



**Barton Springs
Edwards Aquifer**
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



AQUIFER UPDATE

March 2012

Aquifer Levels on the Rise



Sept. 2011



Mar. 2012

Figure 1: Onion Creek is one of the major contributors of recharge to the aquifer.

At its meeting on March 22, the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District's Board of Directors declared a No-Drought condition for the aquifers within the District, effective immediately. Both drought triggers--the Lovelady Monitor Well and sustained flow at Barton Springs--have risen above their respective drought thresholds. In No-Drought status, groundwater users are encouraged to maintain conservation practices, but water use restrictions are lifted.

and spring, but our area received 2.5 times the average amount of rainfall for 4 months this winter and spring. Runoff just above the recharge zone saturated the soils and allowed for runoff to fill the creeks (Fig. 1). Water makes its way through fractures and caves in creek beds into the aquifer. Creekflow in the major creeks has contributed major amounts of recharge to the aquifer. Water levels in the Edwards Aquifer have risen, but it's far from an aquifer-full state.

Meteorologists had predicted a dry winter

The frequent droughts reinforce how
Continued on page 2

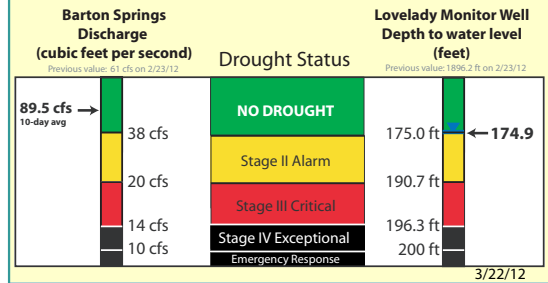
Test Your Water Well

Private water wells should be tested annually. The Texas Well Owner Network, in partnership with the Blanco and Hays County Offices of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, and the Texas Water Resources Institute, and with support from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board is providing a water well screening day for area residents on April 16. The screening will test for fecal coliform

bacteria, nitrates, and salinity. To ensure accuracy of the the testing results, samples must be collected less than 24 hours before analysis. Sample bags are available for pick up during business hours at the BSEACD before April 16, 2012.

The District will provide the analysis free of charge for the first 50 water samples received. A meeting explaining analysis results will be held at 6:00

DROUGHT STATUS



District Overview

Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District is the groundwater conservation district established to conserve, protect, and enhance the groundwater resources of the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer and the underlying Trinity Aquifer.

The District boundary encompasses approximately 247 square miles in Caldwell, Hays, and Travis counties. The area has a long history of farming, ranching, and rural domestic use of groundwater, but it is increasingly and rapidly being converted to residential use owing to suburban and exurban development from Austin and San Marcos.

The use of groundwater in the segment has grown over the last 75 years from just incidental amounts to now serving as either a sole source or a primary source of drinking water of 60,000+ people. It also is the source of water for Barton Springs Pool in Austin's Zilker Park, and its associated spring-dependent species.

p.m. on April 17, 2012 at the Dripping Springs Vocational Agriculture Building, 111 Tiger Lane. Individual results will also be mailed.

- Pick up sample bags:** Anytime before April 16
- Sample collection:** Within 24 hrs of April 16 at 10:00am
- Sample dropoff:** From 8:00am to 10:00am, Monday, April 16, 2012
- Dropoff location:** BSEACD Headquarters, 1124 Regal Row, Austin 78748
- More information:**

TOP 5 WATER SAVING TIPS

1. USE TEXAS NATIVE PLANTS.

Native plants are adapted to the droughts and floods of Central Texas. If you are replacing portions of your landscape that didn't survive the drought, consider hardy, drought-tolerant Texas natives. You'll be glad you did!

2. MAKE WATER CONSERVATION A WHOLE FAMILY ACTIVITY.

Droughts are a common occurrence in Central Texas and water is a precious resource! Challenge all your family members to think of new ways to save water and to be part of the solution.

3. CATCH THE CONDENSATION FROM YOUR AC UNIT AND USE IT IN YOUR YARD.

Depending on how your air conditioner is programmed, it can produce gallons of water per day. Catch that water in a bucket or rain barrel and put it on your garden, shrubs and trees.

4. FIX LEAKY FAUCETS AND TOILETS.

Leaky faucets can waste up to 7 gallons of water per day and leaky toilets can waste even more. To check for leaks at home, read your water meter and avoid using water for 2 hours. Read the meter again after this period. If the amount is different, you have a leak.

5. ONLY RUN THE DISHWASHER OR WASHING MACHINE WITH A FULL LOAD.

And if it is time to replace either of these appliances, opt for water-conserving models.

For more water conserving ideas for inside and outside your house, information on rainwater harvesting, and water wise landscaping, visit:

www.bseacd.org/education/water-conservation/



Have a great water conservation solution? Share it on our Facebook page! 'Like' us to keep up with the latest events, news, and drought updates.

Aquifer Levels on the Rise (continued from page 1)

valuable water really is. Prolonged dry periods are part of the natural climate cycle in Central Texas (Fig. 2). Water conservation needs to be integrated into all aspects of daily life.

Typically, water use peaks from May through September because of a sharp increase in outdoor irrigation. Even in No-Drought status during these months,

groundwater users are asked to voluntarily reduce water use by 10% to help extend water resources through the summer. Conserving water can prolong the time spent in no-drought conditions, preserve water levels, and keep springflow at Barton Springs above the drought thresholds.

Figure 2: Drought stage timeline for the 2 most recent droughts, based on the Lovelady Monitor Well water levels.

	Drought Stage	Water Level Change		Date Range	Time Elapsed
----- 2008-2009 DROUGHT -----					
2008-2009 Drought	No Drought	153' to 175' (Average to Alarm threshold)	Decline	Feb. 24, 2008 – Jun. 3, 2008	3 months, 10 days
	Alarm Drought	175' to 192.1' (Alarm to Critical threshold)	Decline	Jun. 3, 2008 – Nov. 25, 2008	5 months, 22 days
	Critical Drought	below 192.1' (below Critical threshold)	Depth of Drought	Nov. 25, 2008 – Oct. 28, 2009	11 months, 3 days
	Alarm Drought	192.1' to 175' (Critical to Alarm threshold)	Recovery	Oct. 28, 2009 – Dec. 21, 2009	1 month, 23 days
	No Drought	175' to 153' (Alarm threshold to Average)	Recovery	Dec. 21, 2009 – Mar. 8, 2010	2 months, 15 days
----- 2011-2012 DROUGHT -----					
2011-2012 Drought	No Drought	153' to 175' (Average to Alarm threshold)	Decline	Jan. 10, 2011 – Apr. 24, 2011	3 months, 14 days
	Alarm Drought	175' to 190.7' (Alarm to Critical threshold)	Decline	Apr. 24, 2011 – Sept. 8, 2011	4 months, 15 days
	Critical Drought	below 190.7' (below Critical threshold)	Depth of Drought	Sept. 8, 2011 – Feb. 23, 2012	5 months, 15 days
	Alarm Drought	190.7' to 175' (Critical to Alarm threshold)	Recovery	Feb. 23, 2012 – Mar. 22, 2012	1 month
	No Drought	175' to 153' (Alarm threshold to Average)	Recovery	Mar. 22, 2012 –	--

Water Well Information Update

The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (BSEACD) is currently updating well records in order to streamline communication with private well owners in our District. To better protect water supplies and notify well owners in case of pollution spills, we ask that you help us update our contact information.

We serve the groundwater community by monitoring groundwater levels and water quality, coordinating water conservation efforts

during drought, and researching aquifer dynamics.

To update your information please contact the District office. If you would like a staff member to check our records for historic water level data or to come measure the water level of your well, please email or call Robin Gary (rhgary@bseacd.org, 512-282-8441).

Summary for State Well Number:

Contact:
Address:

Date Drilled:
Driller:
Well Depth: