

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED RULES

The Southern Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (District) will conduct a public hearing concerning the District's possible adoption of amendments to its rules. The purpose of the hearing is to provide interested members of the public the opportunity to appear and provide oral or written comments to the District related to the proposed rules (PRs). The board will consider adoption of the PRs at its board meeting, immediately following the public hearing.

1.0 Date, Time, and Place of Public Hearing.

The date, time and place of the public hearing are as follows:

Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Location: District Offices
824 Washington Ave.
Waco, Texas

2.0 Brief Explanation of the Subject of the Proposed Rulemaking

These proposed rules revise the District's existing rules: (1) as a result of amendments to Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code related to exempt wells, contested case procedures and uncontested hearing procedures and petitions for rulemaking; (2) related to requirements for a drilling permit or groundwater withdrawal permit; (3) related to notification requirement for the transfer of ownership of a registered well; (4) to adopt a civil penalty schedule; and (5) to improve clarity and consistency.

The rules are proposed to be adopted by the District pursuant to Section 36.101 of the Texas Water Code.

All interested persons are encouraged to review the proposed rules by obtaining a copy from the District, as provided below.

3.0 Procedures for Obtaining the Proposed Rules

Copies of the proposed rules may be obtained from the District as follows:

1. by calling (254) 759-5610, and requesting a copy of the proposed rules from the District's General Manager; or
2. by visiting the offices of the District between the hours of 8 am and 12 pm at 824 Washington Ave., Waco, Texas; or
3. by requesting the proposed rules by electronic mail sent to stgcd@stgcd.org; or
4. from the District's website: <http://southerntrinitygcd.org>.

4.0 Procedures for Submitting Comments on the Proposed Rules

4.1 Oral Comments

Any person may appear at the public hearing on the proposed rules. Any person making an appearance must indicate their desire to make oral comments on the registration form provided by the District at the public hearing. A person must disclose any affiliation on the registration form and, if applicable, the authority to speak for a person represented. Any other person attending the public hearing will be considered by the District to be an observer not

desiring to make comment on the proposed rules. The District will not consider any comments of an observer in any future action taken on the proposed rules.

The presiding officer will establish the order of oral comments of persons at the hearing. As appropriate, the presiding officer may limit:

1. the number of times a person may speak;
2. the time period for oral comments;
3. cumulative, irrelevant, or unduly repetitious comments;
4. general comments that are so vague, undeveloped, or immaterial as to be impracticable for the District to ascertain the intent or purpose of the person making the general oral comments and that are otherwise unhelpful to the District in analyzing the proposed rules;
5. the time period for asking or responding to questions; and
6. other matters that come to the attention of the presiding officer as requiring limitation.

Please note that while the District will consider oral comments, it will not prepare written responses to oral comments for review and consideration by the Board of Directors of the District when it deliberates on whether to adopt the proposed rules as final.

4.2 Written Comments

The District encourages all interested parties to submit written comments regarding the proposed rules. Written comments on the proposed rules must be filed with the District by no later than November 16, 2023 at the hearing. Written comments may be filed as follows:

1. by hand delivery to the District's general manager at the District's offices, 824 Washington Ave., Waco, Texas during regular business hours Monday through Friday from 8 am to 12 pm or during the hearing on November 16, 2023; or
2. by mail to the District at P. O. Box 2205, Waco, Texas 76703; or
3. by electronic mail to stgcd@stgcd.org; or
4. by hand delivery to the presiding officer at the public hearing.

Written comments should be filed on 8 1/2 x 11-inch paper and typed or legibly written.

5.0 Opportunity to Appear and Comment at Board Meeting at Which the Proposed Rules May be Adopted as Final

The meeting of the District's Board of Directors at which the proposed rules will be considered for adoption as final will be an open meeting and, at that meeting, the public will be allowed to make comments on the proposed rules, subject to whatever reasonable limits as to the number, frequency and length of comments the District is empowered to impose pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. ch. 551.

ISSUED THIS 25TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.

Scooter Radcliffe
General Manager
Southern Trinity Groundwater Conservation District