TEXAS ALLIANCE OF GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS

2026 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort • San Antonio, TX • September 1–3

FINAL AGENDA

Day 1 – Tuesday, September 1

9:00am – 11:00am **TAGD Annual Membership Meeting** (Open to TAGD Members Only)

1:00pm – 3:00pm **General Session**

Independence 4/5

Welcome Address
Adam Foster**,** Executive Director, TAGD

Keynote Address — Groundwater in Texas: Challenges, Choices, and the Road Ahead
Bridget Scanlon, Research Professor, Bureau of Economic Geology

Panel – Land Conservation for Groundwater Protection
Moderator: Lori Olson, Executive Director, Texas Land Trust Council
Lily Abromeit, Tomorrow's Water Coordinator, Playa Lakes Joint Venture
Phillip Covington, Program Manager, City of San Antonio - Edwards Aquifer Protection Program
Kevin Webb, Commissioner, Comal County

Tiered Approach to Cost-Effective Water Resource Assessments for AI Infrastructure
Danny Kingham, Principal Hydrogeologist, GSI Environmental Inc.

3:00pm – 3:30pm **Afternoon Break** (Sponsored by EcoKai, Edwards Aquifer Authority, and McElroy Sullivan Miller & Weber LLP)

3:30pm – 5:30pm **General Session**

Independence 4/5

Groundwater Availability Certification Guidance Manual
Jill Garcia, Assistant General Manager, Upper Trinity GCD

Panel – Groundwater Management Models: Considerations for Getting the Most Return on the Investment
Moderator: Steve Young, Principal Geoscientist, INTERA, Inc.
Daryn Hardwick, Manager of Groundwater Modeling, Texas Water Development Board
Joe Hughes, Principal Hydrologist, INTERA, Inc.
Aarin Teague, General Manager, Evergreen UWCD
Gary Westbrook, General Manager, Post Oak Savannah GCD

Land Application of Biosolid, Livestock, and Drilling Wastes to US Farmland: A Potential Pathway for the Redistribution of Contaminants in the Environment
Jason Masoner, Hydrologist, USGS

5:30pm – 6:30pm **Welcome Reception** (Sponsored by Brazoria County GCD)

Day 2 – Wednesday, September 2

7:30am – 8:00am **Breakfast** (Sponsored by PLG Potomac Law and Upper Trinity GCD)

8:00am – 10:00am **General Session**

Independence 4/5

Legislative Interim Update
Vanessa Puig-Williams, Senior Director, EDF

Panel - Curtailment Rules: The Next Frontier of Groundwater
Moderator: Leah Martinsson, Independent Water Policy Consultant
Sharlene Leurig, Texas Regional Director, WestWater Research
Wade Oliver, Vice President, EKI Environment & Water
Michael Redman, Assistant General Manager, Post Oak Savannah GCD
Mitchell Sodek, General Manager, Central Texas GCD

Navigating the Mandates of HB 2078
Mike Keester, Principal, KT Groundwater

10:00am – 10:30am **Morning Coffee Break** (Sponsored by KT Groundwater)

10:30am – 12:00pm **General Session**

Independence 4/5

Keynote Address (Sponsored by Glasscock GCD)
Chet Garner, Creator, Executive Producer, Writer, and Host of *The Daytripper*

Panel – Legislator Perspectives
Moderator: Adam Foster, Executive Director, TAGD
Representative Daniel Alders, District 6, Texas House of Representatives
Tracy O. King, Former Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee and Current Senior Advisor to Speaker Dustin Burrows
Representative Erin Zwiener, District 45, Texas House of Representatives

12:00pm – 1:30pm **Luncheon** (Sponsored by North Texas GCD)

1:30pm – 3:00pm **Breakout Sessions**

Independence 1-3

Track A – Groundwater Management 101

Groundwater 101
London Darce, Recorder Well Program Team Lead, Texas Water Development Board

Role of Groundwater Models in Joint Planning
Jevon Harding, Groundwater Modeler, Texas Water Development Board

Ch. 36 Basics – Export Permits
Bobby Salehi, Attorney, Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody

Independence 4/5

Track B – Groundwater Data

Groundwater Chemistry Facies Interpretation – Middle Trinity GCD Case Study
Alysa Sule, Hydrogeologist, Freese and Nichols, Inc.

Modernizing the Flow: Streamlining Groundwater Data Submission to the TWDB
Charles Dunning, Vice President of Hydrology, WellIntel Inc.

Improving Groundwater Availability Assessments Using Petrophysical Analysis of Geophysical Logs in Clastic Bedrock Aquifers
James Roberts, Principal Hydrogeologist, Spheros Environmental

Day 2 – Wednesday, September 2 (continued)

1:30pm – 3:00pm **Breakout Sessions**

Independence 6-8 **Track C – Local Groundwater Modeling**

When the Stakes Are High: Groundwater Modeling to Support Water Rights and Regulatory Decisions
Lauren Foster, Water Program Lead, Neptune and Company, Inc.

Regional Frameworks, Advanced Solutions: Leveraging Local Groundwater Models for Texas Aquifer Management
Isaac Johnson, Hydrogeologist, Advanced Groundwater Solutions

From Regional GAM to Local Dashboard: Integrated Groundwater Impact Assessment
Micaela Pedrazas, Senior Hydrogeologist, KT Groundwater

3:00pm – 3:30pm **Afternoon Break** (Sponsored by EcoKai, Edwards Aquifer Authority, and McElroy Sullivan Miller & Weber LLP)

3:30pm – 5:00pm **Breakout Sessions**

Independence 1-3 **Track A – Groundwater Management 101 (continued, sessions are not repeated)**

Improving Groundwater Well Design Through Enhanced Formation Characterization
Stefan Stamoulis, President and Principal, Hydrogeologic-Environmental Testing

Groundwater and Surface Water Rights in Texas
Chris Hamilton, Environmental Manager, Westwood Professional Services

The Quality You Deserve: Brackish Well Profiling
Kory Talcott, Geologist, INTERA, Inc.

Independence 4/5 **Track B – Remote Sensing for GCDS: Fundamentals and Practical Interpretation**

Remote Sensing 101, Fundamentals
Guillermo Martinez, Senior Hydrologist, INTERA, Inc.

Remote Sensing 101, InSAR
Danielle Smilovsky, Geospatial Research Scientist, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Remote Sensing 101, Electromagnetic Methods
Jeffrey Paine, Research Professor, Bureau of Economic Geology

Independence 6-8 **Track C – Protecting Groundwater in an Evolving Energy Landscape**

Pressure Finds a Path: The Costly Migration of Injection Fluids Through Aging Wellbores
Julie Range, Policy Manager, Commission Shift

HB 4256 Pecos County Well Plugging Update
Raymond Straub, Geoscientist, Straub Corporation

Direct Lithium Extraction
Roberta Russell, Senior Geologist, GSI Environmental Inc.

5:00pm – 6:00pm **Happy Hour Reception** (Sponsored by INTERA, Inc.)

8:00pm – 10:00pm **Desserts & Drinks Networking Event** (Sponsored by North Plains GCD)

Day 3 – Thursday, September 3

7:30am – 8:00am **Breakfast** (Sponsored by PLG Potomac Law and Upper Trinity GCD)

8:00am – 10:00am **General Session**

Independence 4/5

Panel – Aquifer Storage and Recovery: The Texas Experience
Moderator: Neil Deeds, Executive Vice President, INTERA, Inc.
Lorrie Council, UIC Policy Director, Ground Water Protection Council
Andrea Croskrey, ASR Discipline Lead, Texas Water Development Board
David Smith, Principal, INTERA, Inc.
Blake Neffendorf, Assistant Director of Water Utilities, City of Kyle

Panel – Can DFCs be Both Sustainable and Designed to Meet the State's Needs?
Moderator: Stacey Reese, Founding Attorney, Stacey Reese Law
Meredith Allen, GMA 7 Coordinator, Kimble County GCD
James Beach, Principal, Advanced Groundwater Solutions
Kristen Fancher, Attorney, Fancher Legal
Paul Terrill, Partner, Terrill & Waldrop

10:00am – 10:30am **Morning Break** (Sponsored by EcoKai, Edwards Aquifer Authority, and McElroy Sullivan Miller & Weber LLP)

10:30am – 12:30pm **General Session**

Independence 4/5

Case Law Update
Stephen Malish, Associate Attorney, Lloyd Gosselink
Mark Stahl, Attorney, Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody

Panel – The Preeminence of Local Groundwater Management
Moderator: Alyson McDonald, Principal Hydrologist, Collier Consulting
Andy Garza, General Manager, Kenedy County GCD
Diana Thomas, General Manager, Sterling County UWCD
Patrick Wagner, General Manager, Middle Trinity GCD
Whitney Wiebe, General Manager, Mesquite GCD

Hydrogeochemical Processes Driving Elevated Arsenic and Fluoride in the Texas Gulf Coast Aquifer
Peter Knappett, Associate Professor, Texas A&M University