



**Barton Springs
Edwards Aquifer**
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Temporary Permits Finalized

The recent legislation that extended groundwater protection to the previously unmanaged aquifers in Hays County also established a temporary permitting process to allow certain well owners to continue operation under the law while their regular permit application is processed. In accordance with HB3405, permittees can request a temporary permit volume up to the maximum production capacity of their well. Requested volumes over 2 million gallons per year require an aquifer test to prove that the permitted volume would not cause unreasonable impacts to nearby wells and would not jeopardize the overall sustainability of the aquifer (expressed as the desired future condition). This aquifer test component is to be completed by the applicant during the regular permit review process.

On Monday, October 19, temporary permits were issued by the District. The 21 permits authorize production of about of 264 million gallons per year from the Trinity Aquifer and 2 million gallons per year from the Austin Chalk Aquifer. Of those 21 temporary permits, 4 Trinity permits trigger varying degrees of aquifer tests. All well owners operating under a temporary permit will also be required to install meters and report monthly pumping to the District during the interim period.

The temporary permits issued are the first step in a two-part permitting process. The temporary permit is an interim authorization that allows well owners to continue operating while the regular permit application and associated aquifer test (if applicable) is being processed. Regular permits are expected to be issued by March of 2016. As the regular permits are finalized, public notice will be given and a permit overview presentation will be presented to the District's Board before the regular permits are approved.

Additionally in the coming months, the District will work with the 4 permittees requesting over 2 million gallons per year to develop a work plan and establish a monitoring network for aquifer tests commensurate with the volumes requested. An aquifer test involves pumping the permitted well at a rate and duration that causes a measurable drawdown. Using the pumping rate, responses in monitoring wells, the magnitude of the response, the distance from the pumping center, and the rate of recovery after pumping has ceased, the impacts of the long-term pumping at the requested rate can be calculated. The results of the aquifer test can be used to model impacts to surrounding wells and to the overall aquifer as a part of the technical evaluation of the regular permit.

The additional permitting details and the list of permittees, requested and approved temporary permit volumes, and use type can be found at: <http://www.bseacd.org/regulatory/TempPermits/>
Useful links:

- Details about permitting: <http://www.bseacd.org/regulatory/TempPermits/>

- Interactive map with address search: www.bseacd.org/education/trinity-wells/#map
- Bill summary and FAQ: www.bseacd.org/education/trinity-wells/#bill

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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