



## TECHNICAL PRESENTATION

November 8, 2023



### History of Ground Water Regulation and Subsidence in the Houston Area

Presented by [Mr. Mike Turco](#) with [Harris-Galveston Subsidence District](#)

**BIO:** Mr. Turco began his career in the water industry with the U.S. Geological Survey in 1996 at the Water Resources Division field office in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He worked on many surface water and groundwater data collection and research projects in Iowa and Nebraska, including

the development of several high-profile groundwater flow models before taking the position of Chief Hydrologist of the Gulf Coast Program Office in Houston in 2004. From 2004-2013 he directed the USGS scientific research and data collection in the Gulf Coast region including the USGS response to hurricanes Rita and Ike, as well as the continued research and monitoring of subsidence in the Houston region. In September 2013, Mr. Turco accepted the position of General Manager at the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District. Mr. Turco serves as General Manager of the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District as well as the Fort Bend Subsidence District (which is administered by the HGSD staff through an inter-local agreement). As General Manager, he is the Chief Administrative Officer responsible for the management of district operations, and for developing goals, strategies, and policies necessary to implement the district's legislated mandate. Mr. Turco leads a customer-focused team supporting the district's mission of reasonable groundwater regulation to protect lives and property in Harris, Galveston, and Fort Bend Counties from the hazards associated with land subsidence. Mr. Turco holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a Master of Science in Geology (Hydrogeology Focus) from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Mr. Turco participates in the Region H planning group, Groundwater Management Area 14, the Texas Water Conservation Association, the Texas Association of Groundwater Districts, and the International Symposia on Land Subsidence.

**PRESENTATION SUMMARY:** Mike Turco, General Manager of the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District, provided an update and shared information on subsidence in the greater Houston area including the latest subsidence and aquifer data, regulatory planning, science and research, and water conservation efforts. Attendees learned how subsidence is monitored and how collaboration, education, and reducing reliance on groundwater can stop further subsidence.

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