



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING and REGULAR MEETING of the BARTON SPRINGS-EDWARDS AQUIFER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Thursday, August 14, 2025**

**5:00 PM**

**IN-PERSON**

Notice is given that a **Public Hearing and Regular Meeting** of the Board of Directors (Board) of the Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District will be held on **Thursday, August 14, 2025**, commencing at **5:00 p.m.** at the **District office, located at 1124 Regal Row, Austin, Texas.**

This meeting will be video and audio recorded and the recording will be available on the District's website after the meeting.

Public Comments at the Board Meeting – Please complete a comment card prior to the start of the meeting. Each registered person will be recognized and identified by the Presiding Officer or staff moderating the communications when it is their turn to speak. **Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per person.**

### AGENDA

**Board members present at commencement:** Vanessa Puig-Williams, Blayne Stansberry, Jon Cradit, Lily Lucas, and Christy Williams.

**Staff present:** Erin Swanson, Jeff Watson, Bri Moore, Justin Camp, and Shay Hlavaty.

Note: The Board of Directors of the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District reserves the right to meet in Executive Session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed on this agenda, as authorized by the Texas Government Code Sections §551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), 551.087 (Economic Development), 418.183 (Homeland Security). No final action or decision will be made in Executive Session.

#### 1. **Call to Order.**

President Puig-Williams called the meeting to order at 05:01 p.m. Puig-Williams stated that agenda item 5e will be moved to the September 2025 board meeting to allow adequate time for staff input on employee management policy changes.

#### 2. **Citizen Communications (Public Comments of a General Nature).**

Representatives from the Whiskey Ridge development, Victoria and Travis Cox, attended the meeting. The Coxes, who were featured in the District's well owner spotlight series, thanked the District for promoting their on-site sustainable projects. The couple noted that, as a result of the spotlight, other community members have reached out to them about starting their own projects. The Coxes recently

applied for the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) rain catcher award and plan to display the District's published article on their property.

**3. Consent Agenda.** *(Note: These items may be considered and approved as one motion. Directors or citizens may request any consent item be removed from the consent agenda, for consideration and possible approval as a separate item of Regular Business on this agenda.)*

- a. Approval of Financial Reports under the Public Funds Investment Act, Directors' Compensation Claims, Specified Expenditures greater than \$10,000.
- b. Approval of minutes of the Board's July 10, 2025, Regular Meeting and Public Hearing.
- c. Approval of Task Order #23 for the Austin Alliance Group to provide bookkeeping and payroll services in FY 26.
- d. Approval of an engagement Letter from P. Andrew Hall, LLC for the FY 25 audit.  
Director Stansberry moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Lucas seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0.

**4. General Manager's Report.**

- a. *Best wishes to my District colleagues!*
- b. Jeff Watson stated that the District has issued an offer letter to Alyssa Garcia for the administrative coordinator position. She has accepted the letter and begins employment with the District on September 8, 2025.
- c. Aquifer Status Report

Justin Camp provided the drought update. He reported that in July 2025, the region experienced an average rainfall of 4.6 in, which is 2.6 in above the historical rainfall average for July. The region has experienced 0.4 in of rainfall thus far in the month of August. By the end of July and into early August, the 10-day average groundwater level at the District's Lovelady monitor well was 457.6 ft-msl.

Lovelady saw a slight response from the July 4 rains, jumping 0.6 in. Justin stated that all though these intense rains fell within the recharge zone, the overly dry soil soaked in a large portion of that precipitation, effectively lowering the impact of rain events in sustaining aquifer water levels. Lovelady also appears to be experiencing a slight declining trend in water levels.

Jeff attributed a dry climate and lack of precipitation preceding large rainfall events – also known as antecedent conditions – as a likely key contributor to the lack of aquifer recharge.



Director Cradit questioned the data source for precipitation analyses done at the district. This was followed by a brief discussion of a precipitation analysis that is underway at the District.

The 10-day average flow at Barton Springs saw a boost to 24 cfs from the July 4<sup>th</sup> rains, putting it within the stage 2 drought trigger. Justin said he made a manual measurement of the spring flow on August 13<sup>th</sup>, and another measurement will be made at the end of August, into early September.

Water levels in the Lower Coronado Middle Trinity Well have shown a decline since March of this year but did see a small, short-lived response to the July 4<sup>th</sup> rains.

The monthly rain outlook predicts equal chances of average rainfall, as with the month of August, totaling about 3 in. The U.S. Drought Monitor shows Travis and Hays Counties exhibiting abnormally dry to moderate meteorologic drought in August, which is an improvement from July.

Justin also presented hydrographs depicting the Upper and Middle Trinity and Edwards Aquifer water levels over a five-year period. The Borheim well near Ruby Ranch, and the Antioch recharge feature were used to show Edwards Aquifer conditions.

In 2023, the District declared stage 4 drought for the first time – recording some of the lowest water levels seen in the District's history. The Borheim hydrograph shows water levels approaching those record lows once more. This decline is indicative that the region is meeting its drought triggers at a faster rate than what has been seen before. Between October 2023 and now, Antioch water levels have experienced very little rise and, currently, are also approaching the same record lows. Within all District Edwards wells, a similar decline and minimal response to rainfall is being observed.

Upper Trinity monitoring wells hydrographs included those from the Gluson Camp and Carnes in the Rolling Oaks neighborhood. Water levels in these wells are also experiencing significant declines, with Gluson Camp approaching those record lows. The Carnes well shows a much more drastic decline in response to drought, revealing water level change between October 2023 to January 2024 to have already surpassed the record lows.

Jeff Watson added that the drastic difference in response between these two wells reflects the nature of the Upper Trinity Aquifer, which is not a continuous aquifer system – rather a series of separated perched aquifers. Each of these aquifers have their own response to recharge events.

Lastly, the Middle Trinity wells, Lowe and Sky Ranch near Ruby Ranch, have a similar story as they are also approaching 2023 low water levels.

## **5. Discussion and Possible Action.**

- a. Discussion and possible action related to the performance and compliance of District permittees with their User Drought Contingency Plan curtailments, and (new!) well-owner spotlight.

Erin Swanson presented the UDCP, updated through July. Tier 3 permittee, Creedmoor, was not in compliance for the month of July, pumping 39% over their allotment.

Shay Hlavaty presented the well-owner spotlight, which highlighted the sustainable work done by Victoria and Travis Cox from the Whiskey Ridge development. Victoria and Travis were in attendance for the presentation, and the board discussed the specifics of their sustainable practices.

- b. Public Hearing, discussion, and possible action related to proposed amendments to District Rules: 2-1. Definition of Terms; 3-1.18. Emergency Approvals; 3-1.20 General Permits by Rule; 3-1.23 Maximum Allowable Withdrawals for Management Zones; 3-1.24. Conditional Production Permits; 3-3.7. Proscribed Water Use During Declared Droughts; 3-7.3. Drought Stages and Triggers; 3-7.5. User Drought Contingency Plans; 3-7.6. Permittee Responsibilities; 3-7.7. District Action; and 3-7.10. Enforcement/Penalties During Drought;

President Puig-Williams opened the public hearing on proposed amendments to the District Rules at 5:38 p.m.

Erin Swanson presented proposed updates to District rules focused on drought stage name clarity within District rules, which included cleaning up grammar for consistency; adding definitions pertinent to the district; updating the UDCP for consistency; cleaning up language; and updating drought trigger language.

Shay Hlavaty presented new drought trigger signage.

President Puig-Williams opened the floor for public comment. There were no public comments.

President Puig-Williams closed the public hearing at 5:48 p.m.



Director Stansberry moved to approve the proposed rules changes. Director Cradit seconded the motion, passing 5-0.

- c. Discussion and possible action related to the adoption of the FY 2026 Fee Schedule and annual water use fee for the City of Austin by Resolution #081425-01.

Erin Swanson presented changes to the FY 2026 fee schedule. She stated that the biggest change made is the addition of production permit application fees that better reflect staff effort during the review process for Edwards and Trinity application. She also noted that the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) increased their fee schedule for the Edwards and Trinity, raising it by 10 cents.

Director Lucas moved to approve changes to the FY 2026 fee schedule. Director Cradit seconded the motion, passing 5-0.

- d. Public Hearing, discussion, and possible action on Final-draft FY 26 budget.

President Puig-Williams opened the public hearing on the FY 26 budget and opened the floor for public comment at 5:51 p.m.

There were no written or oral public comments.

After a brief discussion, President Puig-Williams closed the public hearing at 5:55 p.m.

Director Stansberry moved to approve the final draft of the FY 2026 budget. Director Williams seconded the motion, passing 5-0.

- e. Discussion and possible action on amendments to the Employee Policy Manual.

This item was tabled for the next board meeting to allow time for employee review of the proposed EPM changes.

- f. Discussion and possible action related to Texas Land Application Permit No. WQ0016373001 and the Decision of the TCEQ Executive Director for Hays Commons Development, Inc.

Brian Sledge reported that this matter has not yet been set for consideration by the TCEQ commissioners, nor have they referred it to the TCEQ ADR director. He noted that the District has submitted a contested case request, and now we are waiting for the commissioners to determine if the request is sent to the State Office of Administrative Hearings. The commissioners also have a preliminary opportunity to send the request to their internal Alternative Dispute Resolution Director if it is believed that the matter can be resolved through mediation.

- g. Discussion and possible action on declaring the next stage of drought.

Jeff Watson stated that he does not predict a need to declare the next stage of drought before the September board meeting

The General Manager committee will meet to discuss who will be delegated to make this declaration by the September meeting.

- h. Discussion and possible action related to the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the General Manager.

President Puig-Williams called a closed executive session under Section 551.071, Texas Government Code, to consult with the District's attorney at 6:03 p.m. on agenda items 5g, 5h, and 6. No final action or decision was made in executive session.

6. General Counsel's Report: The District's legal counsel will brief the Board on pertinent legal issues and developments impacting the District since the last Board meeting, and legal counsel's activities on behalf of the District, including without limitation waste injection well monitoring activities including any protests of injection well applications with the Railroad Commission of Texas or the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), monitoring or protests of water rights, wastewater discharge, or other waste-related applications at the TCEQ that may impact groundwater resources in the District; District rules enforcement activities, rules and management plan implementation issues, groundwater-related legislative activities, joint planning and DFC development activities, developments in groundwater case law and submission of legal briefs, contractual issues related to the District, open government, policy, personnel, and financial issues of the District, threatened or pending claims or litigation against the District, and other legal activities on behalf of the District – Brian Sledge, Legal Counsel, Sledge Law Group, PLLC

Directors returned from executive session at 7:43 p.m. and President Puig-Williams declared the meeting to be open to the public again.

Director Stansberry moved to approve a motion under item 5H to grant permission to the board president to sign documents in the absence of a general manager. Director Cradit seconded the motion, passing 5-0.

## 7. Director Reports.

Directors may report on their involvement in activities and dialogue that are of likely interest to the Board, in one or more of the following topical areas:

- Meetings and conferences attended or that will be attended;
- Board committee updates;
- Conversations with public officials, permittees, stakeholders, and other constituents;
- Commendations; and
- Issues or problems of concern.

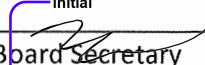
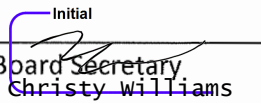
## 8. Adjournment.

Director Stansberry moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Cradit at 7:46 p.m.

**Please note:** This agenda and available related documentation, if any, have been posted on the District website, [www.bseacd.org](http://www.bseacd.org). If you have a special interest in a particular item on this agenda and would like any additional documentation that may be developed for Board consideration, please let staff know at least 24 hours in advance of the Board Meeting so that we can have those copies made for you. The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodations and equal opportunity for effective communications will be provided upon request. Please contact the District office at 512-282-8441 at least 24 hours in advance if accommodation is needed.

Approved by the Board on September 11, 2025.

By:   
Vanessa Puig-Williams, Board President

Attest:   
Christy Williams, Board Secretary  
  
Christy Williams