

by Tom Michel,
Harris Galveston Coastal
Subsidence District

Subsidence

The Harris Galveston Coastal Subsidence District was created in 1975 to halt land surface subsidence in the greater Houston area, caused by the over reliance on groundwater. It is estimated that over 10 feet of subsidence has occurred in the eastern part of Harris County. The District has been successful in its regulation of groundwater pumpage in Galveston County and central and southeast Harris County. The challenges of the past were substantial and the results beneficial to everyone. The greatest challenge now rests in applying this methodology in north and west Harris County. The District adopted a new plan in 1999 that changed the regulatory approach to accomplish the goals in a more efficient manner while giving the most flexibility to solve the over reliance usage problem.

Biographical Sketch

Tom Michel is assistant to the general manager of the Harris Galveston Coastal Subsidence District. He has worked for the district for 12 years in varying roles. The past six years were spent on administrative and technical projects, including the development of the districts regulatory plan. He received his Bachelors in computer information systems from the University of Houston at Clear Lake and Masters in public administration at the same university.

HGS Environmental & Engineering Dinner Meeting • Thursday, September 14, 2000 • HESS Bldg.5430 Westheimer
Social 5:30 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m.