

IN THIS ISSUE:

RAMP

Regulatory Changes

CKWBA Savings
Account Withdrawals

UPCOMING DATES

Office Closed
September 7

District Board Meeting
September 10 @ 7:00 pm



**Check Current
Weather Conditions Online**

Temperature Rainfall Wind Speed

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GROUNDWATER HI - LITES

September 2026

Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5

Rattlesnake Augmentation Management Program (RAMP)

The District is pleased to announce the creation of the Rattlesnake Augmentation Management Program (RAMP), a unified program bringing together two important streamflow augmentation projects in the Rattlesnake Creek area.

RAMP provides a united identity and management framework for the District's Corridor and Wellfield projects. While these projects are different in their purpose, scale, and development, they share a common goal: to provide a coordinated and sustainable approach to water management in the Rattlesnake Creek region.

The Corridor represents the evolution of the existing Rattlesnake Creek pilot augmentation project. What began as a pilot effort to demonstrate and evaluate streamflow augmentation is now a permanent component of the region's water-management efforts. The District has recently assumed operational responsibility for the project from KDA-DWR and will continue to build on the experience, data, and knowledge gained through the pilot.

The Wellfield represents the long-term component of RAMP. Through the Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Plan, the District has worked with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and numerous local, state, and federal partners to develop a watershed-scale approach to long-term water management. In May 2026, NRCS issued its Record of Decision selecting the Augmentation Wellfield and Groundwater Use Reduction Alternative. The selected alternative includes construction of an augmentation wellfield (Wellfield), retirement of 2,500 acre-feet of water rights, and implementation of an adaptive management strategy. The District will be sending direct mail to the eligible landowners about the 2,500 acre-feet retirement component soon.

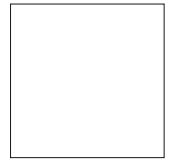
Together, the Corridor and Wellfield provide a natural progression for RAMP: from ongoing augmentation operations today to larger-scale infrastructure and long-term management tomorrow.

The creation of RAMP does not change the individual purpose or requirements of either project. Instead, it provides a straightforward way to communicate how these efforts fit together. RAMP Corridor focuses on the ongoing operation and practical application of streamflow augmentation through the use of leased irrigation wells to provide water to Rattlesnake Creek. RAMP Wellfield focuses on developing the larger, long-term infrastructure and management strategy identified through the Watershed Plan.

RAMP represents another step in the District's commitment to working with local producers, landowners, state and federal agencies, and other stakeholders to develop practical, locally supported solutions for the future of water resources in the Rattlesnake Creek region.

Regulatory Changes

As of August 14, 2026, two regulatory changes adopted by KDA-DWR have taken effect that may impact water users throughout the state. The water flowmeter regulations (K.A.R. 5-1-4 through 5-1-12) were revised to add requirements for water right owners for the maintenance of the flowmeter. Per K.A.R. 5-1-8, each "water right owners shall regularly inspect each flowmeter operated by that owner during any



period when water is diverted..." to ensure that the flowmeter is functioning properly. The regulation also requires each water right owner to maintain a log of these inspections verifying that the flowmeter was operating and in compliance at the time of each inspection. The intent of this requirement is to ensure that flowmeters are routinely inspected and functioning properly. However, there remains uncertainty regarding the specific information that should be documented in these inspection logs. The District raised this concern during the regulatory hearing, but KDA-DWR has not provided additional guidance regarding the information that should be included in the inspection logs. The second regulatory change establishes new requirements for changes to the point of diversion for groundwater rights. Under K.A.R. 5-5-17, the existing well location is now identified as an "anchor point." An application to change the point of diversion, such as when a well is redrilled, generally cannot locate the new point of diversion more than 300 feet from the anchor point. Additionally, the new location cannot be moved into an area that is more densely appropriated unless the new location meets the safe-yield requirements established in K.A.R. 5-3-10. The District testified strongly against this regulation during the regulatory hearing, noting that the additional restriction is unnecessary and raises concerns regarding its potential impact on municipal water supplies. In many cases, municipalities need to relocate wells more than 300 feet from their existing location to address water-quality concerns at the current well site. The new anchor-point restriction could prevent municipalities from relocating wells to an alternative location to provide a safe and reliable water supply. Despite significant written and verbal testimony from the District and several other entities opposing and raising concerns with these changes, KDA-DWR adopted the regulations without modification.

CKWBA Savings Accounts

Water users participating in the CKWBA are reminded to monitor their water use throughout the year and ensure that sufficient water is available in their CKWBA Savings Account before exceeding their authorized quantity. Water must be withdrawn from a CKWBA Savings Account prior to exceeding the authorized quantity. Planning ahead and periodically reviewing your water use and account balance can help prevent compliance issues and ensure that adequate savings are available when needed. District staff are available to assist water users with reviewing their CKWBA Savings Account, understanding their available balance, and completing a withdrawal. Reminder: withdrawal from CKWBA Savings Account makes that well ineligible for a MYFA enrollment this year. Please contact or visit the District office if you have questions or need assistance.

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WATER PORTAL

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