



# Capital Area Ground Water Conservation District



## Watching out for A Treasured Earth Resource

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

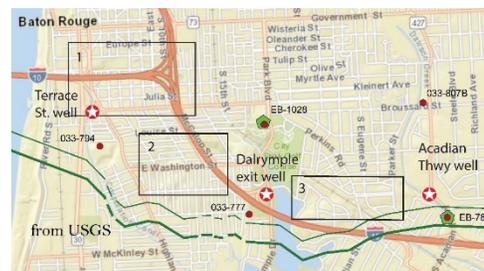
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NEWSLETTER

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### Commission Narrows Site Selection for Initial Test Well

The Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission (CAGWCC) is working with the US Geological Survey (USGS) in identifying the best location for the first of several possible “test wells” needed to identify a suitable location for a scavenger well in the “2,000-ft” sand.



Scavenger wells have been employed successfully at select locations around the world as an inexpensive, practical solution for the long-term development of fresh groundwater. In a stratified aquifer, scavenger wells work by pumping saline water from the bottom of the aquifer without mixing with the overlying freshwater. The saltwater is pumped to waste. There are many advantages to the scavenger well approach, the most important of which are low capital costs, rapid improvement in water quality, and optimal capture of freshwater and saline water.

The USGS has provided preferred locations which the CAGWCC Planning and Specifications Subcommittee is currently reviewing. The locations are based on model results, electric log data, and chloride monitoring locations to assess Areas 1, 2, and 3. The Areas are ranked as Area 1 highest to Area 3 the lowest. Current land acquisition efforts are being concentrated in Area 1.

### CAGWCC Accepts Ascension Parish as New Member

The CAGWCC voted at its most recent meeting to accept Ascension Parish’s request to become the sixth member parish of the District. Ascension Parish Chief Administrative Officer Ken Dawson said the groundwater commission's work is important to the parish and the parish wants to assist with the work it does.



The Commission is empowered to expand the District under LRS 38:3076 - **Powers of the Board**, which reads, in part,

A. *The board shall ... have authority to do, as required, the following:*

*(22) ... expand the district to include adjacent parishes, upon approval by the board, and with the consent of the governing body of the parish involved, said parish to have the same representation on the board, and subject to the same conditions, as provided for the original parishes included in this part.*

The Commission has asked the Attorney General's Office for an opinion as to whether Ascension Parish can assume a seat on the Commission immediately or must wait until LRS 38: 3071-3084 is amended to state that Ascension Parish is a member of the District and that the total number of Commissioners be increased to eighteen.

Ascension Parish has been very interested in the operation of the CAGWCC for many years, as is evidenced by a Resolution by their Parish Council to the Commissioner of Conservation in April of 2012 asking for a Public Hearing and a February 14, 2012 letter from the Capital Region Legislative Delegation (of which Ascension Parish is a member) to then Secretary of Natural Resources Scott Angelle asking him to conduct a hearing on saltwater intrusion under Baton Rouge.

## CAGWCC Votes to Enter into Agreement with Water Institute of the Gulf

### Long-Range Planning Document Sought

The Commission voted on June 19, 2018, to pursue working with the Water Institute of the Gulf to enter into a cooperative endeavor through the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to assist the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission to develop a long-range management plan to ensure the protection and sustainability of the Southern Hills Aquifer.

### PROPOSED PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: Work with the CAGWCC and other technical stakeholders to identify and evaluate feasible, realistic, and cost-effective science-based alternatives which meet long-term water resource needs.

Objective 2: Evaluate the state of the science/information related to groundwater use and aquifer conservation needed to evaluate alternatives and inform decisions.

Objective 3: Work with the CAGWCC to identify management alternatives that are economically feasible and acceptable, and to develop a strategic plan for the long-term water supply for the District.



THE WATER INSTITUTE  
OF THE GULF™

The Water Institute of the Gulf is a non-profit, non-advocacy research institute headquartered in Baton Rouge, LA. The Institute has technical expertise in groundwater as well as experience in evaluating and developing science that specifically supports decision-makers. The Institute's unbiased approach to producing science in support of resource management and helping to resolve water-related issues makes it ideally situated to work with the CAGWCC.



CPRA is established as the single state entity with authority to articulate a clear statement of priorities and to focus development and implementation efforts to achieve comprehensive coastal protection for Louisiana.

## Legislature Tightens Up Membership Requirements for Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission; Adds New Position

In an effort to strengthen the membership of the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission, the Louisiana Legislature, during the 2018 Regular Session, passed Act 625, which clarifies that the Commissioner formerly representing the City of Baton Rouge/East Baton Rouge Parish Department of Public Works shall now be a person nominated by the mayor-president of East Baton Rouge Parish who shall be a registered professional engineer employed on the staff of the Department of Environmental Services, the Department of Transportation and Drainage, or the Department of Development.

In addition, the Act mandates that the representatives from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and Louisiana Office of Conservation, if not those agency's head, or his designee, be a member of his staff and be a professional geologist licensed by the Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists or be a registered professional engineer with experience in groundwater resource management or a person with experience in groundwater resource management.

Act 625 states that one member shall be appointed by the governor from the nomination nominations submitted by the majority vote of the members of the board. The member shall be a professional geologist licensed by the Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists or a technical professional with experience in groundwater resource management who is licensed by the Louisiana Professional Engineering Board or a person with experience in groundwater resource management

Finally, the Act adds a seventeenth Commissioner, who shall be appointed from a nomination by the mayor-president of East Baton Rouge Parish who shall be a professional geologist licensed by the Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists or a registered professional engineer with experience in groundwater resource management or a person with experience in groundwater resource management.

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