ADVOCACY CHECKLIST

Every GCD can benefit from positive working relationships with elected officials and community leaders. TAGD recommends the following steps to regularly invest in those relationships and maintain open lines of communication with decision makers. See the next page to build a list of contacts that are important to your district!

- Board members and staff should be prepared with GCD key messages (an "elevator speech") so that you are always ready for a productive conversation about the important work that GCDs do in managing groundwater.

- Visit with your representatives leading up to the legislative session. Set up a meeting at the Capitol or at a local office to establish lines of communication and share information about your GCD and any legislative priorities.

- Introduce yourself, board members, and staff (if applicable) to your local and state elected officials. They should think of you when they think of groundwater issues!

- Consider inviting elected officials and the local media to a board meeting or on a tour of your facilities. It never hurts to ask!

- Write a letter to the editor of your local paper(s) about water conservation, district services, groundwater information, upcoming elections, or any other informative topic.

- Send newsletters, email blasts, and any news releases your district issues to your elected officials, community leaders, and journalists/media representatives.

- When appropriate, work with your board to establish formal positions and/or pass resolutions on issues that could impact GCD operations or groundwater management, and share those with your elected officials.

- At least once a year (hopefully more!) issue a news release about something happening in your district. A groundwater-informed community will translate into groundwater-informed elected officials.

- Participate in groups like TAGD, TWCA, NWRA, GMDA, and others. Large numbers can help amplify all the voices involved. By being a TAGD member, you’ve already taken the first step!
ADVOCACY CONTACT LIST

STATE LEVEL

Representative(s): _______________________________________________________________
Senator(s):  _______________________________________________________________
Key Committee Members: _________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

TIPS FOR MEETING WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR

• Call and ask to speak to a scheduler  • Introduce yourself
• Ask for a brief meeting with the legislator  • Do your research  • Prepare your talking points
  • Bring copies of any pertinent printed materials  • Arrive at the meeting early
• Use good etiquette  • Be brief, don't expect more than 10 min with the legislator
• Send a follow up email to thank the legislator for their time and efforts

COUNTY/CITY LEVEL

County Judge/Commissioners: ___________________________________________________
City Managers/Mayors/Councilpersons: __________________________________________
Tax Assessor/Collector: _________________________________________________________
County Clerk:  _______________________________________________________________
Other City or County Personnel: ________________________________________________

COMMUNITY & MEDIA

Are there any other entities or community leaders that can help you better engage with elected officials?

Chamber of Commerce Staff: _____________________________________________________
Economic Development Organization Staff: _________________________________________
Newspaper Staff:  _______________________________________________________________
Radio/TV Station Staff:  _________________________________________________________
Other Key Contacts:  _____________________________________________________________

RELEVANT ADVOCACY GROUPS

Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts,  __________________________________________