

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

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Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District

Wells and Major Rainfall Events

Keep an eye on your well water. With large rain events come lots of recharge to the aquifers. Storm water can wash in bacteria and contaminants. If you notice a change in taste, odor, or appearance of your water, switch to drinking bottled water or boil before drinking.

A great question on many well owners' minds is when and/or if they should shock their wells to eliminate contaminants washed in by the storm. During rains, water can enter the well system in a number of different ways. Here they are in order of speed 1) directly from the surface from a cracked slab or damaged casing; 2) through the groundwater system if the well is directly on a conduit that receives recharge; or 3) the well is in the matrix of the aquifer.

Since the contaminants enter from the surface, it depends on the well's relationship with surface water. All well owners should

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What Makes a Good Monitor Well?

Aquifer conditions are dynamic and therefore water levels can fluctuate because of drought, recharge, and pumping. Monitor wells help track these changes and inform policy to help protect water supplies and springflow for all users. After all, groundwater is a shared resource.

We often get asked the question, what makes a good monitor well? In short, the answer is that a well that is representative of the aquifer we are interested in. But, while water levels can be measured in most wells, the nature of the geology and well construction usually limits the potential for a well to be used for monitoring purposes.

At the surface, groundwater wells can appear similar, however individual wells--even neighboring ones--can be constructed in very different ways. For example, different depths of wells, or different depths of the casing influences production rates and water quality. Well records (e.g. driller's logs, geophysical logs, video logs) are key to understanding a well's construction.

Drillers use a variety of construction methods to balance sufficient quantity (yield) with good (a relative term) water quality....

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Current Drought Stage: NO DROUGHT

The District uses two drought triggers to manage pumping and coordinate conservation.



10-day avg flow: 77.4 cfs
This average does not include flow during or after the flood, because the pool level and recovery are affecting realtime measurements. Barton Creek reached over 14,000 cfs during the flood.



Water level: 514 ft above msl
In response to the recent rains, the water level has risen 4 ft from last month's eNews.

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FEATURED EVENT

Join Us at the Rainwater Revival



Sat., Nov. 7, 10-4: The District is helping sponsor this year's Rainwater Revival at the Dripping Springs Ranch Park (1042 Event Center Drive).

Join us for a family friendly way to talk with experts and see if rainwater harvesting is for you!

[attend this event](#) →

[view event details](#) →

Temporary Permits Finalized

The temporary permits in the new groundwater management zone in Hays County were finalized on Monday, Oct. 19, 2015. In accordance with the enabling legislation (HB3405), the temporary permit sets a permit volume up to the maximum capacity of the well and grants authority to pump while the regular permits are processed.

Staff is working through the regular permitting process with all permittees to establish requisite drought contingency plans, have meters installed, and set up and perform aquifer tests (if applicable). As the regular permits are finalized the permits will go through a public process. Public notice will be given and a permit overview presentation will be presented at a District Board meeting (open to the public) before the Board approves the regular permits.

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Upcoming Events, Meetings, & Deadlines

- Sat., Nov. 7: **Rainwater Revival** ([details](#))
- Wed., Nov. 11: **Veterans Day** - Office closed
- Thurs., Nov. 19: Bell County Water Symposium ([details](#))
- Thurs., Nov. 19: **BSEACD Board Meeting** ([details](#))
- Sat., Nov. 21: **Williamson Creek Cleanup** ([details](#))
- Thurs. and Fri. Nov. 26-27: **Thanksgiving** - Office closed
- Thurs., Dec. 17: **BSEACD Board Meeting** ([details](#))