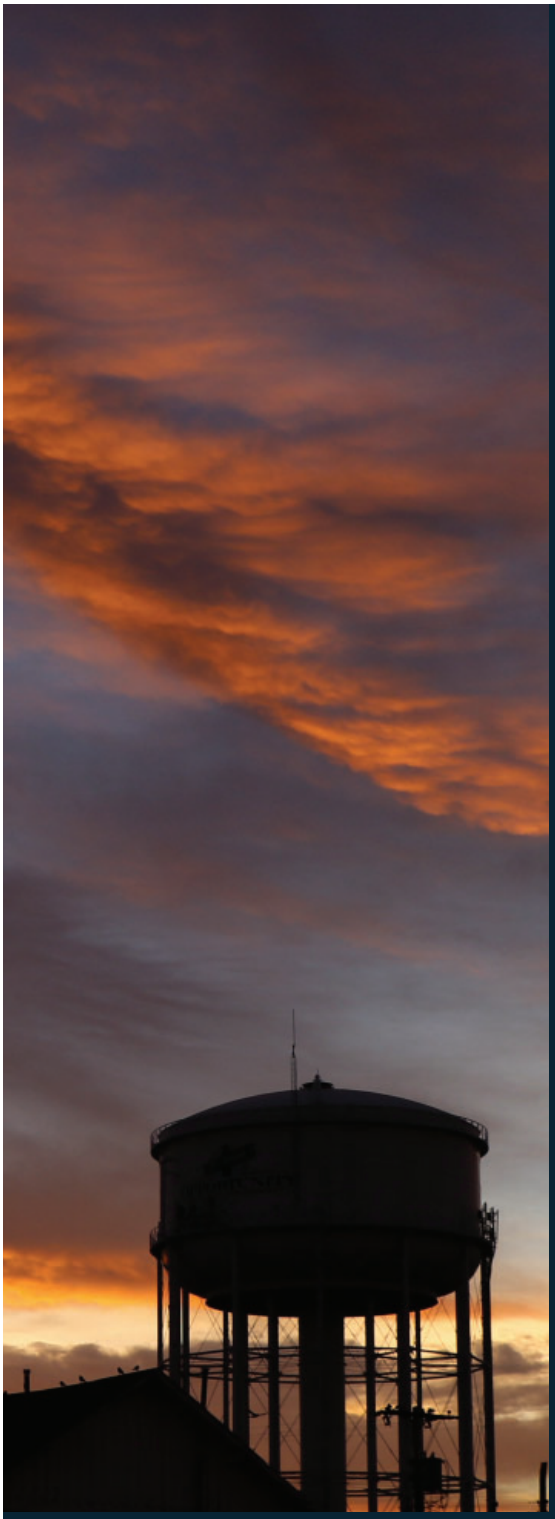
HPWD

High Plains Water District

www.hpwd.org

Media Resources

ABOUT US



NAME
High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1

ACRONYM
HPWD

MISSION
Protect, preserve and conserve the aquifers within the District's service area

DESCRIPTION
HPWD is a local political subdivision of Texas. The current tax rate is $0.0067 per $100 valuation. HPWD is governed by a five-member board of directors. Board members are elected to serve a four year term.

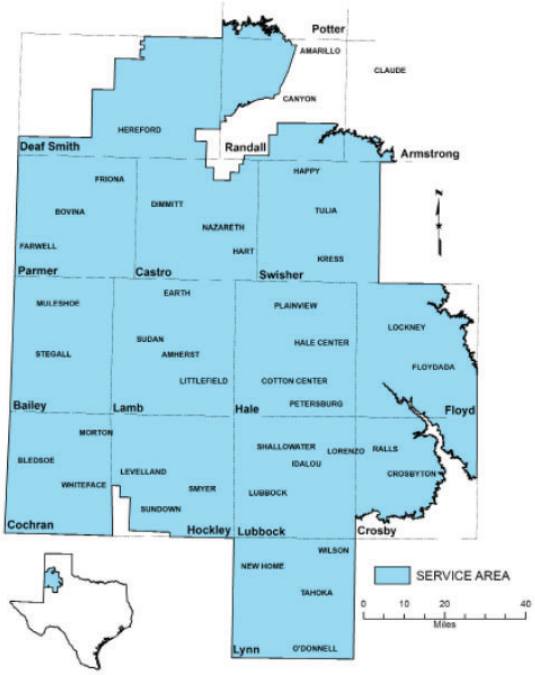
HISTORY
HPWD was created by local residents and the Texas Legislature in September 1951. Beginning with 13 counties across the Southern High Plains, residents voted to form the first groundwater conservation district in the state. After several annexations, the District currently has all or part of 16 counties within its service area.

BUDGET
About $3 million

QUICK FACTS

- Created in 1951
- Oldest and largest groundwater conservation district in Texas
- Includes all or part of 16 counties
- Service area covers 11,850 sq miles
- Follows Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code

THE DISTRICT

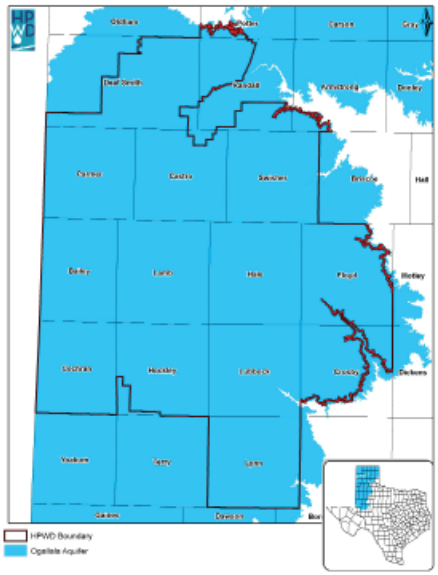


DISTRICT STATS

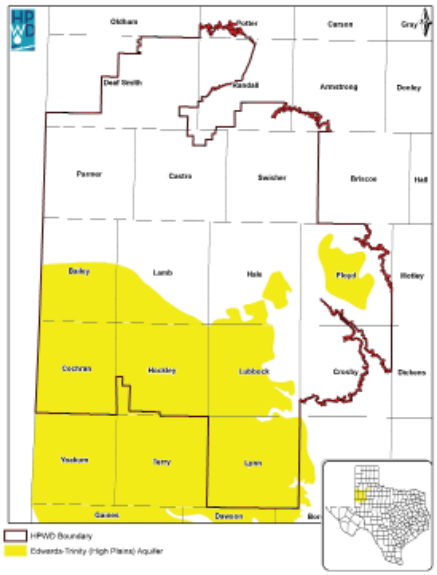
- Population: More than 570,000
- Cities: 160
- Size: 7.5 million acres (11,850 sq. miles)
- Permitted Wells: More than 70,000
- Center Pivot Irrigation Systems: ~14,300
- Subsurface Drip Irrigation Systems: ~5,800

AQUIFERS

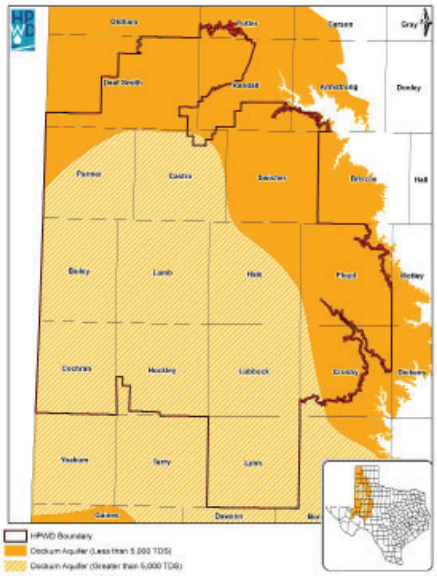
Three aquifers underlie HPWD. The Ogallala Aquifer is the primary source of groundwater for this area of Texas.



Ogallala Aquifer



Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) Aquifer



Dockum Aquifer

THE BOARD

OVERVIEW

A five-member board of directors oversees the operations of the High Plains Water District. Each member is elected in their designated precinct to serve a four year term in office.

PRECINCT ONE DIRECTOR

Dan Seale of Lubbock represents a portion of Crosby County, and all of Lubbock and Lynn Counties.

PRECINCT TWO DIRECTOR

Brad Heffington of Littlefield represents Cochran County, a portion of Hockley County and all of Lamb County.

PRECINCT THREE DIRECTOR

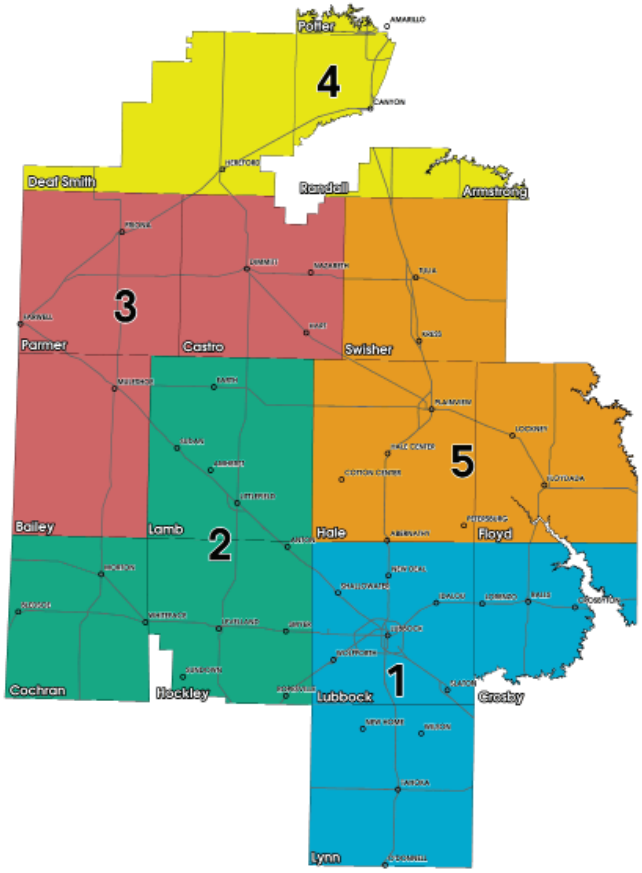
Mike Beauchamp of Bovina represents Bailey County, a portion of Castro County, and Parmer County.

PRECINCT FOUR DIRECTOR

Lynn Tate of Amarillo represents portions of Armstrong, Deaf Smith, Potter and Randall Counties.

PRECINCT FIVE DIRECTOR

Ronnie Hopper of Petersburg represents a portion of Floyd County and all of Hale and Swisher Counties.



BOARD OFFICERS

President: Lynn Tate
Vice President: Brad Heffington
Secretary/Treasurer: Mike Beauchamp

BOARD TERMS

Directors serve four year terms. Precincts Three and Four seats will be up for election in 2020. Precincts One, Two and Five will be up for election in 2022.

THE STAFF

OVERVIEW

HPWD has its headquarters office in Lubbock and a field office in Canyon. There are 16 staff members (*15 in Lubbock and 1 in Canyon*). District programs and activities are handled by the following four departments:

ADMINISTRATION

General Manager- oversees staff

Accountant- handles all financial work

Administrative Assistant- maintains office files and handles data entry

GIS Specialist- utilizes collected data to create maps and other information

Information Technology Adminstrator -- Oversees operation of District computer hardware & software

FIELD DATA COLLECTION

Collects data for HPWD programs, including annual water level measurements, as well as irrigation and water quality assessments

INFORMATION/EDUCATION

Handles all communications and outreach, educational events, and social media

PERMIT & FIELD SUPPORT

Acquires well information for the drilling site and finalizes spacing of the proposed well site

WATER PLANNING

OVERVIEW

There are 16 Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPGs) within the state. HPWD's service area includes two planning areas (Regions A & O). In addition to RWPGs, Texas has 16 other water planning groups called Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs). HPWD's service area includes two GMAs (GMAs 1 & 2).

Panhandle Planning Group (A) & Llano Estacado Water Planning Group (O)

Regional Water Planning Groups create regional water plans across the state. Each water planning group develops a regional water plan every five years, which then becomes part of the State Water Plan. Planning groups are made up of about 20 members who represent various water user groups.

GMA #1 & GMA #2

As a result of House Bill 1763, passed during the 79th regular Texas Legislative Session (2005), groundwater conservation districts are now required to conduct joint planning within their respective groundwater planning area. The primary goal of this planning is to define the desired future conditions of groundwater resources within their GMA.

CHECK OUT THE 2017 STATE WATER PLAN:

texasstatewaterplan.org

FAQS

WHAT ARE THE HPWD'S FUNCTIONS/JURISDICTIONS?
The functions and jurisdictions of groundwater conservation districts are specified in Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code.

WHY DOES HPWD REQUIRE WELL PERMITS & SPACING?
The High Plains Water District's well spacing rules are designed to reduce the interference between wells when pumped. The rules provide that wells be spaced in accordance with their expected production. As a part of this requirement, each landowner is required to apply for a permit prior to the drilling and production of any well expected to produce 17.5 gallons of water per minute or more. A permit must be applied for and approved by (1) the district manager or his designee and (2) the district's board of directors before the well drilling may legally begin. A non-refundable fee of $250.00 is required for each water well permit application [Ogallala, Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) or Dockum well.]

WHAT IS A DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION (DFC)?
A desired future condition is the desired, quantified condition of groundwater resources (such as water levels, spring flows, or volumes) within a management area at one or more specified future times as defined by participating GCDs and GMAs as part of the joint planning process.

HOW IS THE HPWD OPERATED?
HPWD is governed by a five-member Board of Directors elected by residents in each of the District Director's Precincts. Each director serves a four-year term where they oversee district operations, programs and activities. This includes developing a management plan; adoping and approving an annual budget; setting an annual tax rate to fund the budget; adopt or amend District rules; and approve applications for water well permits.

HOW IS THE HPWD FUNDED? When the District was created, people also voted to establish a maximum ad valorem tax rate of five cents per $100 valuation. The Board of Directors set the tax rate annually. Since 1982, the tax rate has been set at less than one cent per $100 valuation. The current tax rate is $.0.0067 per $100 valuation.

HOW MANY GCDS EXIST IN TX?
Currently there are 100 GCDs in Texas.

FOR MORE FAQS VISIT OUR PAGE:
hpwd.org/faqs

CONTACT US

CONTACT
2930 Avenue Q
Lubbock, TX 79411
806.762.0181

WEBSITE
www.hpwd.org

INTERACTIVE WEB MAP
map.hpwd.org

FACEBOOK
High Plains Water District

TWITTER
@HPUWCD

INSTAGRAM
HPUWCD

YOUTUBE
High Plains Water District