

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

Subscribe to Aquifer News: [Click here.](#)



## Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District

### Well Water Checkup and Open House

US EPA's rules that protect public drinking water systems do not apply to individual water systems, such as privately owned wells. As an individual water system owner, it is up to each well owner to ensure that their water is safe to drink.

The Edwards and Trinity Aquifers are karst aquifers that can receive rapid recharge during storms. Bacteria, nitrate, and salinity screening can be a good indication of how connected a well's water supply is to surface water and surface water contaminants.

**Each year, the District hosts the free Well Water Checkup and Open House to help our well owners learn more about their well water and answer questions about water quality, geology, water conservation, and alternate water supplies.**

**There are still slots left for this year's well water sampling.** It is limited to the first 75 District well owners to stop by to preregister and pick up sampling supplies and instructions. Call (512-282-8441) if you need to pick up the sampling kit after hours and staff can help fill out the preregistration form.

[READ MORE](#)

### Proposed Rule Change Status

At the March 24th Board Meeting, the Board of Directors closed the public hearing on proposed rule changes but took no action to allow staff time to compile, research, and prepare responses to the public comments and allow Directors time to research and review comments. The City of Buda, Edmond McCarthy on behalf of landowner and lessee clients, Save Our Springs Alliance (SOS), and the Trinity Edwards Springs Protection Association (TESPA) submitted written comments before the public hearing was closed.

Staff plans to present a summary of comments received at the April 14th meeting. The Board may also adjourn into executive session for consultation with the District's attorney on legal matters related to the proposed rules. The proposed rule changes in mark-up, a compilation of the submitted written comments, and the District's response to comment (once it is complete) can be accessed [here](#).

[READ MORE](#)

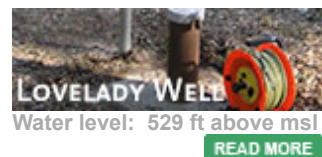
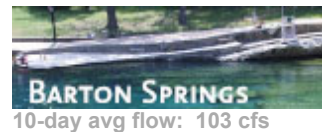
FEATURED RESOURCES

#### IN THIS ISSUE

- [Checkup and Open House](#)
- [Rule Change Status](#)
- [TWDB GAM Funding](#)
- [Proposed Rule Changes](#)
- [Permitting Update](#)
- [Aquifer Status](#)
- [Kent Butler Summit](#)

#### Current Drought Stage: **NO DROUGHT**

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



#### STAY IN TOUCH

- [Become a Facebook fan](#)
- [Subscribe to our blog](#)
- [Follow us on Twitter](#)
- [Subscribe to Aquifer News](#)

The Texas Water Development Board recently authorized \$355,000 in funding and initiated the process for expanding and updating the Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) for Hill Country Trinity Aquifer. The new GAM will include a portion of the Trinity that underlies the Edwards Aquifer within the Balcones Fault Zone and investigate the western hydrogeologic boundary in Groundwater Management Area 9. The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, other surrounding Districts and Counties have supported this effort and expressed how useful an expanded and updated Hill Country GAM will be in managing groundwater resources in the Trinity. Our District will play an active role in data collection and aquifer characterization.

Find out more:

- [Previous Hill Country GAM Info page](#)
- [TWDB Proposed Research Projects for GAM Program Grants](#)
- [Actual funding authorization \(Item 18 on the 3/21 agenda\).](#)

## Permitting Update

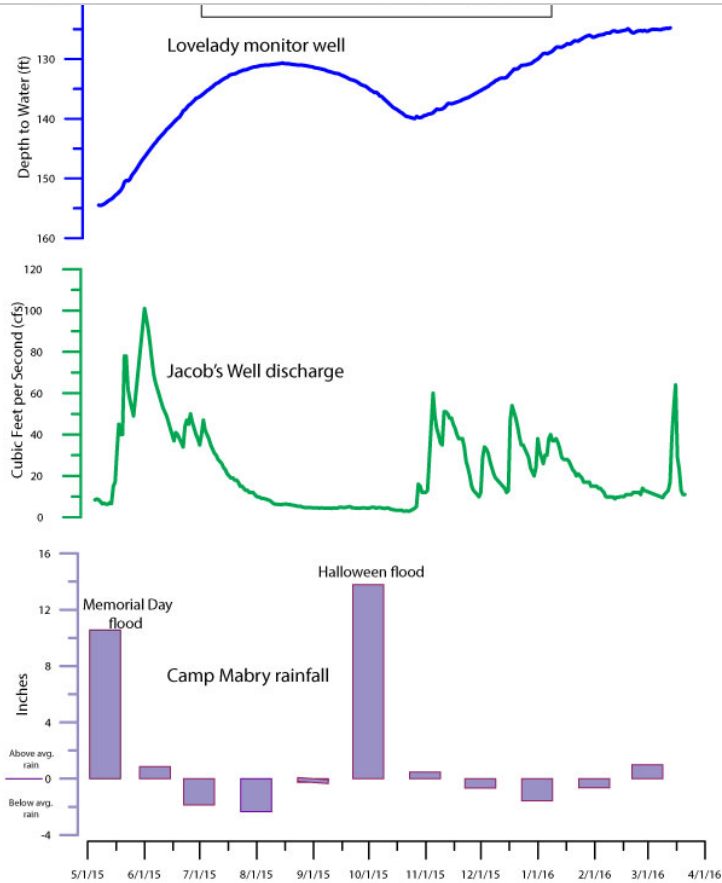
Notice was given that 14 of the submitted temporary permit applications have satisfied District requirements for issuance of a Regular Historical Production Permit. These 14 permits are all under 2 million gallons annually and are recommended for approval by the Board of Directors (Board) for the requested annual permit volumes for continued groundwater production for the existing use. If approved by the Board, the permittees will be required to comply with the drought curtailments and all other applicable provisions of a Historical Production Permit.

A consolidated Public Hearing will be held by the Board during the Regular Meeting on **Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 6:15 p.m.** Following the hearing, the Board may consider possible action to approve some or all of the permit applications listed below. Public response period for which comments, written formal protests, and requests for contested case hearing must be submitted by April 26, 2016.

Registered well owners within half a mile of the temporary permittees will receive a notice letter in the mail in the next few days. To find out more about benefits of well registration and to register, visit the [Well Registration](#) page.

[READ MORE](#)

## Aquifer Status



The effects of increased rainfall through much of the past year (51.9 in since last April) have been evidenced by increased water levels in the Edwards and Trinity Aquifers. The graphic below depicts the rise in water level in the BSEACD Lovelady monitor well since May of 2015. The steady rise in water levels since November 2015 almost came to an end at the beginning of March 2016 when 3.1 inches of rain over a four-day period brought more recharge to the Edwards Aquifer. This additional rainfall caused flow in the creeks that pass over the recharge zone to increase, thereby increasing recharge to the aquifer. And, water levels in Lovelady are rising again, but slowly.

Notably, water levels in the Lovelady well are currently at their highest mark since 2007 when a depth to water of 126.1 ft was recorded. As an indication of recharge to the Trinity Aquifer, Jacob's Well Spring has benefitted from the wet 2015 and has maintained flow greater than 10 cubic feet per second (cfs) through the beginning of 2016, but flow, similar to other streams and springs, is now beginning to recede.

In the long term, the presently-strong El Niño has begun visibly weakening, according to [NOAA](#). This weakening could lead to decreased rainfall, decreased stream flow, and decreased groundwater levels. That said, the April rainfall total is already a quarter of an inch (0.27 in) five days into the month and meteorologists [predict](#) more rain to come.

[READ MORE](#)

## [Kent Butler Summit: Toward a Regional Plan for the Hill Country](#)

Registration  
Open!



# KENT BUTLER SUMMIT

Toward a Regional Plan for the Hill Country

Kent Butler has been described as a visionary and “the best friend the Barton Springs Aquifer ever had”. Dr. Butler specialized in bringing science and policy together. He encouraged open conversation, collaboration, and participation from all perspectives. As a college professor, environmental advocate, and active stakeholder, he played a key role in developing the management strategies and protections for the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer that are in place today. Dr. Butler died in a tragic accident while hiking in Yosemite National Park on Friday, May 13, 2011. This summit is dedicated to his memory.

The 2016 Summit will focus on the Hill Country Design Studio and foster open discussion of solutions to better protect the Hill Country.

The annual Kent Butler Summit will be held on Earth Day, April 22nd, 2016 at the Wimberley Community Center (14068 Ranch Road 12). Registration and agenda available at the [Kent Butler Summit](#) website.

## Upcoming Events, Meetings, & Deadlines

- Tues. Apr. 12: **Last day to pick up sampling kit** ([details](#))
- Wed., Apr. 13: **Well Water Checkup and Open House** ([details](#))
- Thurs., Apr. 14: **BSEACD Board Meeting** ([details](#))
- Fri., Apr. 22: **Kent Butler Summit** ([details](#))
- Thurs., Apr. 28: **BSEACD Board Meeting** ([details](#))
- Mon, May 2: **Permittee meter readings due** ([details](#))
- Thurs., May 12: **BSEACD Board Meeting** ([details](#))
- Thurs., May 26: **BSEACD Board Meeting** ([details](#))

Published by [bseacd.org](http://bseacd.org) - Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District  
1124 Regal Row - Austin, TX 78748 - 512-282-8441  
Copyright © 2015 Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District. All rights reserved.