



# Capital Area Ground Water Conservation District



CAPITAL AREA  
GROUND WATER  
CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION

## Watching out for A Treasured Earth Resource

*Dedicated to the conservation, orderly development and protection  
of quality of ground water in the Capital Area*

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## Commission Authorizes Contract With AG's Office

The Capital Area Groundwater Conservation has recently taken steps to ensure the collection of pumpage fees from the regulated community. While the Louisiana Attorney General's office is bound by law to assist the District in pursuit of those in potential violation of the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District's "Enabling Statute" (RS 38:3071 – 3084) and specifically 38:3079 and 3083, District Director Anthony Duplechin, acting on the Commission's behalf, has entered in to a legal review contract with the Attorney General's Office through FY 20 for "general legal review of contracts, information requests and other day to day issues requiring legal review." The District certifies and AG Counsel hereby acknowledges that:

- Goals and objectives: The CAGWCD has entered into this contract in order to obtain professional and reliable legal services as referred to hereinabove.
- Performance measures: The services provided by counsel shall be evaluated to determine that the services are provided timely and professionally.
- Monitoring Plan: The staff of the CAGWCD shall monitor the performance of counsel by review of all interim written or verbal reports submitted by contractor and by supervision of the services provided by counsel.

## Groat Returns to Louisiana Geological Survey as Acting Director



The Center for Energy Studies, or CES, at Louisiana State University is pleased to announce that Charles "Chip" Groat, Ph.D., will serve as professor and acting director of the Louisiana Geological Survey, or LGS, or the Survey. Groat returns to LSU after many years in academia, government, independent research, and administrative positions. Groat's prior tenure at LSU includes serving as the LGS director and state geologist (1978-1990) and as the executive director for Coastal, Energy, and Environmental Resources (1992-1995). He will work as acting LGS director with CES Executive Director David E. Dismukes to explore new research and growth opportunities for LGS and for LSU's overall energy, coastal and environmental research initiatives.

“We are looking forward to having Chip return to LGS to help us expand its role as the state’s center for geological research,” said Dismukes. “His extensive research and public policy experience will help the University reach its ambitious energy and environmental research goals.”

Groat is a nationally renowned educator and government scientist. Most recently, he retired as president and CEO from the Water Institute of the Gulf. He was professor and director of the Center for International Energy and Environmental Policy and associate director of the Energy Institute at the University of Texas at Austin. He was also director of the U.S. Geological Survey under Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

“We are glad to see Dr. Groat re-establish his relationship with LSU and look forward to his contributions in making LGS a very important part of our natural resources exploration activities,” said Kalliat T. Valsaraj, Ph. D., LSU vice president for Research & Economic Development.

“I am happy to be re-kindling my relationship with LSU and working on a part-time basis in academia again,” Groat said.

(adapted from LSU Center for Energy Studies Website)

## **Legislature Mandates New Requirements on Groundwater Districts**

On June 26, 2017, Governor Jon Bel Edwards signed into law Act 425 (HB 689 by Rep. Marcelle) which added new reporting and administrative to Louisiana’s two groundwater conservation districts, the Capital Area and Sparta. Act 425 is to become effective on August 1 of 2017.

Present law requires each water conservation district, fresh water district, and ground water conservation district created by law to submit annually a written report of the district's ground water resources to the commissioner of conservation, Water Resources Commission, the Water Management Advisory Task Force, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, and the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment. Present law also authorizes the Water Resources Commission to direct the commissioner of conservation to appoint or designate, through rules and regulations, up to five regional bodies based on the general location of the major aquifer systems.

Proposed law requires the ground water report to be submitted semiannually and removes the ground water reporting requirement for water conservation districts and fresh water conservation districts and adds the requirement to the designated regional bodies. Proposed law also changes the submission of the report from the Senate Committee on Natural Resources to the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality.

Present law requires the report of the district's ground water resources include, but not be limited to, the amount of water used for residential, commercial or industrial, or agricultural purposes, respectively; actual and projected saltwater intrusion or encroachment; and any current or projected sale of water for use outside of the state, including the amount of water so sold and the price paid by each out-of-state user.

Proposed law adds that the report must include the activities and actions taken with respect to each of the district's powers delineated by laws creating the district.

Present law provides that, for purposes of the report, the amount of water used for agricultural and industrial purposes may be estimated. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law requires any governing authority of a ground water conservation district created by law or designated as a regional body by the Water Resources Commission do all of the following:

- Adhere to the Open Meetings Law.
- Issue public notice of meetings, including an agenda, at 24 hours in advance.
- Provide the public with the opportunity to comment on each agenda item on the agenda and for general comments at the end of each meeting.
- Operate under Robert's Rules of Order.
- Record and maintain minutes of each meeting.

Proposed law requires any standing subcommittee created by such governing authority be composed only of members of the governing authority and prohibits the establishment of ad hoc committees.

## Modeling complex aquifer systems: a case study in Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Hai V. Pham<sup>1</sup> & Frank T.-C. Tsai<sup>2</sup>

Dr. Frank T-C Tsai (et. al.) have had their Baton Rouge groundwater paper published in Hydrogeology Journal – the official Journal of the International Association of Hydrogeologists. The paper discusses how we dealt with the complex aquifer system and groundwater flow simulation in Baton Rouge.

The link is <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10040-016-1532-6>.

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