

Fast Facts about Groundwater Reduction Plans in Montgomery County

- Montgomery County's water supply has historically come from groundwater sources, but the County's population growth has created the need for planning to reduce groundwater demands, so aquifers can recharge.
- The 2001 Texas Legislature enacted legislation to allow counties to establish groundwater conservation districts to protect the groundwater aquifer.
- Montgomery County voted to establish the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District (LSGCD), which has the authority to regulate the amount of groundwater which can be produced (pumped from wells) each year.
- LSGCD has issued regulations which mandate all large volume water users to reduce their use of groundwater by 30% of their 2009 permitted amount beginning in 2016.
 - The *LSGCD Phase II(B) District Regulatory Plan*, which provides the actual regulatory requirements for groundwater reduction, can be found at page 107 of the following document:
<http://lonestargcd.org/pdf/DistrictRulesApproved11.10.09.pdf>
- As large volume water users, MUDS 8 and 9 must meet the 30% groundwater reduction target and by June 1, 2010, must submit a declaration of intent with LSGCD, which states whether they will be participating in a joint Groundwater Reduction Plan (GRP) with other large volume water users, or whether they will be submitting a GRP individually.
- Since 2004, MUDS 8 and 9 have jointly studied various alternatives to create our own Groundwater Reduction Plan (GRP).
 - Read more about these options under [Walden Options for Reducing Groundwater Usage](#)
- The San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) has proposed a county wide GRP that will convert some large volume water users from ground water to surface water and allow other users to continue to use ground water. This plan involves treating surface water from Lake Conroe, and distributing that surface water, via a network of pipelines to more densely populated areas in The Woodlands, the I-45 corridor, and the city of Conroe. By "over-conversion" of these areas to exclusive surface water use, other areas would be able to remain on well water and the county could still meet the 30% groundwater reduction mandate.

- Read more about the SJRA-GRP project here:
<http://www.sanjacintoriverauthority.com/h2all/index.html>
- The SJRA-GRP is an extensive engineering undertaking, and is estimated to cost \$480 million for the first phase and approximately 2.2 billion dollars by 2045.
- Municipal Utility Districts and cities that join the SJRA-GRP will fund the surface water conversion project via payment of a water usage fee. The initial (2010) fee is projected to be \$.50 per 1000 gallons of water, and will increase over time as the plant and pipeline facilities are expanded. The SJRA projects this fee to increase to \$1.90 in 2015, and increase over time to \$8.50 in 2045.
- Based on the MUDs 8 and 9 projected water usage, the cost of participating in the SJRA-GRP for 2016 is estimated to be approximately \$1.25 million. By 2045, the annual participation costs would be approximately \$8.4 million.
- Potential participants in the SJRA-GRP will be required to sign a long term water supply agreement. This contract was presented in mid-December, 2009, and participants must decide whether to join the SJRA plan by May 1, 2010.
- The City of Conroe has publicized significant concerns with both the terms and timing of the SJRA-GRP contract, and has issued a formal resolution to the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District requesting a one year delay in the compliance date in order to allow Conroe, and other large water volume users, time to fully examine the contract and investigate other groundwater reduction alternatives.
 - (See City of Conroe Resolution)
- MUDS 8 & 9 share many of the same concerns expressed by the City of Conroe, and have issued a joint Letter of Support. Other MUD districts have also issued similar resolutions or statements to the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District. In addition, MUDs 8 and 9 have also provided SJRA written comments regarding their primary concerns with the proposed contract.
 - (see MUD 8&9 Letter of Support for City of Conroe Resolution)
 - (see MUDs 8 and 9 comments)

- Over the past several years, MUDS 8 & 9 have invested considerable time, money, and diligence to investigate which groundwater reduction strategies will produce the best outcomes for Walden. We believe there may be better alternatives for the MUDs 8 and 9 to meet their groundwater reduction obligation, and will continue to investigate these options and seek regulatory approval for an independent solution.
 - The SJRA desires universal participation by all Montgomery County MUDs and municipalities, and has stated in a recent letter to State Senator Robert Nichols that they will not support some of the alternatives MUDs 8 and 9 are evaluating.
 - [Read Senator Nichols letter to the SJRA here](#)
 - [Read SJRA's response to Senator Nichols here](#)

- We will update this page as more information becomes available to keep you informed of groundwater reduction plan developments