

## Getting to Know Fort Griffin Special Utility District

Did you know Fort Griffin Special Utility District (FGSUD) wasn't originally a water district? FGSUD originated as Shackelford Water Supply Corporation (SWSC) in August of 1978. Operations began in 1982 after five years of preparation. SWSC began serving portions of Shackelford, Stephens, Throckmorton and Callahan Counties through an agreement for purchase of water from the City of Albany. The system was initially designed for 353 customers/members. Upon completion in 1982 over 650 members were being served.

In 2004 concerns began arising of members being included in possible lawsuits, and in the ability to be included in tort reform changes. The Board decided it was in the best interest of SWSC to convert from a water supply corporation to a non-profit, non-taxing governmental entity. In 2007 the Texas Legislature (during the 80<sup>th</sup> session) adopted the act which created the Fort Griffin Special Utility District. In May of 2009 the District was confirmed by an election. Members became customers, and FGSUD was officially formed as the non-profit, non-taxing governmental entity, restricting the district to recovering operational expenses through only the water rates set forth by the district.

The Fort Griffin Special Utility District is responsible for service to our area. As our communities expand, so does the customer requests. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is the governing body that instructs FGSUD in fulfilling requirements set forth to oversee the compliance with Texas Water Law. Our Board of Directors continually strive to maintain the district's operation as effectively and efficiently as possible. Furthermore, aspire to meet future needs and providing a safe and adequate water supply.

In November 2002 the Board of SWSC purchased 353 acre-feet of water from Brazos River Authority/Possum Kingdom to help ensure their vision for the future. This action provided a second source of water in the event Hubbard Creek Reservoir levels dropped; or if the City of Albany had to enforce drought contingency plans, thus restricting the District's supply. The purchase from BRA would also ensure water supply for 50 years (just as the City of Albany's contract). Financially, this could later put the district in a position to utilize the most economical water source.

To achieve these goals FGSUD is in the process of attaining funding to build transmission line and a reverse osmosis treatment plant in the Hubbard Creek area. This project will improve the quality of water and the ability to serve customers from a second direction, resulting in better service. Additionally, the water plant would give the SUD more control of future needs. In conjunction with the treatment plant, there will be storage standpipe and additional distribution lines financed to bring the system into compliance with TCEQ standards.

Fort Griffin Special Utility District is governed not only by TCEQ, but the Open Meetings Act as well. All board meetings are open to the public, and the board welcomes all customers to attend and stay informed. The district meets on the first Thursday of each month (unless otherwise posted) at 609 Railroad Street, Albany, Texas. All meeting agendas, notices, minutes as well as other customer information can be found on our website [www.fortgriffinsud.net](http://www.fortgriffinsud.net).