



**Barton Springs
Edwards Aquifer**
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MEDIA COMMUNICATION

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For more information, Contact: Robin Gary, Public Information and Education Coordinator,
(512) 282-8441.

Aquifer District Recognizes Westlake Mayor for Aquifer Stewardship

At its most recent meeting, the Directors of the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District approved a formal resolution that recognized Westlake Mayor Dave Claunch for his role in facilitating the annexation of the Ridgewood Village Water System by Travis County Water Control and Improvement District 10. After carefully and systematically considering requirements and pre-requisites, Water District 10 has initiated the annexation process, which is predicted to be complete and active later this fall.

The annexation means residents will switch their authorized water supply from the Edwards Aquifer, which was unable to meet the demands without contravening the District's production permit held by the Village water system, to the less constrained surface water supply of Water District 10. Retiring the historic 16.5 million gallon per year pumping permit for the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer benefits other aquifer users by reducing demand for firm-yield water and delaying or avoiding more severe drought stages, while also allowing an increase in environmental flows during drought, which translates directly to a more secure habitat for the endangered Barton Springs salamander.

With Barton Springs discharge and water levels in the aquifer declining as a result of no appreciable rainfall for more than seven months, the District Board in its meeting also declared Stage II Alarm Drought for all groundwater users in the District. Permittees like the Ridgewood Village Water System are required to reduce their pumping by 20% in this drought stage. Groundwater is a shared resource, and water conservation has to be a coordinated effort.

The District thanked Mayor Claunch and the Ridgewood Village Water System residents for their efforts to retire the 16.5 million gallons of Edwards Aquifer pumpage and secure a water supply that better meets their current needs.

The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District is charged by the State of Texas to manage the groundwater resources of southern Travis, northern Hays, and adjacent parts of Bastrop and Caldwell Counties. These groundwater systems serve some 60,000 Central Texans as a water supply and feed the iconic recreational and cultural resource of Barton Springs and its habitat of federally-protected endangered species living there.

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