA 9 and for Hays County it is only 1'. He recommended Scenario 6 as a DFC.