



**Barton Springs  
Edwards Aquifer**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Contact: John Dupnik, General Manager, (512) 282-8441, [jdupnik@bseacd.org](mailto:jdupnik@bseacd.org)

## **Deadline Approaching to Permit Wells in New Hays County Groundwater Management Zone**

Water well owners covered by a new law have just a few days left to legally obtain temporary permits for their wells – and save a \$500 application fee. Don't panic – not all well owners need to obtain a permit.

**No Permit Required, Just Register:** Owners of domestic and livestock wells do not need a permit but do need to register. Non-Edwards (such as Trinity, chalk, or alluvial aquifer) well owners in the new groundwater management zone register with the District to provide updated contact information and a basic well description. There's no fee, no meter, and no site visit associated with well registration. There's no deadline for registration, but the sooner the well is registered the sooner it can be protected. Registration helps provide a record of wells to use when assessing how permitted wells might affect neighbors and long-term draws on water resources.

**Permit Required:** Non-Edwards wells used for other purposes (such as for business, public water supply, large-scale irrigation, schools, or churches) need a permit. There is a deadline under the law for owners of these wells – Sept. 19, just days away – to file applications for a temporary permit to continue pumping water. During this temporary permit grace period, staff has been helping well owners start their permitting process (simple 2-page application) and take advantage of the waived \$500 application fee.

“As a Groundwater Conservation District, we have been tasked with managing, protecting and conserving groundwater resources for all users,” said John Dupnik, the General Manager of the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (District), whose agency was assigned by the legislature to administer and enforce the new law. “This legislation is important to protecting the water supply and to ensuring fairness for all users in the area. But we know it's a change, and want to make the transition as easy as possible on everyone. The most common question and/or misconception relates to who actually needs a permit.”

You need to permit your well if:

- The well is used for something OTHER than domestic or livestock purposes; and,
- The well is NOT in the Edwards Aquifer; and,
- The well is in the newly annexed part of the District which includes Hays County generally east of Wimberley and south of Kyle (see map link below).

Permitting allows the District to manage large users to ensure that groundwater pumping doesn't endanger the collective water supply, private property of neighbors, or sustainability of the aquifer system. The temporary permit provides a way to use water at the existing or historic rate until a regular permit is completed. Staff has made a significant effort to identify and contact

(through a town hall meeting, neighborhood information sessions, direct mail, phone calls, etc) well owners that may need a permit and to walk them through the process.

“Our mission is to safeguard water for this generation and the next,” said Mary Stone, President of the elected District Board of Directors. “We are honored that our community and the Hays County leadership trust us with this important responsibility. Water is a sensitive subject. Our focus is to fulfill our mission using science, common sense, and fairness.”

Useful links:

- Details about registration and permitting: [www.bseacd.org/TrinityWell](http://www.bseacd.org/TrinityWell)
- Interactive map with address search: [www.bseacd.org/education/trinity-wells/#map](http://www.bseacd.org/education/trinity-wells/#map)
- Bill summary and FAQ: [www.bseacd.org/education/trinity-wells/#bill](http://www.bseacd.org/education/trinity-wells/#bill)
- District contact info: [www.bseacd.org/about-us/](http://www.bseacd.org/about-us/)

*BSEACD is a groundwater conservation district charged by the Texas Legislature to preserve, conserve, and protect the aquifers and groundwater resources within its jurisdiction, which includes parts of three Central Texas counties. It is governed by a Board of five elected directors and staffed with hydrogeologists, groundwater regulatory compliance specialists, environmental educators, geospatial systems specialists, and administrative support personnel.*

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