

**Plum Creek
Conservation
District**

Guadalupe Blanco River Authority - Plum Creek Flood Study

Over the course of next year, PCCD will be participating in the Guadalupe Watershed Flood Protection Planning Study-Phase II to model the hydrological conditions of several of its high hazard dams. This study is part of a larger GBRA project which has been financed through a grant from the US Army Corp of Engineers and the Texas Water Development Board. The grant funds 75% of the total cost.

One of PCCD's primary interests in taking part of this study is completing breach analyses for several of its high hazard dams. A breach analysis simulates, using a computer generated model, where flooding will occur due to a dam breach. In 2009, a majority of PCCD's dams were classified as high hazard. Dams classified as high hazard have the potential to harm life

or property and the environment should they fail. It is important to understand that the high hazard classification does not mean a dam doesn't function properly or is not structurally sound. PCCD is required to complete Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) for all of its high & significant hazard classified dams. The purpose of an EAP is to identify potential emergency conditions at a dam and specify preplanned actions to be followed to minimize property damage and loss of life. A significant component of an EAP is the inundation map which is compiled from a breach analysis. Emergency personnel from cities and counties would utilize these inundation maps for evacuation purposes.

In 2011, inundation assessments were completed for 16 PCCD dams through a Natural Resources Conservation Service grant. Since then, additional dams have changed their classification status from low hazard to, either significant or high. The inundation analyses will be completed for six dams shown on the map below by the engineering firm Half Associates, Inc. This project is anticipated to be finished by September 2014.

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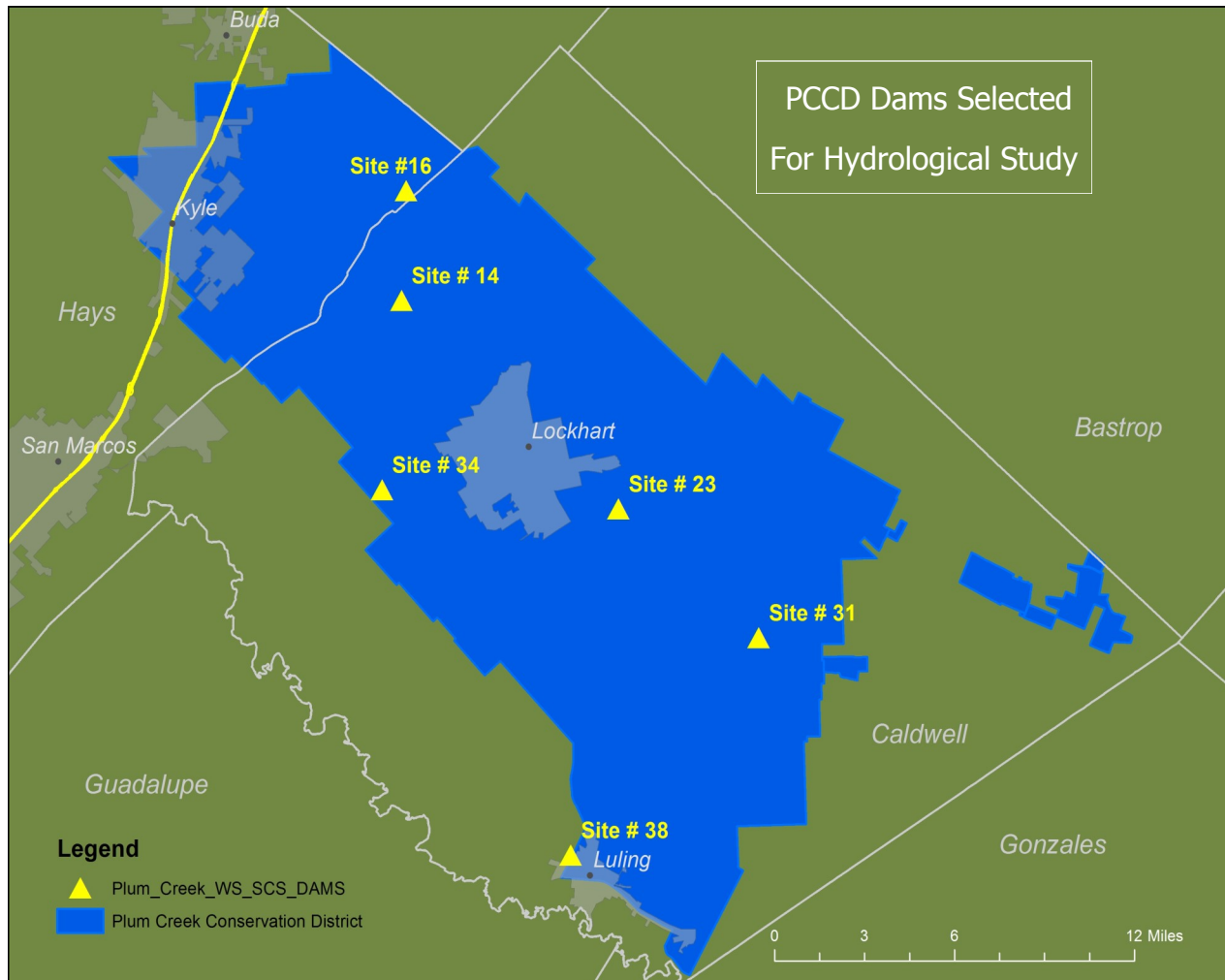
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Drought Tolerant Plants

As we all know, Texas weather can be extreme. Although the average rainfall for this area is 32 inches, variations from year to year can range from 10 inches, during a drought, to over 50 inches. Texan gardeners want hardy plants that not only survive, but do well in these conditions. Fortunately, researchers from Texas A&M AgriLife have tested numerous plants in search of stand-out hybrids that are resilient to Texas' harsh climate. Plants that meet the vigorous testing procedures are inducted as a *Texas Superstar*[®]. There are over 50 plants in this esteemed category. Showcased below are three *Texas Superstars*[®] that are especially heat and drought tolerant. Including these plants into one's landscape will benefit homeowners as they face reoccurring droughts and prolonged water restrictions.

Drought
Tolerant Plants



New Gold[™] Lantana

Lantana x hybrida 'New Gold'

Drought tolerant, heat loving, low maintenance annual with a wealth of golden yellow flowers. Reduced fruit set promotes prolific blooming spring till frost. Deer tolerant. A very adaptable and popular annual.



Vitex, Texas Lilac, or Chaste Tree

Vitex agnus-castus

Deciduous large shrub or small tree with distinctive palmately compound leaves. Profuse spikes of lavender flowers, blooming heavily in the early summer, and then sporadically throughout the summer and fall. Vitex is heat, drought, and pest tolerant.

Exposure: Full sun; partial sun



Plumbago Cape Plumbago

Plumbago auriculata

Tender perennial with profuse blue flowers which thrives in the hot Texas summer. Disease-, pest- and deer-resistant. Sometimes called "sky flower" because of the sky-blue color of its flowers. Native of South Africa.

Exposure: Full sun; partial sun

Source for Plant Pictures and Descriptions : <http://www.texassuperstar.com/plants/>



Tips for Watering Wisely

◆ Install a Rain Sensor

Automatically shuts off your irrigation system when it rains preventing unnecessary watering.

◆ Set sprinklers to keep the water on the landscape and off the pavement

Monitor and make simple adjustments to the sprinklers to reduce runoff from the landscape.

◆ Inspect your irrigation system monthly

Check for leaks, broken or clogged heads, and other problems.

◆ Consult a Professional

A certified irrigation professional can design, install, maintain, or audit your system to ensure you're using the proper amount of water to support a healthy landscape.

Spring/Summer 2013

The table below shows water levels for 10 wells that were measured in the Spring/Summer of 2013 along with their corresponding lowest recorded water level. If you are interested in finding out the water level in your well and how it

Well	Spring/Summer 2013 Levels	Lowest Recorded Level
Cargile	- 43.9	- 66.00
Kosarek	- 50.25	- 50.8
Larsen	- 22.3	- 22.3
Lipscomb	- 91.57	- 93.9
Reinecke	- 70.05	- 73.00
McCormick #1	- 72.6	- 73.0
Moore	- 66.35	- 70.6
Platt	- 122.35	- 122.35
Rodriguez	- 62.8 * while pumping	- 55.85
Wells	- 81.55	- 90.35

2012 PCCD Water Use

In 2012, 2011.87 acre-feet of water was used by PCCD's permit holders. The map below illustrates PCCD's permitted water use distribution. There are several areas circled in dashed yellow with concentrated water use - those areas being along Hwy 86, the Dale area, and the Brownsboro area. Permits currently fall into one of three water use categories: public supply, irrigation, or poultry production. Water used for public supply is the largest user group and accounts for 83 % of PCCD's permitted water use. Water used for irrigation purposes accounts for 9% of PCCD's water use and poultry production accounts for 8%.

