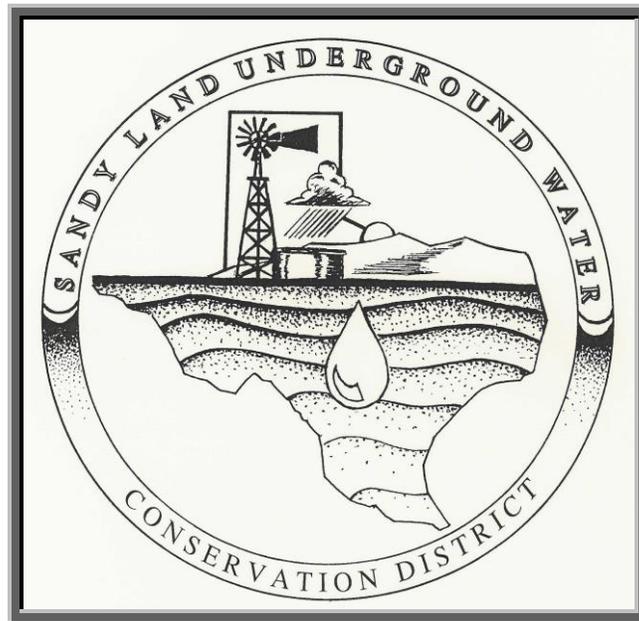


SANDY LAND UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Annual Report
January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025**



**Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District
1012 Ave. F
P.O. Box 130
Plains, Texas 79355
(806)456-2155**

SANDY LAND UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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**SANDY LAND UNDERGROUND
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

SANDY LAND UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stanley Ashburn, President
Linda Powell, Vice-President
Tracy Welch, Secretary
Rickey Bearden, Director
Duwane Billings, Director

DISTRICT STAFF

Amber Blount, Manager
Gale McDonnell, Office Manager
Michelle Cooper, Education Coordinator
Layne Marlow, Field Tech

DISTRICT OFFICE

1012 Avenue F
P.O. Box 130
Plains, Texas 79355
(806)456-2155 (806)456-5655 Fax
www.sandylandwater.com

**SANDY LAND UNDERGROUND
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

DISTRICT CREATION

DISTRICT CREATION

Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District was created by the 71st Legislature of the State of Texas under Article 16, Section 59 of the Constitution of Texas Statutes.

On November 7, 1989, a special election was held in Yoakum County in order to confirm the establishment of the district as provided by Senate Bill No 1777, agree to a levy of a maintenance tax at a rate not to exceed 2½ cents per \$100 valuation, and to elect the initial board members for the district. A total of 764 votes were cast with 388 voting “for” and 177 voting “against” the district establishment and levy. David Turnbough, L.J. Sanders, Jr., R. E. Bearden, Brad Palmer and Don Parrish were elected as the initial board members.

Gary L. Walker was selected as the first Manager of Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District in January 1990.

Kathy Jones was employed by the District in February 1990 to serve as District Secretary and remained so until her resignation in October 2001.

Board members adopted the proposed Rules and Regulations for Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District on December 12, 1990. The initial tax rate of the District was set at \$.007 per \$100 valuation at a tax hearing held on August 26, 1991.

David Turnbough was elected President of the Board in 1990. He served in that capacity for the entire time that he was a Sandy Land UWCD Director. David and his wife, Vi, moved to Lubbock in the summer of 2006 necessitating his resignation from the Board of Directors.

R. E. Bearden served on the Board of Directors continuously for 18 years. Mr. Bearden’s retirement became effective September 2007.

Amber Blount was named Manager of Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District in March 2015 after the retirement of Gary L. Walker on January 31, 2015

Dennis G. Harrison resigned from the board in December of 2017. He served continuously on the board for almost 25 years.

Ross Hilburn resigned as President of the board in May, 2024. He served continuously on the board for 16 years.

**SANDY LAND UNDERGROUND
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

2025 ANNUAL REPORT OVERVIEW

2025 ANNUAL REPORT OVERVIEW

Sandy Land UWCD is, today, an active, functional enterprise that had its beginning in 1989 with the creation of the Water District. The common thread that runs through this program is that of water conservation. We hope this report will detail some challenges and efforts of water conservation this year.

Recurring Monthly

- Board of Directors' meetings 2nd Wednesday of each month.
- Rain gauge readings taken in 26 locations throughout the county.
- Well Depth Measurements performed annually.
- District Manager Blount continues her role and responsibilities as TAGD Executive Committee member.
- Ms. Blount engages in numerous meetings and phone conferences for TAGD Executive Committee Sessions, Conference Planning, Finance Committee, Legislative Sessions, Summit, TWCA Groundwater Committee, GMA2 and Region O.
- Office Manager, Gale McDonnell, continues her role and responsibilities to meet the requirements of various essential elements necessary for efficient daily office operations.
- Manager Blount efficiently manages all well permits.
- Layne Marlow locates and checks all new wells for necessary reporting to the district and board for approval.
- Ms. McDonnell performs all necessary procedures for securing new ag loans, maintaining current loans, insurance, invoicing, UCCs, and completing payments and reporting to TWDB.
- Layne Marlow, field tech, performs numerous Flow Tests as requested by landowners of Yoakum County throughout the year.
- Raymond Brady and Amy Bush continue contracted hydrological work for the water district including decline maps for use in IRS depletion program and timely updates to saturated thickness maps.
- Quarterly presentations by meteorologist Jennifer Puryear with RMBJ Geo Inc on weather outlook.
- Michelle Cooper, Education Coordinator, continues work with the region's water districts.

January

- Annual well depth measurements taken for Monitor Well Network
- Layne Marlow joined Sandy Land UWCD staff as Field Technician
- Reviewed, Approved, and Signed Yoakum County Clerk Election Services Agreement
- Approved May 3, 2025 Order of General Election for Other Political Subdivisions
- Approved Rainwater Harvesting Landscape Project Pricing at Plains EMS Facility
- Gale McDonnell mailed loan payment letters to borrowers in our Water Conservation Agricultural Loan Program
- Depletion letters mailed to eligible county residents

Manager Meetings and Activities included:

- Amber Blount and Michelle Cooper attended TAGD meeting in Austin
- Ms. Blount had dinner with Senator Sparks staff, Katie Fields while in Austin
- Amber Blount and Michelle Cooper attended TAWC Annual Water College in Lubbock
- Manager Blount attended Region O meeting in Lubbock

Legislative Update:

- Tracking Report Review
- TWDB Appropriations Request for Ag Conservation Fund Continuation
- Senator Perry's Bil 7 (to be filed) Handout
- Various Circuit Breaker Legislation Update

February

- Loan payments on existing loans due and 100% collected from producers on February 15
- Board of Directors reviewed and approved the Sandy Land UWCD 2024 Annual Report
- Approved Plains State Bank Depository Agreement
- Deadline to File an Application for A Place on the Ballot – Feb 15
- Certification of Unopposed Candidates posted with County Clerk

Manager Meetings and Activities Included:

- Meeting with Judge Ybarra to discuss RWH
- Meeting with Judge Ybarra & Level 5 Architect, Justin Gilmore
- Commissioner Court – RWH Landscaping Workshop
- Texas Water Association Annual Conference in Austin
- Update on Rainwater Harvesting Landscape Project

March

- Approved Order of Election Cancellation
- Unopposed Candidates Signed Statements of Officers
- Ryan King of Terry and King CPAs PC performed 2023 in-house tax audit

Manager Meetings and Activities Included:

- GMA2 Meeting – Stanton

April

- Ryan King of Terry and King CPAs presented the 2024 Financial Audit
- Board approved SLUWCD 2024 Financial Audit
- Texas Tech Endowment Graduate students gave their presentations to the Board
- Reviewed 2024 Estimated Taxable Values
- Rainwater Harvesting Workshop was held at PSB event center
- Insurance loss on both buildings due to hail

Manager Meetings and Activities Included:

- Soil Conservation Breakfast honoring Michelle Cooper in Denver City
- Present Scholarships & Calendar Winner in Plains and Denver City
- Women in Ag – Brownfield

May

- Presentation of Certificates of Election to Directors
- Directors Pledge and Sign Oaths of Office
- Board Members Conduct Directors' Officer Election
- Insurance Adjuster Inspects Damage due to Hail

Manager Meetings and Activities Included:

- Plains High School and Jr High Awards
- Denver City School Awards

June

- Board Meeting cancelled for June
- Andie Saxon begins as summer contract labor
- Layne Marlow and Andie Saxon perform Water Quality testing for Sandy Land UWCD's Water Quality Network

Manager Meetings and Activities Included:

- Public Information Request Response Sent
- TAGD Summer Meeting in Pflugerville
- TWA Summer Conference in the Woodlands
- American GW Trust in Lubbock

July

- Review and Discussion concerning SLUWCD 2026 budget proposal
- Layne and Andie completed Water Quality Testing for wells in Sandy Land UWCD's Water Quality Network

Manager Meetings and Activities Included

- Texas Conservation Alliance Roundtable
- House Natural Resources Hearing
- Truth in Taxation Workshop in Lubbock
- Streamline Website Consultation
- Possible Rule Violation field check

August

- Board Meeting – General Counsel's Report – The District's Legal Counsel Briefed the Board on Pertinent Groundwater-Related Legislative Activities – Brian Sledge, Legal Counsel, Sledge Law Group, PLLC
- The Board of Directors adopted and approved the SLUWCD 2026 budget
- Andie Saxon completes summer contract labor

September

- Adopted Proposed 2025 Tax rate at .012974/\$100

Manager Meetings and Activities Included:

- Ogallala Commons RWH Tour
- Region O Meeting in Lubbock
- GMA1 Meeting
- Zoom call with PEDL
- Call with Brian Sledge to discuss PEDL
- Texas Water Foundation Rainmaker Dinner in Austin.
- Jake Wood presented Amber Blount, Gale McDonnell, and Michelle Cooper retirement updates – Wood Financial Review

October

- Board reviewed and approved Sandy Land UWCD Policy
- Work Began on Buildings as per Hail Insurance Claim

Manager Meetings and Activities Included:

- Plains School Career Day
- Plains EMS Facility Grand Opening
- Ag Sustainability Summit in Lubbock
- Texas Water Association in San Antonio
-

November

- Board reviewed and approved the Investment Policy, Professional Services, and List of Financial Institutions
- Discussion on Update to Airport Fuel System

Manager Meetings and Activities Included:

- GMA2 HPWD in Lubbock

December

- Approved Budget Line Item Adjustments
- Reviewed Scenario 23 for GMA2's Current Round Of Joint Planning
- Continued Discussion on Update to Airport Fuel System
- Sandy Land Board and staff enjoyed Christmas dinner at Funky Door in Lubbock.

Manager Meetings and Activities Included

- Representative Ken King Town Hall in Denver City
- Water Conservation Advisory Workgroup:
- End of year reporting begins for Sandy Land

**SANDY LAND UNDERGROUND
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**GOALS, MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND
PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

Goal 1.0 Provide for the most efficient use of groundwater within the District.

Management Objective

- (a) Annually conduct irrigation well efficiency tests for 100 percent of requests within 10 days of the property owner request.

Performance Standard

- (a1) Percentage of irrigation well efficiency test requests conducted annually within ten (10) days of request.

Current Performance Status

In 2025, property owners requested well efficiency tests from the District for **no** wells & pivots. One hundred percent (100%) of these wells/pivots were tested within 10 days.

Management Objective

- (b) There are currently 87 water wells in the District's water level monitoring network. The objective is to annually measure water levels in a majority of the district's monitor well network and replace wells as needed.

Performance Standard

- (b1) Percentage of monitor wells in monitor well network in which water levels were measured.

Current Performance Status

In 2025, 77 of the wells in the monitor well network (89%) were measured or attempted to be measured. *(Wells that have been dry for consecutive years were either removed or replaced in 2021).*

Goal 2.0 Control and prevent waste of groundwater within the District

Management Objective

- (a) Each year, the District will sample the water quality in at least one selected well(s) in order to monitor water quality trends and prevent the waste of groundwater by contamination. The District will also sample for water quality analysis on 100 percent of other wells which the owner requests to be sampled each year.

Performance Standard

- (a1) Number of wells sampled for water quality analysis by the District to monitor water quality trends, each year.

Current Performance Status

Out of 97 wells in the District's water quality network, **81** wells were sampled 2025 to monitor water quality trends and prevent the waste of groundwater by contamination.

Performance Standard

- (a2) Percent of wells sampled for water quality analysis by the District upon request each year.

Current Performance Status

In 2025, the District performed water quality and bacteria analysis tests on 100 percent of the **23** requested samples for the residents of Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District and for others outside the district.

Management Objective

- (b) Each year, the district will enforce district spacing and production limitation rules requiring the permitting of all new wells to prevent the waste of groundwater. The District will issue temporary permits for 100 percent of the application requests that meet the District's rigorous rules for spacing within 30 days of the receipt of the application.

Performance Standard

- (b1) Number of temporary permits issued by the District for new wells in compliance with spacing and production limits each year.

Current Performance Status

Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District has issued **171** well permit applications for fiscal year 2025.

Performance standard

- (b2) Percent of temporary permits issued to applications that meet the District's rigorous rules for spacing within 30 days of receipt of application.

Current Performance Status

Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District has issued 100% of permits within 30 days of receipt of application this year to date.

Management Objective

- (c) The District will publish articles on the district's activities and water conservation to encourage a reduction of water use. This information may be made available by direct mail, website or local newspaper.

Performance Standard

- (c1) Number of articles on water conservation presented by the District each year.

Current Performance Status

In 2025, a total of 8 articles were given to the newspapers of the county to publish, 91 articles or posts referencing conservation were placed on social media, and the website contains information for any interested parties.

Goal 3.0 Controlling and Preventing Subsidence

As noted in *Identification of the Vulnerability of the Major and Minor Aquifers of Texas to Subsidence with Regard to Groundwater Pumping* – TWDB Contract Number 1648302062, by LRE Water, (https://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/models/research/subsidence/Final_Subsidenc_e_Vulnerability_Report_final.pdf) results of the subsidence vulnerability study on the Ogallala Aquifer suggest that the northern part of the Ogallala has the greatest risk for future subsidence due to pumping. Data from wells in the central and southern portions of the aquifer, the location of the District is at lower risk with a medium subsidence risk.

The District measures water levels, collects water quality samples and collects rainfall data countywide, year round. Limited subsidence has been observed. The District will continue to observe well conditions during routine operations but declares that this goal is not applicable.

Goal 4.0 Addressing Conjunctive Surface Water Management Issues

The goal for addressing conjunctive surface water management issues is not applicable to the District due to the absence of any surface water features and hence, any surface water management issues.

Goal 5.0 Addressing Natural Resource Issues

Management Objective

Each year, the District will sample the water quality in selected well(s) in order to monitor water quality trends and prevent the waste of groundwater by contamination. The District will also sample for water quality analysis on 100 percent of other wells which the owner requests to be sampled each year.

Current Performance Status

The District tested 104 samples for water quality analysis to monitor water quality trends each year.

Current Performance Status

100 percent of the samples requested for water quality analysis were tested by the District.

Goal 6.0 Addressing Drought Conditions

As previously stated in the Drought Contingency Plan section on page 9 (of the District's Management Plan), the District is in a constant state of drought and recognizes the importance of rainfall. To review current state of drought, please refer to the US Drought Monitor: <https://waterdatafortexas.org/drought/drought-monitor?period=2024-08-20&areaType=state&areaName=tx>

Management Objective

- (a) The District will maintain a Rain Gauge Network across the county.

Performance Standard

- (a1) Maintain a network of rain gauges in the District. Publish rainfall data on the District's web site as collected.

Current Performance Status

District staff collected rainfall data on the district's 26 rain gauges and published on the district website.

Goal 7.0 Addressing Conservation of Groundwater within the District

Management Objective

- (a) As long as funding is available from TWDB, the District will participate in the TWDB Agricultural Conservation Loan program as a lender district and make loans available to all qualified applicants for the purchase of water conserving irrigation apparatus, up to the maximum amount of the loan commitment made to the District by TWDB.

Performance Standard

- (a1) Number of Agricultural Conservation loan applications received by the District from qualified applicants, each year.

Current Performance Status

For the fiscal year 2025, no (0) Agricultural Conservation loan applications were received from qualified applicants.

Performance Standard

- (a2) Number of Agricultural Conservation loans made by the District to qualified applicants, each year.

Current Performance Status

For the fiscal year 2025, no (0) Agricultural Conservation loans were made to qualified applicants.

Management Objective

- (b) Each year, the district will award scholarships to at least four (4) high school students graduating from a high school within the District to facilitate study of water conservation topics.

Performance Standard

- (b1) Number of scholarships awarded to students graduating high school within the District to facilitate study of water conservation topics, each year.

Current Performance Status

In May of 2025, four (4) scholarships were awarded to seniors within Yoakum County and two (2) scholarships were awarded to local students who were active in 4-H Water Ambassador Program.

Management Objective

- (c) Each year, the District will provide educational material to specific teachers at each school within the District.

Performance Standard

- (c1) Number of teacher/campuses who were provided educational materials

Current Performance Status

Seven (7) campuses within the District – 3 (three) in Plains, 4 (four) in Denver City. Plains and Denver City were provided with educational material from the District’s Education Coordinator, including access to online and hard copy resources from Texas Farm Bureau, Project WET, Take Care of Texas, and TWDB Major Rivers curriculum.

Management Objective

- (d) each year the District will promote water conservation through presentations given within the District

Performance Standard

- (d1) Number of presentations given during the fiscal year.

Current Performance Status

Twenty (20) presentations were given during fiscal year 2025 to the public, schools, libraries and other civic organizations.

Goal 8.0 Addressing Recharge Enhancement

A review of past work conducted by others indicates this goal is not appropriate at present; therefore, this goal is not applicable.

Goal 9.0 Addressing Rainwater Harvesting

Management Objective

- (a) The District will conduct an educational program for this conservation strategy at least once a year.

Performance Standard

- (a1) Number of educational programs given on rainwater harvesting.

Current Performance Status

The District held its annual Rainwater Harvesting workshop on April 14, 2025. Ten (10) rain barrels and rain chains were presented to workshop participants (1 per household). Four (4) Rainwater Harvesting presentations were included in calendar presentations to 4th and 5th grade students in Plains and Denver City elementary schools.

Goal 10.0 Addressing Precipitation Enhancement

While the District did participate in this program previous, in 2015 the Board determined that it was not cost effective. Therefore, this goal is not applicable.

Goal 11.0 Addressing Brush Control

Existing programs administered by the USDA-NRCS are sufficient for addressing this goal. The Board does not believe that this activity is cost-effective and applicable for the District at this time; therefore, this goal is not applicable.

Goal 12.0 Addressing the Desired Future Conditions (DFC)

For the purposes of this management plan, the District proposes to evaluate the cumulative drawdown in 5-year increments, which will gage our attainment of the DFC in shorter increments and allow us to make changes accordingly.

Management Objective

- (a) The District will calculate the average annual drawdown using the results of annual water level measurements each winter.

Performance Standard

- (a1) Present the average drawdown results to the Board of Directors each year.

Current Performance Status

(a1) The District staff presented the drawdown results to the Board of Directors during the annual report presentation in the February 2025 monthly board meeting.

(a2) The average drawdown results will be made available to the public each year.

Current Performance Status

(a2) The drawdown results are published in the Districts Annual Report which is available to the public. The results are also published on the district's website.

Management Objective

(b) The District will calculate the average cumulative drawdown in 5-year increments.

Performance Standard

(b1) Present the cumulative average drawdown results to the Board of Directors each year.

Current Performance Status

(b1) The cumulative average drawdown results were presented to the Board of Directors during the annual report review at the February 2025 monthly board meeting.

(b2) The cumulative average drawdown results will be made available to the public each year.

Current Performance Status

(b2) The cumulative average drawdown results are available to the public through the district's website.

**SANDY LAND UNDERGROUND
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY TESTS
WATER LEVEL MONITORING NETWORK
DEPLETION PROGRAM**

IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY TESTS, WATER LEVEL MONITORING NETWORK & THE DEPLETION PROGRAM

Reference Goal 1.0 (a) (b) (c)

One of the goals of Sandy Land UWCD is to provide the most efficient use of groundwater within the District. One of the ways this is accomplished is by conducting efficiency tests on irrigation wells at the owner's request. District personnel endeavor to perform these tests in a timely manner so that the owner may have the needed information as soon as possible to make important irrigation decisions.

Sandy Land UWCD took the first water level measurements in 1991 and has been doing so on a yearly basis ever since. Approximately 90 wells are in the Water Level Monitoring Network and these are measured each year in January and/or February to provide information about the Ogallala Aquifer in Yoakum County. Measurements in the network are generally taken in the winter months because water levels are more stable at that time than during the summer months when pumping is heavier. Irrigation wells are normally used in the monitoring program as they afford ease of entry for measurements. The measurements from these wells are compared with previous year's measurements to determine any changes in water levels.

District personnel use this well depth data to construct hydrographs and depletion maps which are given to an Internal Revenue Service agent for review. After approval, these are used to determine the amount of decline allowable on federal income tax returns.

All landowners in Yoakum County who utilize groundwater may claim a cost-in-water income tax depletion allowance on their federal income tax return. Landowners must have an established value in their water and a decline of the water table for the year before the claim may be made.

Based on the interest from landowners over the last few years it appears the benefits have been exceptionally good. Request forms may be picked up at the district office in Plains. Requests to participate in the Depletion Program must include:

- name;
- address;
- complete legal description of the tract of land on which a claim is to be filed;
- date of acquisition; and
- the number of acres in the tract.

Sandy Land UWCD currently has approximately 93 participants and approximately 92,000 acres of land enrolled in the Depletion Program.

Below is an allocation of time spent on Irrigation Efficiency Tests, Water Level Monitoring Network and Depletion Program.

Activity	Total Hours
Perform Irrigation Efficiency Tests at Producers Request	0
Measure Water Levels	77
Draw Decline Map & Assign Declines	30
Update Hydrograph Spreadsheet & Charts, Prepare Hydrograph Book	24
Update, Prepare and Mail Depletion Letters	24
TOTAL	155

Well Depth Measurement Sheet for 2025 Measurements

Well Depth Measurement Sheet			
Comparing 2024 and 2025 Measurements			
Well Number	Section Number	2024 Measurement	2025 Measurement
24-33-801	41	140.0	140.2
24-41-201	100	135.1	137.2
24-41-502	183	172.6	174.3
24-41-602	187	116.8	117.21
24-41-802	306	79.6	80.2
24-41-804	305	88.4	87.5
24-42-401	128	131.2	130.94
24-42-801	252	156.7	156.50
24-43-403	196	89.0	90.22
24-43-501	146	115.4	115.98
24-43-801	260	41.5	37.95
24-44-101	10, Block K	148.2	143.09
24-49-101	344	54.7	55.20
24-49-201	365	57.4	57.90
24-49-203	397	106.3	102.90
24-49-303	368	34.5	35.40
24-49-401	418	156.0	155.30
24-49-702	518	181.0	183.30
24-49-802	540		163.20
24-49-903	514	147.2	149.90
24-50-203	371	103.8	104.12
24-50-204	312	155.6	157.41

Well Number	Section Number	2024	2025
24-50-402	425	115.0	116.70
24-50-501	440	49.8	49.60
24-50-801	510	90.0	90.50
24-51-101	317	128.3	125.60
24-51-201	380	82.9	82.83
24-51-602	489	127.2	129.95
24-51-701	504		115.72
24-52-701	40, Block K	109.1	108.02
24-57-101	581		156.90
24-57-301	576	121.6	122.10
24-57-305	640	93.5	94.10
24-57-501	642	83.5	94.10
24-57-502	707	61.6	62.50
24-57-601	734	91.4	95.50
24-57-702	772	113.9	108.0
24-57-802	770	91.5	92.0
24-57-901	797		106.4
24-58-101	607	113.8	114.2
24-58-201	610	106.2	106.6
24-58-401	637		98.6
24-58-601	696	103.9	104.1
24-58-801	764	72.4	71.5
24-58-901	761		
24-59-101	566	98.2	99.01
24-59-201	564	65.9	66.42

Well Number	Section Number	2024	2025
24-59-301	627	141.4	139.60
24-59-801	757		
24-60-402	686		97.70
24-60-701	752	54.5	55.90
25-48-301	121		142.20
25-48-601	165	123.0	124.50
25-48-801	299	63.5	62.80
25-56-201	358	113.9	114.90
25-56-502	414		152.70
25-56-902	522	153.8	
25-56-901	521		149.70
25-64-301	597	152.6	152.00
25-64-502	650	132.6	133.60
25-64-801	777	156.7	154.50
25-64-901	789		153.90
26-08-202	852		174.20
27-01-202	835	128.9	130.70
27-01-301	895		
27-01-302	862		
27-02-101	864	67.5	68.80
27-02-303	825	71.0	71.60
27-03-101	886	130.2	140.25
27-03-202	819	156.6	
27-04-101	Block 19, C34, PSL	151.9	150.30
24-44-701	Block 20, K, PSL		30.32

Well Number	Section Number	2024	2025
22-42-504	154	92.3	91.10
25-48-921	241	73.1	74.00
26-08-317	854	222.9	222.80
24-50-605	431	88.9	
24-57-112	645		
24-58-508	700	96.7	97.00
27-02-212	891	99.8	100.00
24-50-924	549		
24-57-735	791		
25-48-329	106		139.60
24-41-535	160	103.0	103.10
24-41-202	101	145.8	155.40
24-42-702	248		68.80
25-64-604	662	145.5	146.20
27-01-102	902	195.4	196.10

**SANDY LAND UNDERGROUND
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

WATER QUALITY NETWORK

SANDY LAND UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT WATER QUALITY NETWORK

Reference Goal 2.0 (a)

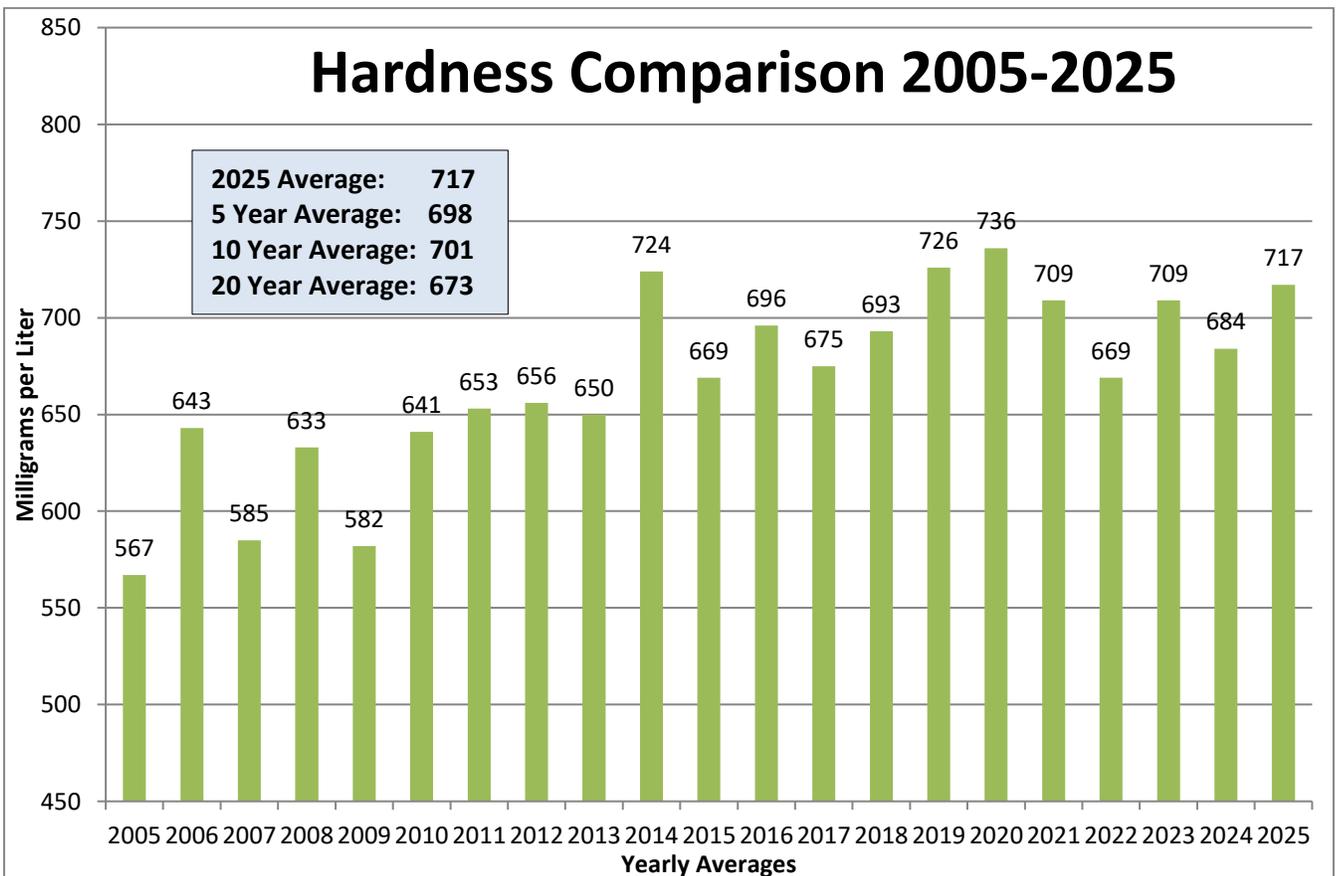
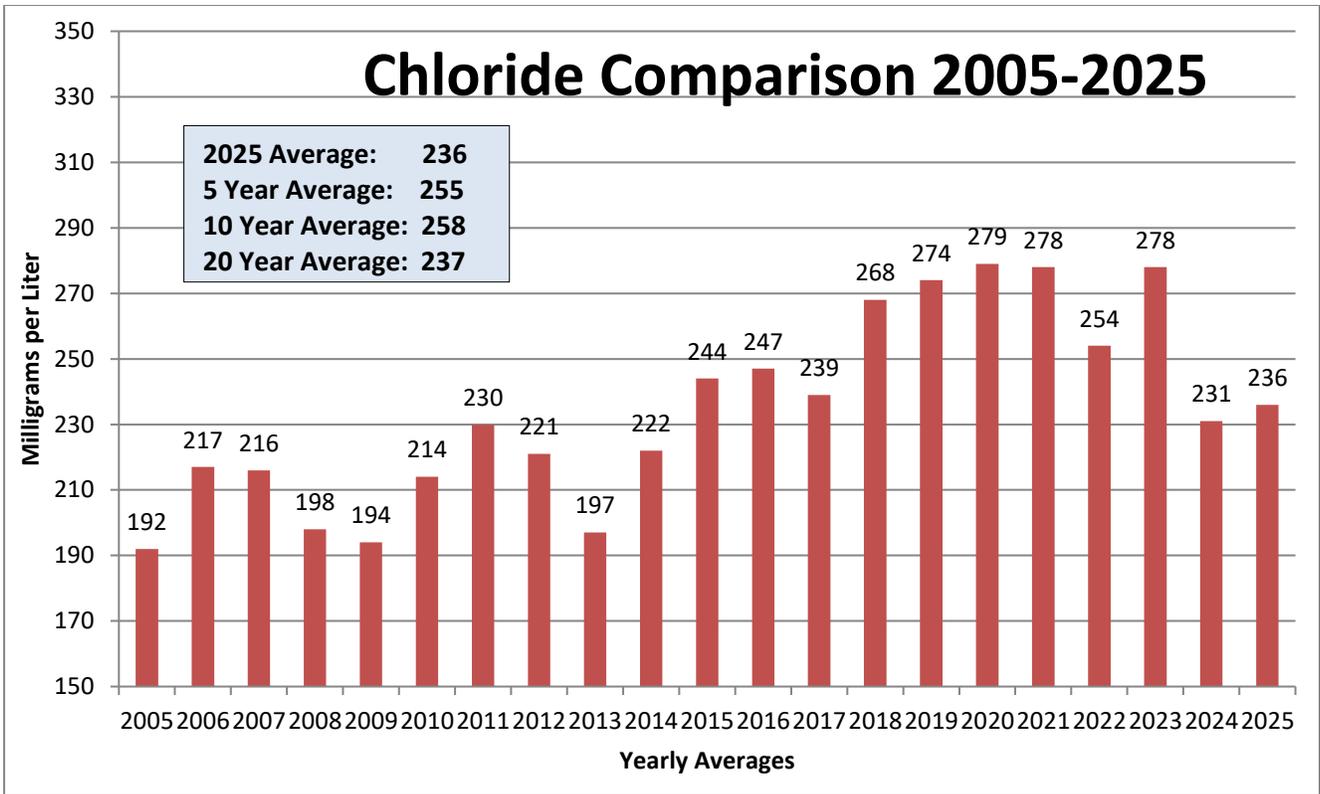
Sandy Land UWCD has completed 35 years of study of rural water in Yoakum County. The district performs water quality analysis on a majority of the 97 wells in the network yearly and has data on the majority of these wells since the districts creation in 1990. Sandy Land UWCD believes it is important to monitor the trends of these wells in order to detect changes in water quality within the Ogallala Aquifer. By detecting changes in the groundwater quality, the District would ideally be able to identify the source that caused the change and work to eliminate it. We at Sandy Land UWCD feel it is important, as a single county water district, to continue to work to protect the groundwater in our area.

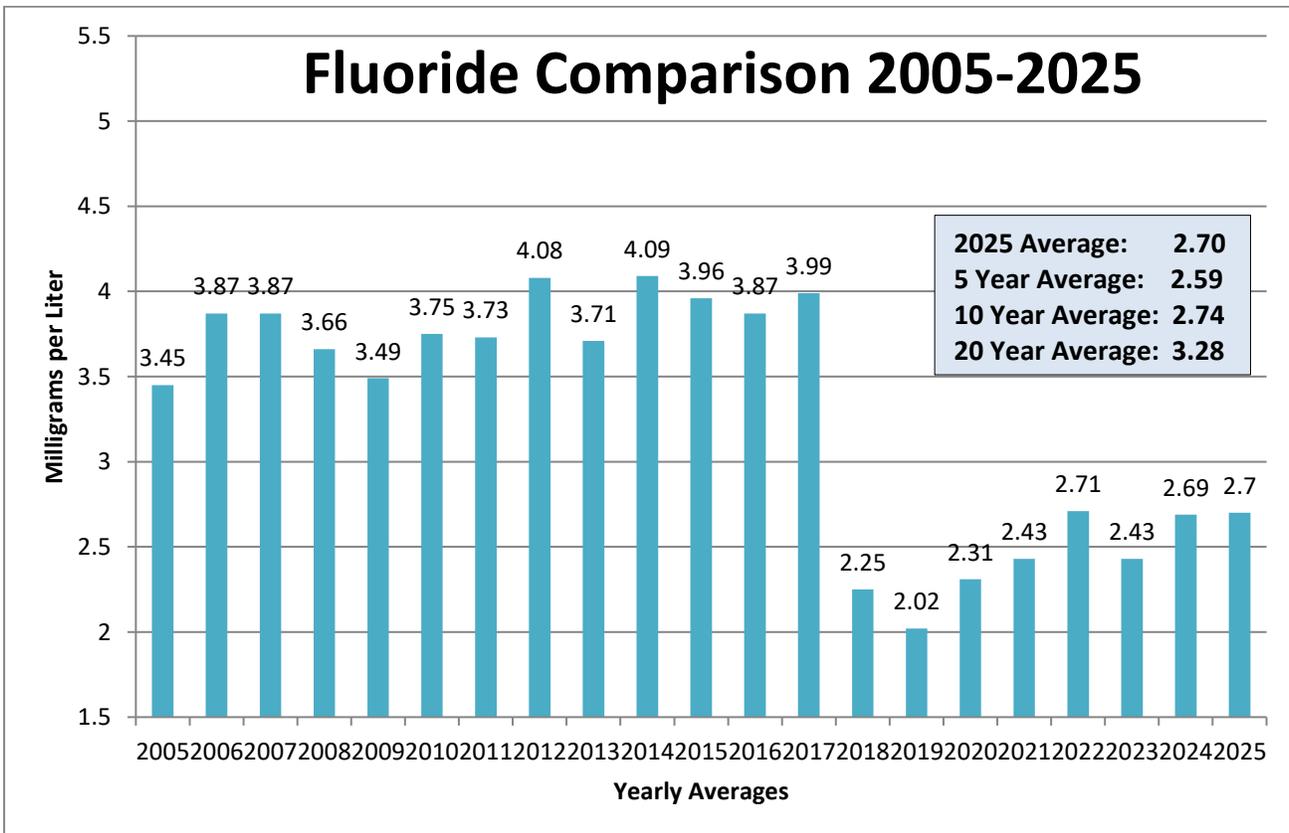
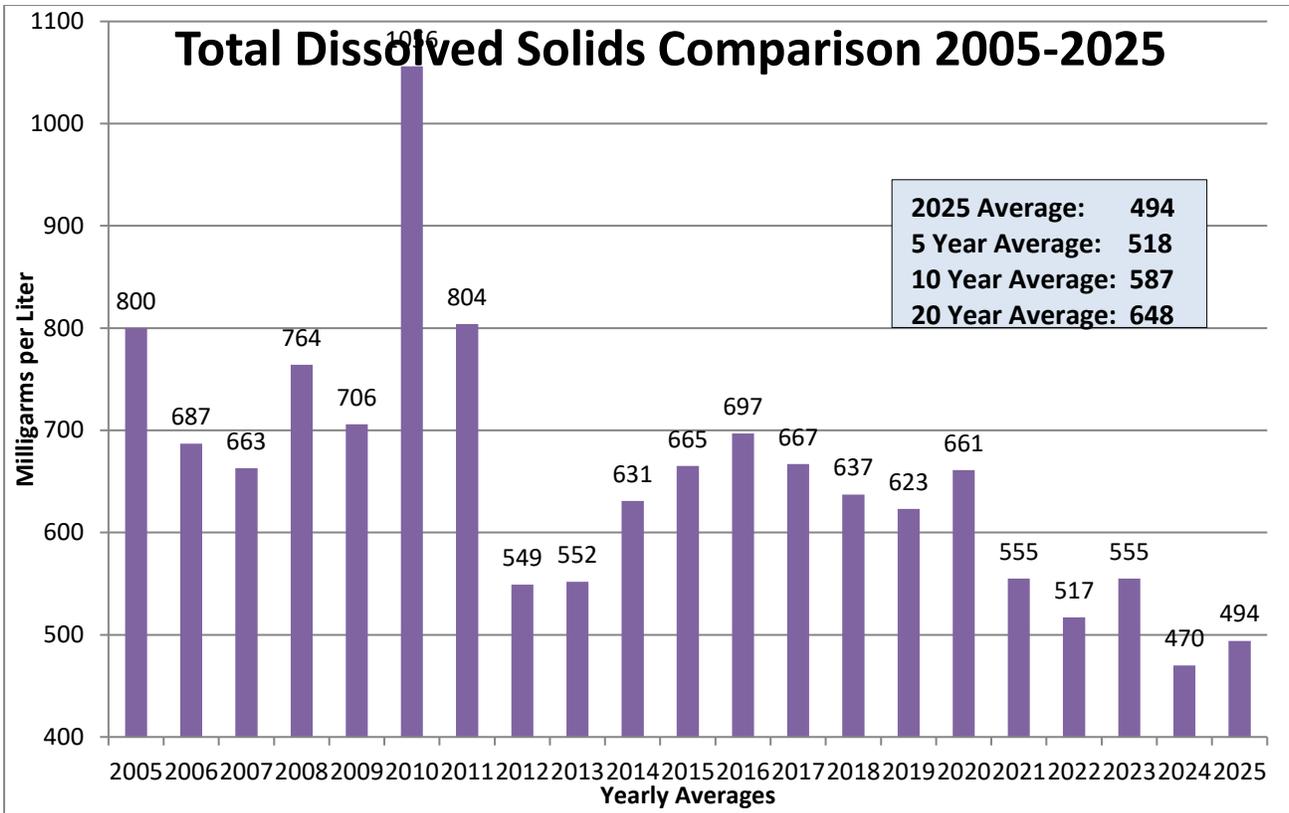
Sandy Land tests for a total of seven components or properties each year. These consist of chloride, hardness, total dissolved solids, fluoride, iron, nitrate, and pH for each well. During the testing process in 2012, we decided that the alkalinity and specific conductivity tests were not pertinent to determining the district's water quality. For this reason, we decided to no longer keep a record of these levels. Bacteria test analysis is not routinely done on network wells but can be done upon request. Residents of the District may request water quality tests at any time and we will perform these tests in a timely manner. Within each property, we are able to detect variances from year to year. Since the test wells are scattered throughout Yoakum County, we are able to tell the difference in quality in different regions of our county.

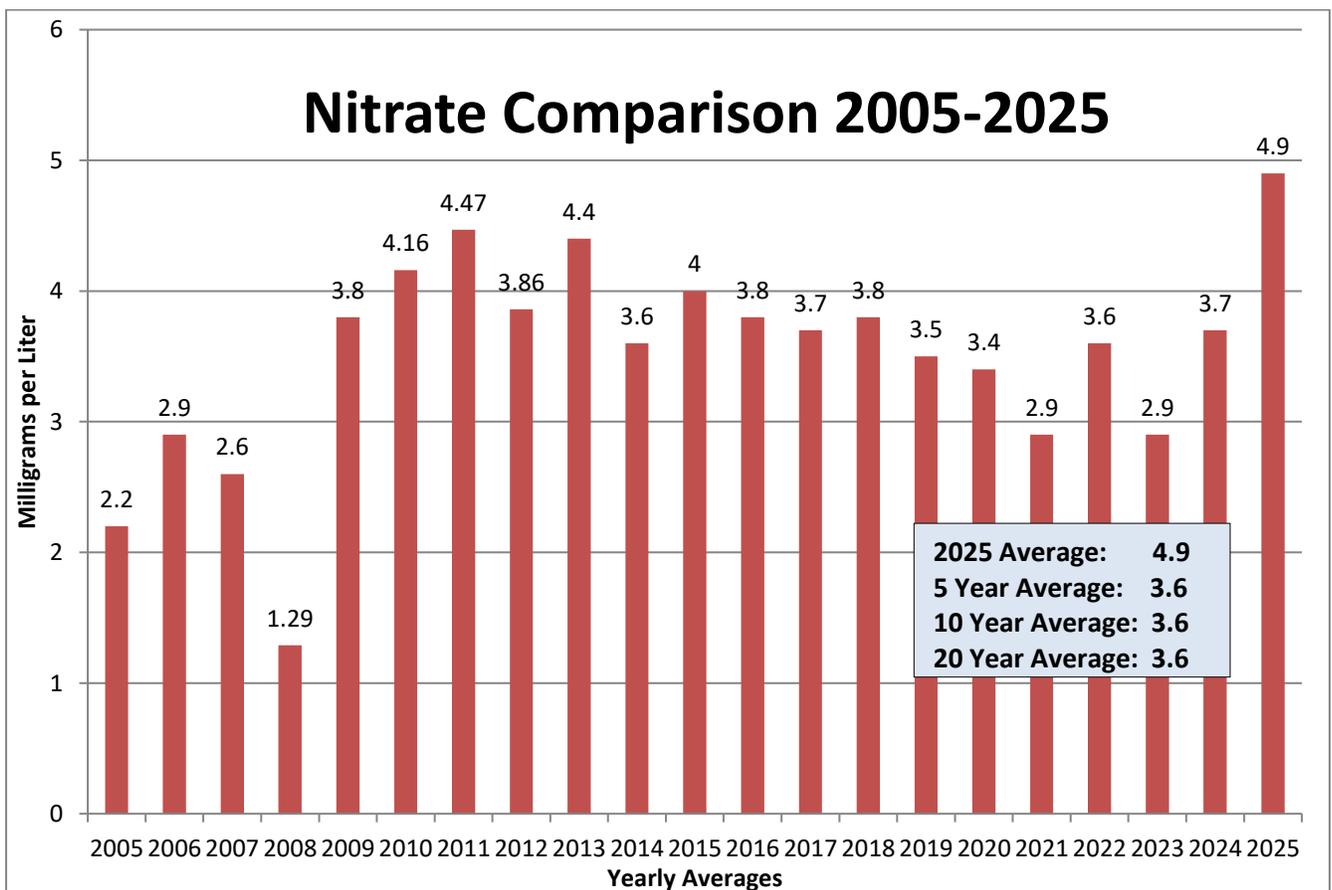
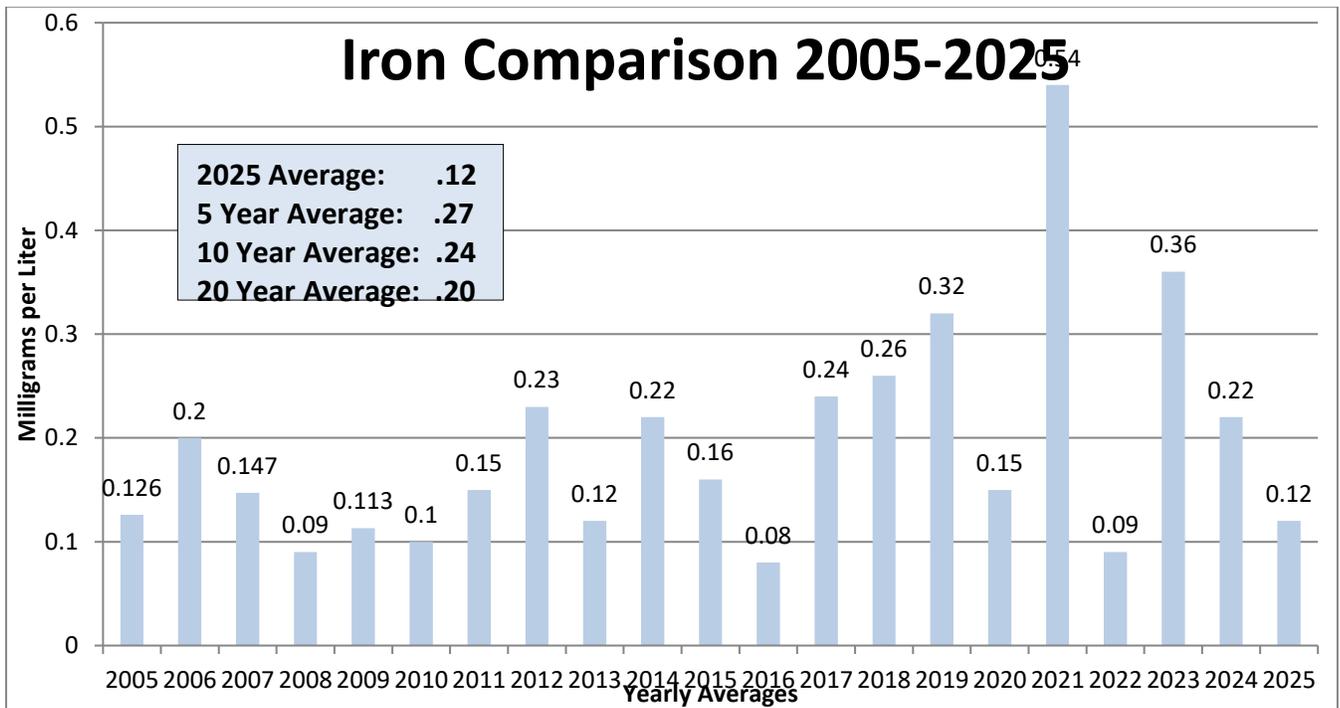
The chart below shows the number of well samples, average, maximum, and minimum values for 2025, as well as the current drinking standards, if available.

2025 Water Quality Data

2025	Chloride	Hardness	Total Dissolved Solids	Fluoride	Iron	Nitrate	pH
Average	236	717	494	2.70	.12	4.9	7.42
No. of Wells Tested	81	81	81	81	81	81	81
Minimum	35	90	127	0	0	0.23	6.67
Maximum	839	1585	934	3.91	1.93	18	8.81
Drinking Water Standard	Not to Exceed 300 mg/L	N/A	N/A	Not to Exceed 4.0 mg/L	Not to Exceed 0.3 mg/L	Not to Exceed 10 mg/L	N/A







Below is an allocation of time spent on Water Quality Program.

Activity	Hours per Sample	Number of Samples	Total Hours
Perform Water Quality Tests by Requests	1	23	23
Water Quality Network - Retrieve Samples and Perform Tests	1	81	81
Update Records, Notification to Residents	.50	104	52
		TOTAL	156

**SANDY LAND UNDERGROUND
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

WELL PERMITTING AND REGISTRATION

WELL PERMITTING AND REGISTRATION

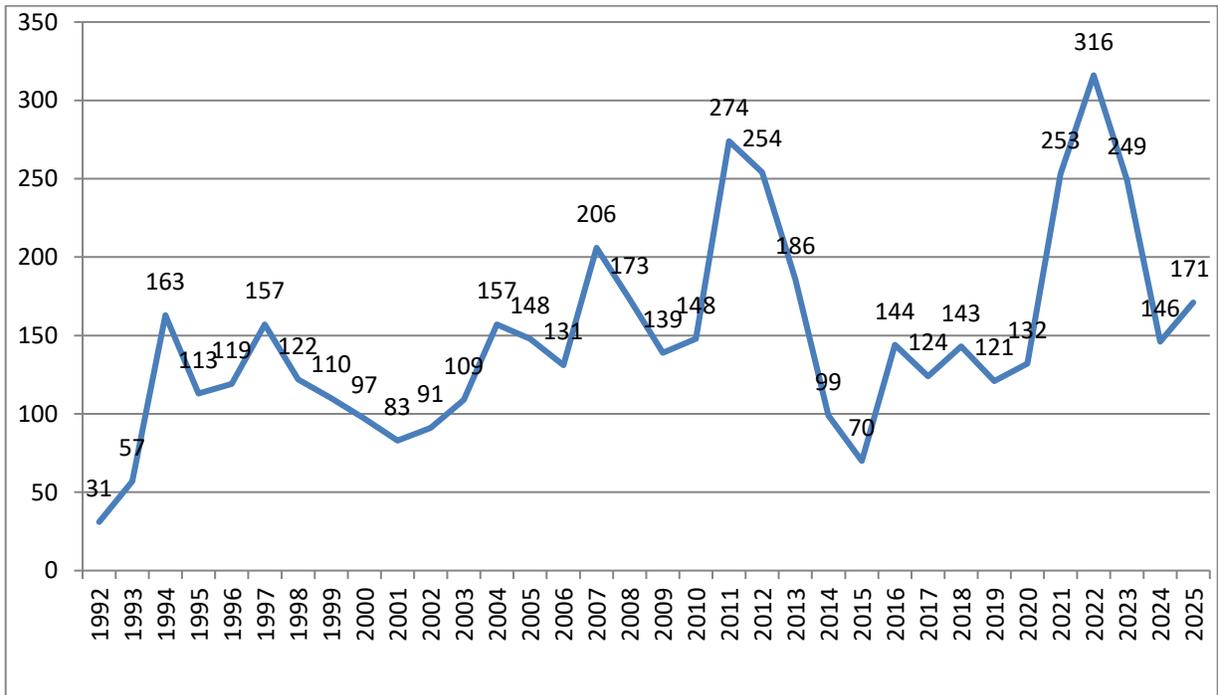
Reference Goal 2.0 (b)

Each year, the District enforces spacing and production limitation rules requiring the permitting of all new wells to prevent the waste of groundwater. The District issues temporary permits for requests that meet the District's rules for spacing. Production limits are also set in an attempt to prevent misuse of our groundwater supply.

During 2025, one hundred and seventy-one (**171**) permits have been issued to local producers. Of these permits, one hundred and thirty-seven (137) have been returned with well registration logs from the driller or have been voided in view of the fact that the well was not drilled, or the well log has been retrieved from the internet. Of the remaining thirty-four (34) permits not returned, seventeen (17) are still within the 90-day drilling period and are not due at this time. This leaves seventeen (17) permits (or 9.9%) not returned within the allotted time period.

Raymond Brady was hired in October of 2005 as a contract hydrologist to enter the well log data into a well log database program. From this information, he has been able to prepare new maps for the district. He presented saturated thickness maps, base of the aquifer maps and prepared our decline map for the depletion program.

The following graph denotes the number of permits issued over the past 34 years, a total of 5,036.



Below is an allocation of time spent on the Well Permitting and Registration Program.

Activity	Hours	Number of Applications/Logs	Hours
Preparing Permit and Well Log for Applicant, Refunding Deposit	.50	171	85.5
Entering Permit Information into Computer	.50	171	85.5
		TOTAL	171

**SANDY LAND UNDERGROUND
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

AGRICULTURAL LOAN PROGRAM

AGRICULTURAL LOAN PROGRAM

Reference Goal 3.0 (a)

In 1989, the 71st Texas Legislature implemented the Agricultural Water Conservation Program to allow the Texas Water Development Board to loan money to water conservation districts. This money was to be used by local districts to make loans to producers within their respective districts for improved efficiency of irrigation systems.

In the February of 1992, the Texas Water Development Board approved their initial loan to Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District in the amount of \$500,000 to provide financing for the purchase of approved agricultural water conservation equipment, including center pivot irrigation systems, sprinkler package conversions, and drip irrigation equipment. Since that time, the Texas Water Development Board has made **24** loans to Sandy Land for over **\$19,025,000.00**.

Since 1992, Sandy Land UWCD has loaned money for **414** new and used water conserving center pivot irrigation systems, for a total of **\$12,677,310.07** to Yoakum County producers. The District has also loaned money for four sprinkler packages in the intervening years. Sandy Land UWCD has never had a default on a loan.

Below is an allocation of time spent on the Ag Loan Program.

Activity	Hours per Loan	Number of Loans	Total Hours
Processing Existing Loans (Preparing Invoices, Receipts, UCC Filings, etc.)	1.00	12	12
Maintaining Database	1.00	12	12
Maintaining Insurance	.50	12	6
Inspection	.50	12	6
		TOTAL	36

**SANDY LAND UNDERGROUND
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

SCHOLARSHIP AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

SCHOLARSHIP AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

Reference Goal 3.0 (b) (c)

Not only is Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District concerned with the technical side of water issues, education has also become a top priority. With the knowledge that the Ogallala Aquifer has been depleting over the last few years, Sandy Land believes that it has an obligation to help educate the residents of Yoakum County in water conservation. This is being done in several ways, including water conservation booklets and presentations to our school age children, a scholarship essay contest for our high school senior students, newspaper articles, and program presentations at various events and conferences for everyone in the District.

Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District began awarding scholarships to Plains and Denver City high school seniors in 1991. These scholarships are based on essays written by these students on the topic of the current water situation in our area and proposals for future conservation of that water. In the beginning, only two scholarships were awarded every year, one to a Plains student and one to a Denver City student. In 1996, the Board of Director's decided to give two scholarships to each school (a minimum of four (4) total for the district based on applications received). Over the past **35** years, Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District has awarded **\$141,250** to the students of Yoakum County through these scholarships.

Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District has participated for many years in the Conservation Jamboree, a presentation of the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Yoakum County. This Jamboree, which targets all the fifth-grade students in the county, presents different learning stations that highlight many aspects of conservation. District personnel from Sandy Land present a water conservation activity in addition to presenting the mobile education trailer models to the fifth grade. Sandy Land's education coordinator presented teacher gifts and resources to elementary science/classroom teachers at the beginning of the school year. Teacher boxes contained water saving tools, lab equipment, and a list of resources available to teachers including videos, lesson plans, curriculum resources, etc. from the water district. Additionally, the District Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors assist in presenting at the Plains ISD Career Fair when held for grades PK – 12 sharing information on water conservation and water properties.

Sandy Land UWCD frequently has articles published in the county newspaper – Denver City Press. These articles are used to inform the residents of upcoming events, public notices, deadlines for conservation programs and scholarship essays, and other services that are provided by the District.

Various members of the District staff have been very busy this year both attending and speaking at conferences and meetings.

Sandy Land UWCD through the education co-op with Llano Estacado and South Plains groundwater districts has sponsored the Texas 4H Water Ambassador program and helped to facilitate local youth who participate in the statewide program. The first group of water ambassadors from Yoakum County joined the program in 2018. Youth from Yoakum County continue to be actively involved in the program with two former local ambassadors working for Texas A&M AgriLife in College Station while attending TAMU. Currently the education coordinator serves on the state advisory board for Texas 4H Water Ambassadors program.

Below is a listing of scholarship winners by year.

1991

Plains – Dan Rushing
Denver City – J.J. Kleam

1992

Plains – Ashlee Winn
Denver City – Tie
Evertt Harrel
Dallas Stevens

1993

Plains – Gerald Goodman
Denver City – Lysette Silvas1994

1994

Plains – Gabriel Flores
Denver City – Shailaja Marion

1995

Plains – Ken McAdams
Denver City – Jamie Huber

1996

Plains – Valerie Blair
Kelly McGinty
Denver City – Joshua Smith
Jonathan Mock

1997

Plains – Marte Pierce
Jacob Lester
Denver City – Amy Risley
Bud Sanders

1998

Plains – Yvonne Gonzales
Shawna Box
Denver City – Elvia Garcia
Justin Mock

1999

Plains – Steven Bunch
Mike Bell
Denver City – Kristen Long
Traci Tucker

2000

Plains – Jason Swann
Shaunda Eady
Denver City – Glinnis Wolf
Nichole Newsom

2001

Plains – Taylor Gray
Armando Luna
Jessica Long
Denver City – Jennifer Arnold

2002

Plains-Chris Hansen
Jeffrey Lollar
Denver City- Kyndal Eady
Jarryn Mock

2003

Plains- Ryan Swann
Kelly Bowers
Denver City- Jeremy Thompson
Nicole Gutierrez

2004

Plains- Brandon Davis
Lashonda Diamond
Denver City- Abby Droogsma
Leah Gibson

2005

Plains-Caylon Garnett
Payton Bean
Denver City-Chelsey-Anne Bearden
Torre Stewart

2006

Plains- Blake O'Quinn
Benjamin Hays
Denver City- Melina Terrazas
Lizette Bayona

2007

Plains-Clarissa Zorilla
Jose Luis Gallegos
Denver City- Chelsea Stroud
Brandon King

2008

Plains- Lauren Davis
Maria M. Andazola
Denver City- Mallory Milligan
Jacqueline Martinez

2009

Plains- Tie for 1st (\$500 each)
Bené Baum and Yesenia Loya
Denver City- Javier Arzate
Lindsey Hudgins

2010

Plains- Natalie Haynes
Emilia Gallegos
Denver City- Amanda Guzman
Katelyn Flores

2011

Plains-Hannah Crump
Shaylin Taylor
Denver City-Brittani Weir
Celia Broadwater

2012 Plains – Denver City –	Jordan Martin Whitney Davis Garrett English Mariza Santillan	2021 Plains - Denver City -	Madalyn Franklin Macy Downs Roberto Hurtado Alexis Ivy
2013 Plains - Denver City -	Merrit Crump Matthew Ramos Kathryn English Jaci Zingerman	2022 Plains Denver City	Maylin Lozano Melissa Soto Miguel Framo Kamree Horton
2014 Plains – Denver City –	Bailey Winn Taylor Michaleson Rowdy Brumley Kaleb King	2023 Plains Denver City	Sebastian Brown Mallory Bunch Madison Peters Jose Antonio Franco
2015 Plains - Denver City -	Riley Earnest William Boyles Angel Loya Hadel Almubiadin	2024 Plains - Denver City -	Andie Saxon Gilbert Ortiz Jesse Calk Madison Woosley
2016 Plains - Denver City -	Brittany Michaleson Madison Davis Bailee Burkett Katy Patterson	2025 Plains - Denver City -	Madeline Bunch Paola Gallegos Johanna Portillo Leslye Elam
2017 Plains - Denver City -	Sage Lovelace Leigha Willians Jacee Billings Kolt Dierschke		
2018 Plains - Denver City -	Kennedy Earnest Sydney Downs Jaryd Ivy Cheyenne Beach		
2019 Plains - Denver City -	Breann Griffiths Mark Hartman Kaitlin Stephens Kenzi Stephens		
2020 Plains - Denver City -	Neely Cross Allie Williams Riley Calk Hadlea Stine		

Below is an allocation of time spent on the Scholarship and Education Program.

Activity	Hours
Scholarship Program	25
Conservation Jamboree	24
Newsletter Publications and Newspaper Articles	16
Public Programs and Presentations	100
Total Hours	165