

# Long-term Fiscal Sustainability & the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

Charlie Flatten, General Manager

Hays Trinity Groundwater  
Conservation District

[HaysGroundwater.com](http://HaysGroundwater.com)



# Purpose

- *“...to provide for the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging, and prevention of waste of groundwater, and of groundwater reservoirs or their subdivisions, and to control subsidence caused by withdrawal of water from those groundwater reservoirs or their subdivisions, consistent with the objectives of Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution”.*





*In Texas, the Rule of Capture prevails unless you are protected by a Groundwater Conservation District*

*-- No other entity has the authority to protect your groundwater property rights --*

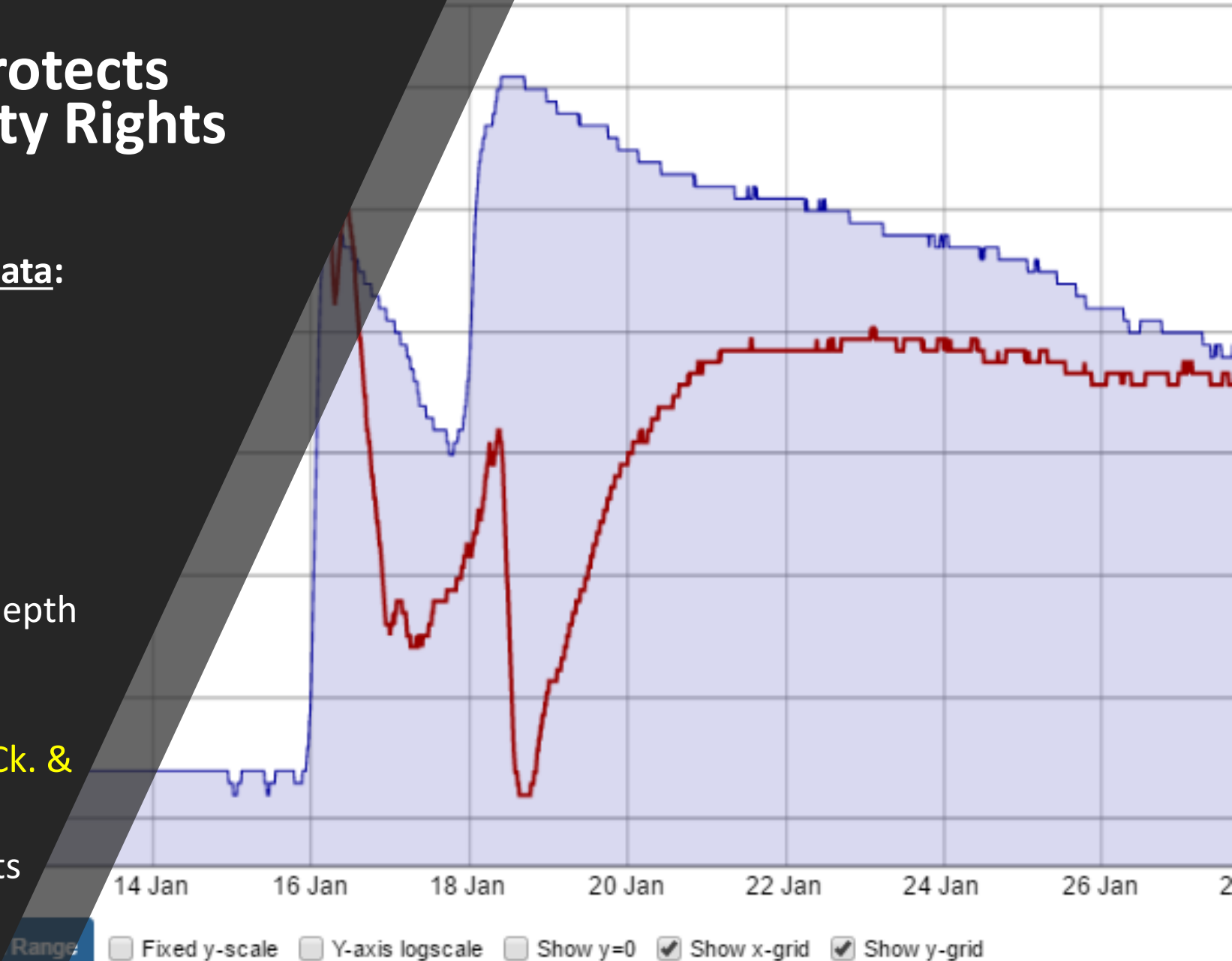


# How the District Protects Groundwater Property Rights

## Sound Policy depends on Good Data:

- Register all groundwater wells
- Register all groundwater-based utility connections
- Develop and maintain **over 40** monitor wells for aquifer levels
- Measure streamflow and well depth fluctuations to inform drought declaration
- Sample water quality (**Cypress Ck. & Foaming well for example**)
- Effluent Direct Discharge Threats

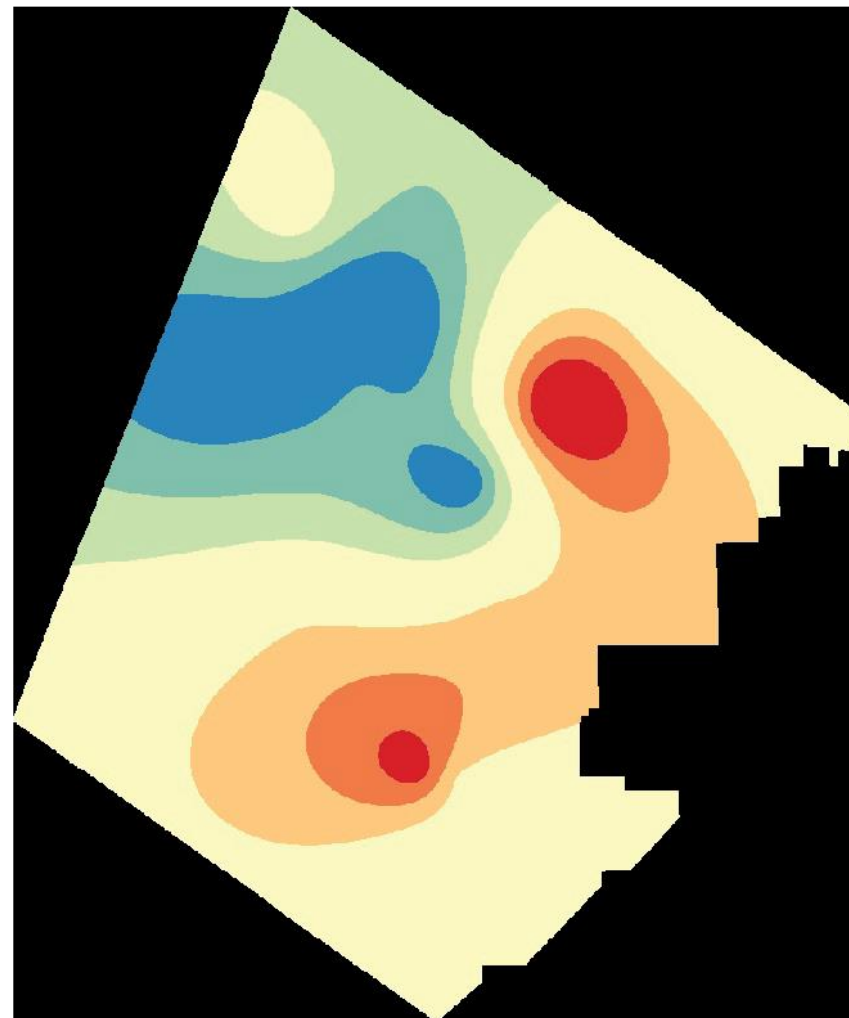
Well near Wimberley, TX



# How the District Protects Groundwater Property Rights

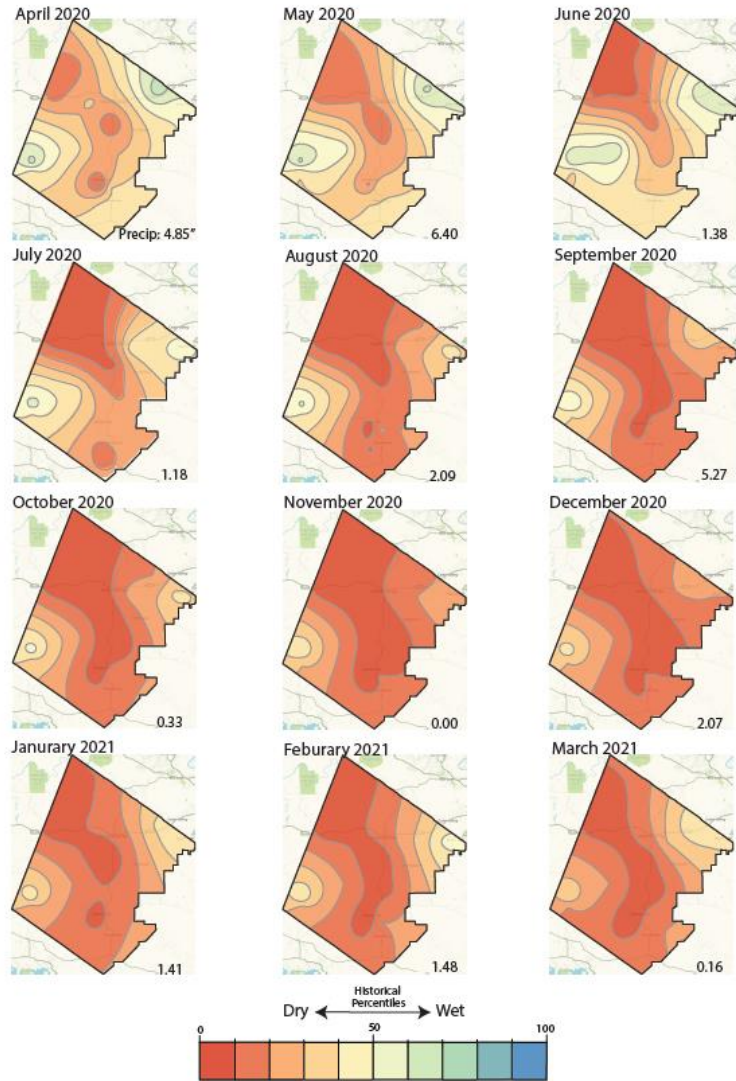
## Develop Science:

- Create and interpret groundwater mass balance models (**Bratwurst**)
- Create maps of springs and recharge features
- Create maps of aquifer faulting and flow paths
- Create aquifer stratigraphic maps and charts
- Test and sample distressed wells
- Identify critical depletion zones (**JWGMZ**)

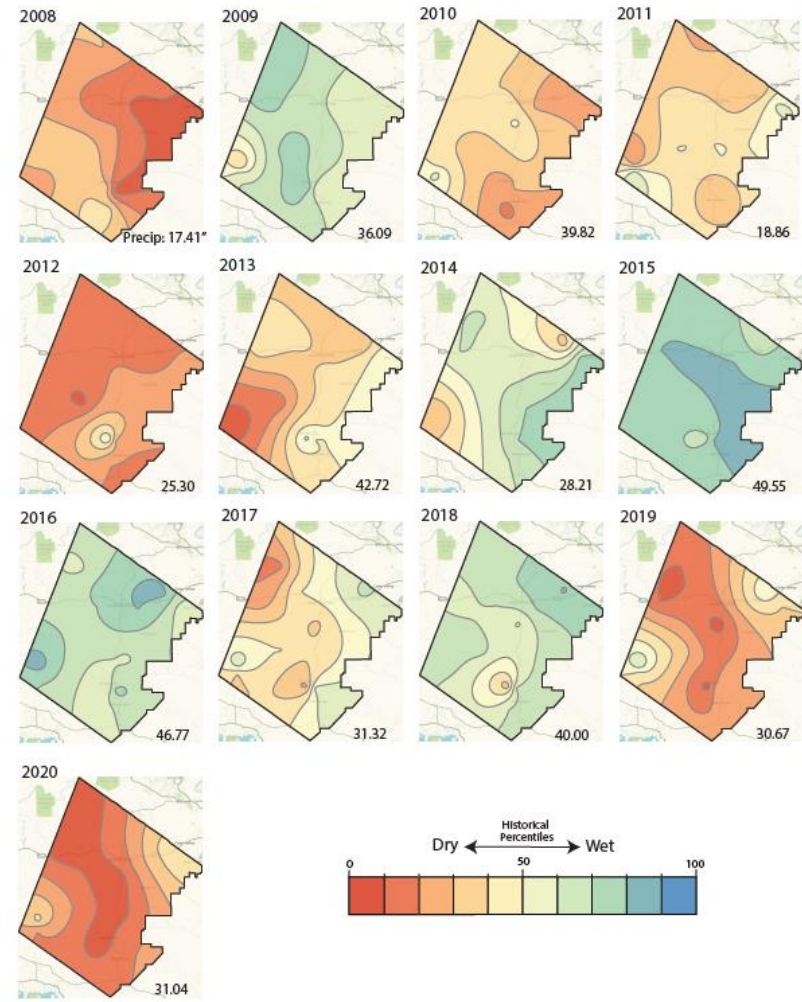




Middle Trinity Historical Percentiles  
April, 2020 - March 2021



Middle Trinity Historical Percentiles  
2008 - 2020



# How the District Protects Groundwater Property Rights

## Protect Groundwater Resources through Management:

- Regulate commercial pumping by permit
- Protect the Desired Future Condition of the aquifer
- Measurement of aquifer production and recharge
- Prevent waste
- Declare drought to protect aquifer against overdraft



# How the District Protects Groundwater Property Rights

## Education:

- Assemble best management practices for water use and conservation
- Alert community to potential and real contamination sources (**KM Pipeline**)
- Identify and encourage the use of alternate water sources (**ASR, Desal, I-W**)
- Promote artificial recharge
- Provide well information to public and well drillers
- Provide hydrogeologic information to well drillers
- Stakeholder Outreach

Visit our website at  
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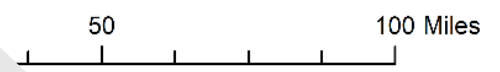
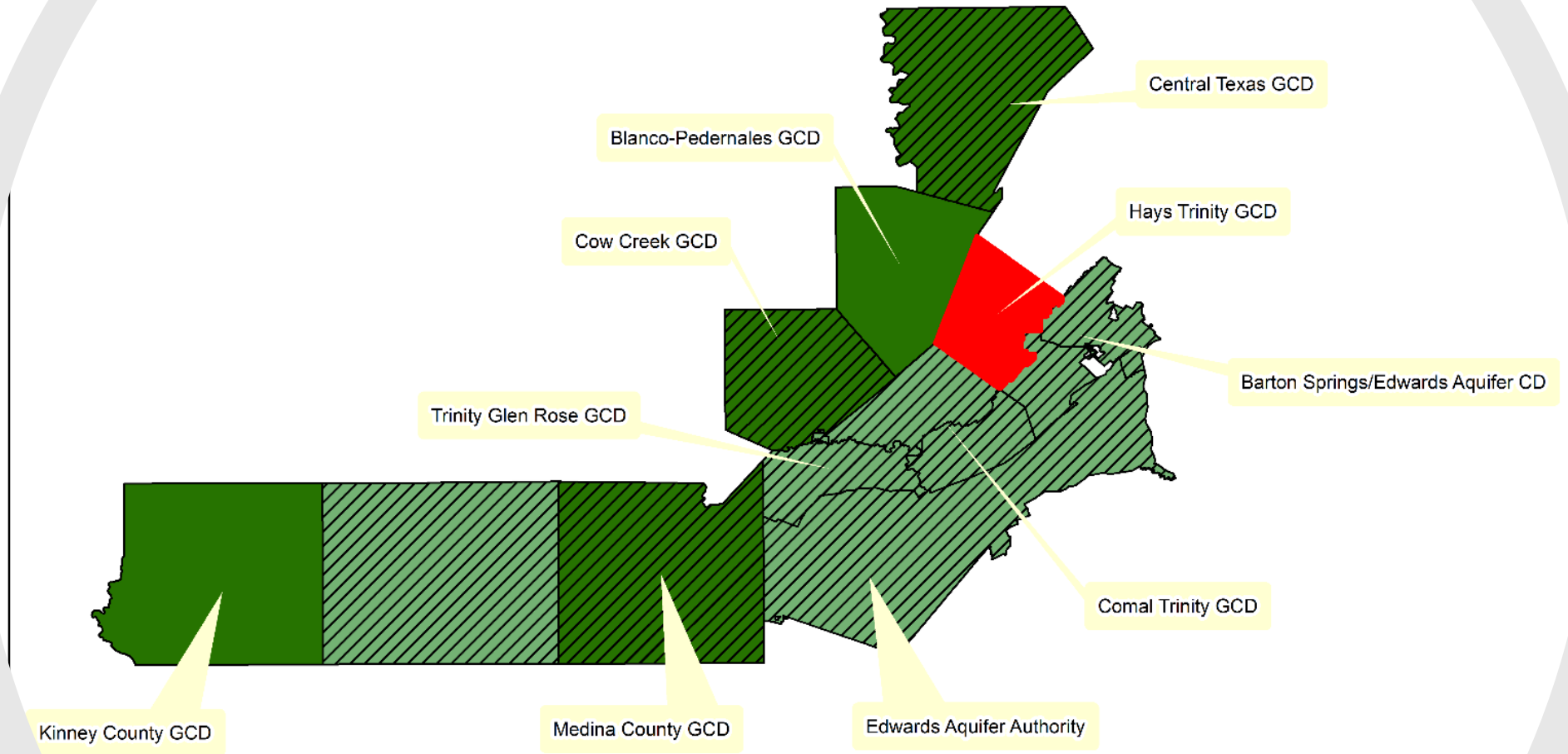


# How the District Protects Groundwater Property Rights

## Provide Community Access to Regional and State Water Planning Processes:

- Defend Desired Future Condition
- State Water Plan
- Regional Water Plans
- Groundwater Management Area planning
- Regional Flood Planning
- Watershed Protection Planning in Bear, Barton, Onion, and Cypress Creeks





**Legend**

- No Authority for Assessing Production Fees or Ad-Valorem Taxes
- Authority to Assess Production, Export, or Aq. Mgr
- Authority to Assess Ad-Valorem Tax



# Funding the District for the Future

- **No Taxes**
- Usage-based **proposed Production Fees** on non-exempt wells will be a more predictable and sustainable revenue model
- Lower **existing Connection Fees** to deemphasize growth-based revenue





# Thank You

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