



**Barton Springs  
Edwards Aquifer**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**For Immediate Release: Friday, April 10, 2009**

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**AQUIFER DISTRICT IMPOSES MORATORIUM ON MOST NEW  
GROUNDWATER WITHDRAWALS**

The Board of Directors of the Barton Springs / Edwards Aquifer Conservation District has ordered its staff to not accept applications that would lead to additional withdrawals of groundwater from the Edwards Aquifer. At its regular meeting on April 9, 2009, the BSEACD Board unanimously approved a Board Order imposing a temporary moratorium on the filing and accepting of applications for production permits, transport permits, and well development authorizations for withdrawing additional freshwater from the Edwards Aquifer in the jurisdiction of the BSEACD. The moratorium, which is effective immediately, extends until the desired future conditions (DFCs) are defined by an ongoing planning process, the Managed Available Groundwater (MAG) applicable to the aquifer is established by the Texas Water Development Board, and the District adopts rules to implement them, or until September 1, 2011, whichever is earlier. Exempt wells, new individual domestic and livestock wells, and wells completed in other aquifers, are not included in the moratorium.

The portions of Hays and Travis counties within the jurisdictional authority of the District are experiencing rapid growth which is placing an increasing demand on the limited, relatively inexpensive, high quality aquifer resources before the applicable MAG and its responsive regulatory program are in place. The District is currently in a sustained Critical Stage Drought and may be approaching an unprecedented Emergency Response Period this summer, even with only the currently authorized, managed withdrawals of its existing permittees.

Kirk Holland, the District's General Manager, noted that, "While this moratorium was not a direct consequence of the District's current Critical Stage Drought, taken together the drought and moratorium indicate that the Board is very concerned about the future condition of the aquifer. They should be considered an indication that the water supply of some groundwater users in our community may be in serious jeopardy in the near future."

The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District was created in 1987 by the Texas Legislature as the responsible public authority and the preferred entity for managing groundwater in District aquifers. The District currently serves southern Travis County, northern Hays County, and portions of southwestern Bastrop and northwestern Caldwell Counties, and is committed to conserving, protecting, recharging, and preventing waste of groundwater and to preserving all aquifers within this area.

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