High Plains Water District
www.hpwd.org

2026 Annual Report

High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1
2930 Avenue Q
Lubbock, Texas 79411-2499

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High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 (HPWD)

The district was created to conserve, preserve, and protect the groundwater resources within its 16-county service area.

HPWD consists of all of Bailey, Cochran, Hale, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Parmer, and Swisher Counties, and parts of Armstrong, Castro, Crosby, Deaf Smith, Floyd, Hockley, Potter, and Randall Counties. The district's service area is approximately 11,850 square miles.

HPWD has developed its management philosophy and resulting management strategies to 1) protect property rights; 2) utilize the best available science to balance the conservation and development of groundwater; and 3) meet the management goals and desired future conditions of aquifers of the District.

The HPWD Board of Directors adopted the original management plan on August 11, 1998. The plan was later amended on these dates:

- January 29, 2004
- February 10, 2010
- July 19, 2011
- August 12, 2014
- September 10, 2019
- September 10. 2024

This document contains management goals, performance standards, and responses to the performance standards for FY 2025. **It is from October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026.**

The High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 Board of Directors reviewed and approved this annual report at their November 10, 2026 regular meeting in Lubbock, TX.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NAME	OFFICE	DISTRICT DIRECTOR	CITY
Brandon Patschke	Member	Precinct One	Lubbock, TX
Brad Heffington	Vice President	Precinct Two	Littlefield, TX
Tony Beauchamp	Secretary-Treasurer	Precinct Three	Lazbuddie, TX
Lynn Tate	President	Precinct Four	Amarillo, TX
Jeremy Reed	Member	Precinct Five	Kress, TX

DISTRICT STAFF

NAME	POSITION	NAME	POSITION
Tammy Anderson	Accountant	**Jennifer McClendon**	Education Coordinator
Billy Barron	Field Technician Supervisor	**Megan Metzig**	Accounting Assistant, CPA
Nathaniel Bibbs	Permit Assistant	**Vance Porter**	Field Technician
Liz Casias	Administrative Assistant	**Gray Sanders**	IT/Permit Administrator
Jason Coleman, P.E.	General Manager	**Robert Triggs**	Field Technician
Lance Epperson	Field Technician	**DJ Warrick**	Field Technician
Cristian Lopez Gonzales	Field Technician	**Malachi Wilhite**	Field Technician

COUNTY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Each county has a county advisory committee that is nominated by the respective Precinct District Director. The members are presented for approval at regular board meetings. These advisory committee members make recommendations to the Board of Directors relating to rules, policy matters, programs, and activities of HPWD. These members are also a liaison between residents and the HPWD Board of Directors. A current list of all county advisory committee members is available here (map1.hpwd.org/precinctmap.html).

MANAGER'S MESSAGE – Jason Coleman, P.E.

This annual report is a summary of the programs and activities conducted during the 2026 fiscal year.

Most of the content is related to the objectives contained in the district management plan. Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code specifies the goals that a groundwater conservation district (GCD) must address in the management plan. The Board of Directors adopted an updated management plan on September 10, 2024, as required by statute. This annual report addresses the items found in the current HPWD management plan.

HPWD conducted all programs and activities for the 2026 fiscal year at a total cost of about $2.9 million. About $2.0 million of the district's revenue for FY2026 was property taxes. The District's Board of Directors has been lowering tax revenue for several years as it has included some use of the fund balance in the budget.

All bills and monthly financial reports for the district are available on the HPWD website (**hpwd.org**). The public has access to the information presented during each board meeting using the "Transparency" link on the website.

Your comments and questions about HPWD programs are always welcome. Please contact the district office (806) 762-0181.

ANNUAL REPORT OF ATTAINMENT OF GOALS 2026

GOAL 1: PROVIDING THE MOST EFFICIENT USE OF GROUNDWATER

Management Objective 1.1 – Monitor Water Levels

Water level measurements are vital to the study of the aquifers in the district. Annual measurements are taken each winter, during which time most of the irrigation usage is at a minimum.

Performance Standards:

1.1a Number of wells marked as current observation sites each year
1,376

1.1b Number of wells with publishable measurements each year.
1,365

1.1c Number of wells without publishable measurements each year
11

1.1d Publish yearly water level changes on the interactive web map.
District staff updated the annual changes in depth-to-water and saturated thickness in wells within the district's observation well network. These data are available for online viewing at (**map.hpwd.org**). Dockum Aquifer data are available for viewing at (**dockumstudy.hpwd.org**).

1.1e Maintain continuous water level monitoring transducers in at least 10 water wells
There are 47 continuous water level monitoring transducers installed/maintained in wells within the district. The sites are located as follows: Armstrong (1), Bailey (3), Castro (2), Cochran (2), Crosby (3), Deaf Smith (8), Floyd (5), Hale (2), Hockley (2), Lamb (2), Lubbock (3), Lynn (3), Parmer (6), Randall (2), Swisher (3).

All available data is presented on the HPWD interactive web map (map.hpwd.org).

Management Objective 1.2 – Monitor Saturated Thickness

Saturated thickness represents the aquifer section where pumping occurs. Water users should be aware of changing saturated thickness.

Performance Standards:

1.2a Once per year, calculate saturated thickness for water level observation wells that have a log of well construction

County	Number of Observation Sites With Log of Construction	Average Saturated Thickness from Observation Wells (feet)
Armstrong	7	38
Bailey	75	61
Castro	88	48
Cochran	53	40
Crosby	17	81
Deaf Smith	84	58
Floyd	87	62
Hale	51	56
Hockley	75	38
Lamb	97	46
Lubbock	91	57
Lynn	64	44
Parmer	96	44
Potter	5	59
Randall	38	54
Swisher	56	41

1.2b Provide saturated thickness data on the HPWD website

The *Aquifer Info* tool on the interactive map (map.hpwd.org) provides estimates of saturated thickness in the Ogallala/ETHP Aquifer.

Management Objective 1.3 – Technical Field Services

HPWD is frequently asked to measure well capacities. District staff use a variety of tools for this purpose, including ultrasonic flow meters and e-lines.

Performance Standards:

1.3a Number of flow tests performed by HPWD staff each year

1451 (1286 of these measurements were taken on wells, and 165 of these were taken on irrigation systems.)

1.3b Number of water level measurements performed by HPWD staff each year

1407 (700 of these were taken for the Irrigation Assessment Program, 329 were taken upon request, and 378 were obtained as permit field checks.)

Management Objective 1.4 – Irrigation Assessment Program

Agricultural irrigation comprises the majority of groundwater usage within the district. For this reason, it is important that the district understand the patterns of usage on different crops. Using a network of cooperators, the district should monitor application amounts and crop types.

Performance Standards:

1.4a Number of sites enrolled in the district's irrigation assessment program

141

1.4b Calculate and perform a summary of crops reported by participants in the irrigation assessment program once each year.

Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Corn Silage, Sorghum Silage, Hay, Corn Grain, and Wheat

GOAL 2: CONTROLLING AND PREVENTING WASTE OF GROUNDWATER

Management Objective 2.1 – Well Permitting and Well Completion

HPWD requires permits for wells that produce 17.5 gpm or more.

Performance Standards:

2.1a Number of water well permits granted by the HPWD Board (by aquifer) each year

AQUIFER	2025	2026
Dockum Aquifer	107	79
Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) Aquifer	33	82
Ogallala Aquifer	798	695
TOTAL	**938**	**856**

2.1b Production categories of well permits granted by the HPWD Board (by aquifer) each year

DOCKUM AQUIFER		
Maximum Production	**2025**	**2026**
70 gallons per minute	4	5
165 gallons per minute	0	0
265 gallons per minute	12	15
500 gallons per minute	90	59
> 500 gallons per minute	1	0
TOTAL	**107**	**79**

OGALLALA/EDWARDS-TRINITY (HIGH PLAINS) AQUIFER		
Maximum Production	**2025**	**2026**
Under 17.5 gallons per minute	0	0
70 gallons per minute	269	323
165 gallons per minute	433	333
265 gallons per minute	100	97
390 gallons per minute	23	18
560 gallons per minute	6	6
800 gallons per minute	0	0
> 800 gallons per minute	0	0
TOTAL	**831**	**777**

Management Objective 2.2 – Open, Deteriorated, or Uncovered Wells

Uncovered or deteriorated wells pose a threat to groundwater quality and human and animal safety. HPWD staff may discover such a well during routine fieldwork, or the office may receive notice from a member of the public.

Performance Standards:

2.2a Number of uncovered wells that are covered each year

8

2.2b Number of deteriorated wells reported each year and the status of each at the close of the fiscal year

4 - Repaired

Management Objective 2.3 – Waste of Groundwater

Since waste is prohibited by state law, HPWD will emphasize public awareness of this matter.

Performance Standards:

2.3a Include a waste prevention reminder in each newsletter

Month	Article
October	Waste Reminder – Irrigation water escaping from field and travels along county road.
November	Waste Reminder – Running lawn sprinklers during freezing weather is wasteful.
December	Waste Reminder – Frozen Ground, Wasted Water – running sprinklers in freezing weather.
January	Waste Reminder – What is waste? Chapter 36.001(8)(A)
February	Waste Reminder – What is waste? Chapter 36.001(8)(B)
March	Waste Reminder – What is waste? Chapter 36.001(8)(C)
April	Waste Reminder – What is waste? Chapter 36.001(8)(D)
May	Waste Reminder – What is waste? Chapter 36.001(8)(E)
June	Waste Reminder – What is waste? Chapter 36.001(8)(F)
July	Waste Reminder – What is waste? Chapter 36.001(8)(G)
August	Waste Reminder – Water escaping from a broken water line, alley or roadway.
September	Waste Reminder – Runoff from lawn – adjusting and check from broken sprinkler heads.

GOAL 3: CONTROLLING AND PREVENTING SUBSIDENCE – Not Applicable

Using the TWDB subsidence predictor tool, we analyzed selected water level observation wells. The transient predictions ended in the year 2070. The minimum predicted subsidence values were about 0.15 feet, while the maximum predicted subsidence values were about 0.70 feet. We also reviewed the TWDB report, "Identification of the Vulnerability of the Major and Minor Aquifers of Texas to Subsidence with Regard to Groundwater Pumping". The district concluded that this goal is not applicable to the operation of the district.

GOAL 4: CONJUNCTIVE SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Management Objective 4.1 – Coordination with Surface Water Management Agencies

HPWD has very limited surface water resources. Attending Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) meetings within HPWD will ensure that the district stays current with issues affecting the region's surface water agencies. Several HPWD surface water entities supplement their surface water with groundwater

wells. Groundwater needs are most often discussed during regional water planning group meetings.

Performance Standards:

4.1a Number of RWPG meetings attended by staff each year
HPWD Staff attended two Region O meetings and two Region A meetings.

GOAL 5: NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES

Management Objective 5.1 – Monitor Water Quality

Water quality affects many different user groups within HPWD. Screening factors for water quality may include total dissolved solids (TDS) or other parameters that assess water quality. HPWD has several tools available for conducting these tests.

Performance Standards:

5.1a Document the aquifer(s) being sampled
Dockum Aquifer, Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) Aquifer, and Ogallala Aquifer

5.1b Number of sites sampled each year
812

5.1c Document the type of sampling methods
Water quality samples were gathered for analysis using grab samples at well sites. In addition, water levels, pressure, conductivity, and temperature are measured using a multi-parameter sensor. The Lower Colorado River Authority Laboratory in Austin performed extensive analysis this year, as HPWD staff collected water quality samples from over 300 of our water level observation sites.

GOAL 6: DROUGHT CONDITIONS

Management Objective 6.1 – Provide ongoing and relevant drought information

Drought awareness helps water users understand the level of conservation required to meet a particular need. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has a very useful website for drought information, which is waterdatafortexas.org/drought. HPWD will promote drought awareness through the newsletter, which is our most popular information source.

Performance Standards:

6.1a Number of newsletters with drought-related information each year
12 (a link to the current U.S. Drought Monitor website is provided in every newsletter)

GOAL 7: CONSERVATION, RECHARGE ENHANCEMENT, RAINWATER HARVESTING, PRECIPITATION ENHANCEMENT, OR BRUSH CONTROL, WHERE APPROPRIATE AND COST-EFFECTIVE

Management Objective 7.1 – Newsletter

HPWD will produce and distribute a newsletter to area residents and other interested parties. The newsletter will include articles discussing methods to conserve and preserve groundwater quality and quantity.

Performance Standards:

7.1a Number of newsletters produced each year

12 and 1 Special Edition in September for HPWD 75th Anniversary

7.1b Include a conservation reminder in each newsletter

Month	Article
October	Conservation Reminder – Check for Leaky Toilet, Dripping Faucet, Outdoor sprinkler leak
November	Conservation Reminder – Adjust automated sprinklers for winter
December	Conservation Reminder – Protect Outdoor Faucets from Freezing
January	Conservation Reminder – Choose Showers over Baths to cut water use
February	Conservation Reminder – How much water can a leaky toilet flapper waste?
March	Conservation Reminder – Saving Water in the Bathroom
April	Conservation Reminder – Water-Wise Landscaping & Irrigation
May	Conservation Reminder – Flush Wisely – Avoid using them as wastebaskets
June	Conservation Reminder – Water My Yard program offered by HPWD
July	Conservation Reminder – Garden Hose Spray Nozzle Saves Water and Money
August	Conservation Reminder – Wash Smart. Save Water. Using commercial car wash.
September	Conservation Reminder – Drought-Friendly Lawn Tips.

Management Objective 7.2 – Public presentations

HPWD representatives will present information about water conservation practices and other subjects to civic clubs, professional groups, and other interested parties

Performance Standards:

7.2a Number of public presentations delivered each year

16

7.2b Document the estimated attendance at each venue

516 total people at the 16 events.

Date	Venue	Attendance
10/15/2025	Agriculture Water Sustainability Summit-2025	20
11/20/2025	Texas Ag Industries Association Regular Meeting	20
12/16/2025	Tulia City Council Meeting	11
1/7/2026	Canyon Lions Club	120
2/9/2026	Floyd Co. Commissioners Court	12
2/10/2026	Texas Tech University – Block & Bridle Organization	18
3/23/2026	Green Door Group, LLC Realtors in Amarillo	10
4/7/2026	Water Supply and Infrastructure Workshop for Texas Communities	42

4/29/2026	Rotary Club – Lubbock	65
4/30/2026	Texas Ag Industries 2026 Annual Board Meeting	30
5/14/2026	Petersburg City Council Meeting	10
7/8/2026	Well Screening Program	14
7/21/2026	GMDA 2026 Summer Conference	80
8/12/2026	Hi-A Corn Breeding – Plot Tour Field Day	24
8/24/2026	Agriculture Water Sustainability Summit-2026	16
8/27/2026	South Plains Lions Club	24

Management Objective 7.3 – Conservation research

HPWD will seek opportunities to participate in and partner with other groups conducting water conservation research and demonstrations.

Performance Standards:

7.3a Once per year, document the number of water conservation research/demonstration projects in which the district participates

Ten projects were approved for funding by the HPWD Board of Directors.

Project	Awarded
Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program	$5,000.00
Water Use and Quality – Screenings for Private Wells in Castro, Lamb & Hale Co. Program	$4,000.00
Measuring Irrigation and Soil Moisture in RACE Trials: Determining Water Use Efficiency	$24,432.00
Ogallala Commons Stewarding Our Water Future: Field Days, Roundtables and Festivals	$17,000.00
Eco-Flo Monarch Plaza- Conservation Public Education Demonstration Expansion	$10,680.00
Highland Springs Village (Drought-Resistant Native Landscaping Project for 108 units)	$50,000.00
Increasing Water Use Efficiency at the Texas A&M Research & Extension Center- Lubbock	$24,900.00
Genetic and Water Management Technologies for High-Quality Corn Silage Production in Texas High Plains	$31,000.00
Wayland Baptist University Prayer Garden Soil Cistern for Ground Water Conservation, Baseflow and Recharge Demonstration Project	$20,000.00
Playa Watershed Restoration and Engagement at LISD AgriSTEM	$8,335.00

Management Objective 7.4 – Public information

HPWD staff will provide general water conservation information at suitable venues within the district each year. This may include exhibits at farm shows and information tables with publications at other meetings.

Performance Standards:

7.4a Document the venues at which water conservation information is provided

Approximately 20,420 people attended or visited the HPWD public information booth.

Date	Venue	Attendance
10/14-15/2025	Agricultural Water Sustainability Summit (Exhibit/Sponsor)	40
12/2-4/2025	Amarillo Farm & Ranch Show-Texas Wheat Symposium (Exhibit/Sponsor)	15,600
12/16/2025	Lamb County Crops Conference (Exhibit/Sponsor)	30
1/20/2026	2026 Caprock Crop Production Conference (Exhibit/Sponsor)	150
1/21/2026	TAWC Annual Water College – (Exhibit/Sponsor)	130

1/22/2026	Mid-Plains Ag Expo. (Exhibit/Sponsor)	120
2/11/2026	8th Annual Panhandle Water Conservation Symposium (Exhibit/Sponsor)	200
2/24-25/2026	Ogallala Commons Community Water Conference (Exhibit/Sponsor)	100
7/21-23/2026	GMDA 2026 Summer Conference (Exhibit/Sponsor)	80
8/24-25/2026	Agricultural Water Sustainability Summit-2026 (Exhibit/Sponsor)	70
9/25-10/2/2026	South Plains Fair Horticulture Building (Exhibit /Sponsor)	3,900

Sponsored events without a booth- approximately 1,006 attendees at the events.

Date	Venue	Attendance
1/15/2026	Castro County Crops Conference - Sponsorship	62
3/3-4/2026	Great Plains Soil Fertility Conference – Sponsorship	73
6/20/2026	Hub City Garden Tours – Lubbock Master Gardeners – Sponsorship	371
9/1-3/2026	2026 TAGD Summit – Sponsorship (Mobile App)	500

Management Objective 7.5 – Youth education

HPWD will provide water conservation education to youth within its service area.

Performance Standards:

7.5a Document the number of presentations and youth reached once per year

HPWD staff gave nine presentations that reached an estimated 1,001 students.

Date	Venue	Attendance
10/7/2025	Whiteface Playa Festival	60
10/7/2025	Hockley Ag Awareness Day	307
10/8/2025	Olton Ag Day	81
10/30/2025	Lamb Co. Ag Awareness Day	147
11/13/2025	Cochran Co. YEA Day	41
2/27/2026	South Plains Regional Science Fair – Water Related Projects	16
3/26/2026	Hardwick Elementary – 1st Graders	65
6/11/2026	4-H Water Ambassadors Tier 1	30
7/15/2026	City of Sundown Library Program	10
9/29/2026	Hockley Ag Awareness Day	244

Management Objective 7.6 – Website

HPWD will provide information about groundwater, water conservation, and other subjects on its website.

Performance Standards:

7.6a Document annual web traffic using an analytical program

The total view count for FY 2026 was 91,535 visits. This is about 7,628 visits per month.

GOAL 8: RECHARGE ENHANCEMENT

Management Objective 8.1 – Research and Demonstration Opportunities

HPWD has committed many resources to recharge enhancement studies and demonstrations since its creation. Several examples of this past work are recharge wells and enhanced recharge structures. As managed aquifer research (MAR) technologies evolve, we expect additional research and demonstration

opportunities. HPWD may encourage work in this area through its research and demonstration policy.

Performance Standards:

8.1a Number of research/demonstration MAR proposals received by HPWD each year

Two projects were received:

- Ogallala Commons Stewarding Our Water Future: Field Days, Roundtables and Festivals
- Playa Watershed Restoration and Engagement at LISD AgriSTEM

8.1b Number of research/demonstration MAR proposals funded by HPWD each year

Two projects were funded:

- Ogallala Commons Stewarding Our Water Future: Field Days, Roundtables and Festivals
- Playa Watershed Restoration and Engagement at LISD AgriSTEM

GOAL 9: RAINWATER HARVESTING

HPWD will promote awareness of this conservation practice among the district's residents.

Performance Standards:

9.1a Number of public presentations addressing rainwater harvesting each year

HPWD staff gave two public presentations dedicated to rainwater harvesting. In addition, rainwater harvesting was mentioned during other presentations given by HPWD staff during the year.

Date	Venue	Attendance
3/11/2026	Hale County-Rainwater Harvesting Basics Workshop	15
7/23/2026	Lamb County- Rainwater Harvesting Basics Workshop	10

9.1b Number of rainwater harvesting devices distributed to the public each year

43 rain barrels were given away, as shown below in the accompanying table.

Venue – Distribution of Rain Barrels	Number Distributed
Rainwater Harvesting Program – Hale County held in Abernathy	15
Rainwater Harvesting Program – Lamb County held in Littlefield	10
Donate Barrels to Individuals in the District	2
2026 Hub City Garden Tours	6
South Plains Fair Horticulture Show – Awards	10

GOAL 10: PRECIPITATION ENHANCEMENT – Not Applicable

Between 1997 and 2002, HPWD conducted a weather modification program. In late 2002, residents of the district voiced strong opposition to this program, and several county commissioners' courts adopted resolutions against its continuation. The HPWD board subsequently terminated the program, and this goal is not applicable

GOAL 11: BRUSH CONTROL – Not Applicable

Existing programs administered by the USDA-NRCS are addressing this issue. This activity is not cost-effective and applicable to HPWD at this time. Therefore, this goal is not applicable to the operation of the district.

GOAL 12: DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS OF THE AQUIFERS

Management Objective 12.1 – Calculate Average Yearly Water Level Change

HPWD desired future conditions (DFCs) were developed using an average yearly water level change within the GMAs. Each winter, HPWD and other GCDs obtain water level measurements to determine the change from the previous year.

Performance Standards:

12.1a Number of wells included in the calculation

HPWD and the other groundwater conservation districts in GMA #2 collectively had 1,356 wells measured in both 2025 and 2026. A well must be measured in both years to calculate the yearly change.

12.1b Calculated average water level change

The calculated average water level change was -0.56 ft across GMA #2. This is from the Ogallala/Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) data.

12.1c Compare total cumulative change to the adopted DFC

The total cumulative change is -9.70 feet. This compares to the adopted DFC of -13.20 feet.

Management Objective 12.2 – Estimating Annual Usage

Calculating annual usage is helpful for monitoring progress toward achieving the desired future conditions. Although a regional groundwater model provides estimations of usage to meet that goal, a more specific local estimate may increase our understanding of the usage and corresponding changes in volume.

Performance Standards:

12.2a Estimate total usage within HPWD using reported data and irrigation estimates

Irrigation usage accounts for 98% or more of the annual usage within HPWD. Reported data is submitted by water users from a variety of different water user groups. Data obtained from the cooperators in the HPWD Irrigation Assessment Program is also very helpful.

Estimated 2025 Irrigation Water Usage — 1,580,000 acre-feet
Estimated 2026 Irrigation Water Usage — data collection is still in progress

12.2b Compare estimated annual usage to data from the High Plains Aquifer System (HPAS) GAM

After adopting desired future conditions for relevant aquifers, each groundwater conservation district (GCD) is given a Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) report. This data is supplied by the Texas Water Development Board. HPWD is part of Groundwater Management Areas 1 & 2 and consequently has MAG reports for both parts of the district.

Ogallala/Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) Aquifers

Total MAG for 2026 — 1,614,167 acre-feet

Dockum Aquifer

Total MAG for 2026 —41,188 acre-feet












HIGH PLAINS
WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT NO.1
WATER CONSERVATION
IS YOUR JOB





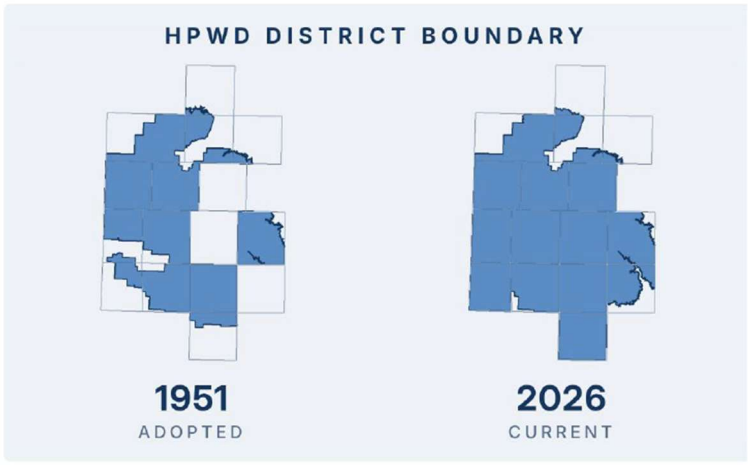









South Neal
Status
Controls
Default: Water


HPWD DISTRICT BOUNDARY
1951
ADOPTED
2026
CURRENT



4-H Water Ambassadors · Tier I



Annual County Advisory Committee Meeting



Board Members and General Manager



Field Staff



Senator Charles Perry