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## PRESS RELEASE

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### *Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District*

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **Planning Focus Committee Meeting Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District**

**July 20, 2005, Conroe, Texas** – The Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District continues to work towards finalizing a reasonable regulatory plan that would preserve the long term sustainability of the groundwater resources in Montgomery County. Through our engineering analysis, we have determined that the amount of groundwater being used within the County is nearing or possibly even exceeded what is currently being defined as the reliable recharge rate to the aquifer. That number is about 64,000 acre-ft per year. Evidence that we are withdrawing water at a rate exceeding the rate of recharge is reflected by declining water levels in the aquifer and land subsidence in some areas of the county. The regulatory plan will require that future water supply consider options to groundwater as a source of water.

Even though we may withdraw water at a rate greater than the ability of water to recharge into the aquifer, it needs to be recognized there is a very large amount of water stored within the aquifer sands itself. It would take a very long time to actually drain the aquifer. One of our strategies in developing the regulatory plan is to use a computer model developed by the US Geological Survey under contract to the Texas Water Development Board. This computer model, referred to as a Groundwater Availability Model (or GAM) can be used as an operational tool to predict what levels of water level decline are we likely to see within the aquifer as we continue to use that resource of water supply.

Through the engineering analysis we have conducted and from conversations with the USGS, we have learned that additional refinements to the GAM model are necessary in order for us to use the model as we had intended. These refinements are being performed by the USGS as a separate activity outside of the efforts of the Lone Star GCD and will take several more months to complete.

As a result, we will likely delay the definition of a final regulatory plan until later this fall. It is still our hope to conduct initial presentations on the plan by September. We recognize the significance that implementing such a plan will have people making investment in new wells and infrastructure and intend to provide information as soon as possible.

For more information, contact:

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