



*GARY J. BEARD*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## CAPITAL AREA GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CAPITAL AREA GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT LAUNCHES MONITORING AND METERING SYSTEM TO PROTECT SOUTHERN HILLS AQUIFER

**BATON ROUGE, La. (February 21, 2022)** – Gary Beard, Executive Director for the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District, announced today the launch of an independent, remote monitoring and metering system on wells throughout the aquifer.

The Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District (“District”), tasked by the Louisiana Legislature to “do all things necessary to prevent waste of groundwater resources” within the Southern Hills Aquifer, announce the vote of the Commissioners to implement an independent remote monitoring and metering system on all wells throughout the aquifer. This system will afford the District the opportunity to acquire unmanipulated data demonstrating usage daily from each strata and to determine the extent of chlorides (salts) in the aquifer.

“This data will allow the District to protect the aquifer, as required by the Legislature, to take all necessary steps to prevent intrusion of salt water into the aquifer and control pumping rates of users such as industry and private companies,” said Beard. “The District is dedicated to the protection of our groundwater resource, one of the purest water resources in the country. We must do all things necessary to ensure this resource is protected for generations to come.”

A pumpage fee increase was voted on by the Commissioners as a means of paying for the construction of this independent metering and monitoring system. The average cost of water for each household is approximately 8¢ per month. The increase would be approximately 18¢ per month. Most of the costs would be paid by the largest users such as industry, power generators, and large commercial corporations.

Beard stated, “The groundwater belongs to the people of Louisiana – not to private companies. Just as water companies put meters on every household to determine water usage, the District must put meters on every well that extracts water out of the ground to independently determine how much water is being removed. This data will be given to LSU and the Water Institute to create a 3D model so that we can predict the future of our water supply.”

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