Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District
Fee Schedule: FY 27

Effective Date: September 1, 2026

I. PERMIT FEES AND PRODUCTION FEES

A. Drilling and Production Application Fees (See Table 1)

$ 450 Exempt Application Fee – assessed for the drilling (new well or replacement well) or modification of an exempt well. These wells are exempt from having to obtain an authorization or permit but must comply with the application requirement and District Rule 5. Exempt Wells include: Scientific Monitor Wells, Remediation Wells, Injection Wells, Closed Loop Geothermal Wells, Dewatering Wells, and Oil and Gas Drilling and Exploration Wells. For Monitoring Wells and Closed Loops Geothermal Wells, multiple wells that are similar in well design, construction, location, and purpose will be assessed an additional $10 fee for each monitoring well.

$450 General Permit Application Fee – assessed for the drilling (new well or replacement well), modification, or production of all new limited production permit (LPP), monitor, and test wells subject to the general permits by rule outlined in District Rule 3-1.20. This fee includes construction inspections conducted by District staff (a non-refundable, one-time fee assessment).

- For monitoring wells, multiple wells that are similar in well design, construction, location, and purpose will be assessed an additional $10 fee for each monitoring well.
- For test wells requiring additional aquifer pump tests, an additional $50 fee will be assessed.
- For aquifer tests performed to support application requests, a fee will be assessed based upon an hourly rate of $75 per hour for the amount of staff time needed in excess of 20 hours to support these tests. The applicant will be invoiced for this fee within 30 days upon the completion of the test.

Production Permit Application Fee - assessed to all new Production Permits for existing or new nonexempt wells not covered by Rule 3-1.20 - general permits by rule (a non-refundable fee assessment). Permit applications will be assessed an application fee based on the following scale:

- $ 600 - Edwards production volume requests up to 2,000,000 gallons per year or Trinity Production volume requests up to 650,000 gallons per year.
- $ 900 - Edwards production volume requests 2,000,001 to 12,000,000 gallons per year or Trinity production volume requests 650,001 to 2,000,000 gallons per year.
- $ 1200 - Edwards production volume requests 12,000,001 to 40,000,000 gallons per year or Trinity production volume requests 2,000,001 to 40,000,000 gallons per year.
- $ 3,000 - Production volume requests 400,000,001 to 500,000,000 gallons per year
- $5,000 - Production volume request greater than 500,000,000 gallons per year

$800 Transport Permit Application Fee – assessed to all new Transport Permit applications for existing or new nonexempt wells (a non-refundable fee assessment). This is in addition to production permit application fee, if applicable.

$725 Drilling/ Modification Application Fee– assessed for the drilling (new well or replacement well) or modification of all nonexempt wells. This fee includes construction inspections conducted by District staff. This fee does not apply to general permits by rule outlined in District Rule 3-1.20.

Well Plugging, Capping, or Recompletion –assessed for application and site review of proposed abandonment procedures, field inspections, and registration on abandonment of all wells (a non-refundable fee assessment).

- **$125** – for the plugging of hand dug or shallow alluvial wells.
- **$250** – for the plugging of drilled and cased wells that are not hand dug.

B. Permit Amendment Applications (see District Rules for clarification)

Minor Amendments

- **$600 Production Permit Increase** - minor amendments to increase pumpage authorized by individual permits (a non-refundable fee assessment)**.**
- **$375 Substantial Alteration -** minor amendments to substantially alter a well (a non-refundable fee assessment).
- **$85 All other minor amendments -** (a non-refundable fee assessment).

Major Amendments

- **$850 Production Permit Increase** - major amendment to increase pumpage authorized by individual permits (a non-refundable fee assessment).
- **$750 Well Modification -** major amendment to alter the physical or mechanical characteristics that increase capacity of an existing well (a non-refundable fee assessment).

C. Production Fees

$0.17 per 1,000 gallons for annual permitted or authorized pumpage for water to be withdrawn from a well or aggregate of wells by a Historical Edwards Permit or a Conditional Permit not authorized by material amendment.

$0. 51 per 1,000 gallons for annual permitted or authorized pumpage for water to be withdrawn from a well or aggregate of wells by a Trinity Production Permit.

$0.51 per 1,000 gallons for annual permitted or authorized pumpage for water to be withdrawn from a well or aggregate of wells by a new Class A, B, or C Conditional Permit or a Class A, B, or C Conditional Permit authorized by material amendment.

$0.20 per 1,000 gallons for annual permitted or authorized pumpage for water to be withdrawn from a well or aggregate of wells by a new Class D (ASR) Conditional Permit or a Class D Conditional Permit authorized by material amendment.

$0.20 per 1,000 gallons for annual permitted or authorized pumpage for water to be withdrawn from a well or an aggregate of wells in the Saline Edwards Management Zone.

$1 per acre-foot for Agricultural Wells for annual permitted pumpage for water to be withdrawn from a well or aggregate of wells (an acre-foot is 325,851 gallons).

Production Fees are assessed annually based on the current permitted pumpage volume of certain nonexempt wells. Permits are issued annually for nonexempt wells and are explicit as to the volume of water permitted to be withdrawn from a well or aggregate of wells over a specific time period.

D. Transport Fees

$0.31 per 1,000 gallons - assessed annually to all permittees who are transporting water out of the District. Transport fees are based on the volume authorized to be transported outside the District boundaries, in addition to the production fee associated with the production of that water (a non-refundable fee assessment).

E. Annual Permit Fees

$85 Annual Permit Fee - assessed to all permittees for renewing their first annual permits (a non-refundable fee assessment). If a permittee holds multiple permits, then subsequent permits will each be assessed a $50 fee for annual renewal.

F. Excess Pumpage Base Fee

Permittees who exceed their annual permitted pumpage, and are deemed **not in violation**, shall be assessed an excess pumpage base fee for groundwater withdrawn in excess of the permitted volume in accordance with the following fee rates. Permittees who exceed their annual permitted pumpage, and are deemed **in violation**, may be assessed a penalty in accordance with District Rules 3-8.5 and 3.8.7 and the District's Enforcement Plan.

Excess amounts will be assessed at $0.17 per 1,000 gallons for a Historical Edwards Permit, a Conditional Permit not authorized by material amendment, or a Temporary Production Permit, or at $0.51 per 1,000 gallons for new Conditional Permits and Conditional Permits authorized by material amendment, or at $0.51 per 1,000 gallons for a Historical Trinity Permit. .

G. Regulatory/Drought Management Fees

During periods of District-declared drought starting after one full month of a drought period, a regulatory drought management fee (DMF) will be imposed on individual permittees who exceed their monthly drought allocations (excludes all uses under general permits). This regulatory DMF will be invoiced and paid within the permittee's current billing cycle, in arrears as a condition of permit renewals at the beginning of each fiscal year. The fee will be assessed per full month of declared drought, with a credit of that same fee amount per month applied for each month that the permittee does not exceed its monthly mandated restriction in the prevailing UDCP. After a permittee has participated in a pre-enforcement meeting with District staff, the monthly drought regulatory fee will increase by 30% per month.

Fees will be assessed in accordance with the following schedule:

For production zone casing with outside diameters nominally 5.0 inches or less: *
$150/month

- $195/month – There will be 30% increase in the regulatory drought management fee for violations that occur after a permittee's participation in a pre-enforcement meeting.

For production zone casing with outside nominally between 5.0 inches and 10.0 inches: *
$300/month

- $390/month – There will be 30% increase in the regulatory drought management fee for violations that occur after a permittee's participation in a pre-enforcement meeting.

For production zone casing with outside diameters nominally greater than 10.0 inches: *
$550/month

- $715/month – There will be 30% increase in the regulatory drought management fee for violations that occur after a permittee's participation in a pre-enforcement meeting.

II. OTHER FEES

Meter Verification / Inspection Fee - $60 to $120
Assessed only when a permitted user fails inspection after being advised that meters must be installed or calibrated, or when a permittee fails to submit the required meter readings and District personnel must visit the well site or take the meter readings. The fee may be assessed as many times as permitted user fails to comply with Board Orders or District Rules to come into compliance. The fee will be assessed at $60 for the first two instances of the permittee's reporting history beginning Sept 1, 2021. On the third instance the fee will permanently be increased to $120 per instance for the life of the permit. (a non-refundable fee assessment). The $120 fee may be reduced back down to $60 after the permittee has demonstrated 12 consecutive months of timely meter reading submissions.

Special Fees
A Special Fee is required for certain tasks involving extraordinary staff time to perform extensive technical/ review, fieldwork, and/or inspections. This fee may be assessed for a variety of tasks and may be assessed as a one-time fee, on a periodic recurring basis, or cumulatively for multiple tasks depending on the tasks warranting the fee. Such tasks include but are not limited to the following:

Tasks Warranting a Special Fee	Assessment of Fee
Staff technical review of Permit applications involving alternative well designs (i.e. acidization), well development procedures (i.e. multiple target production zone options), or well plugging/capping procedures including alternative Test Well designs in which a formal aquifer test will be conducted to support a future Production Permit request.	$500 fee shall be assessed one time, and will be due 30 days upon the determination of administrative completeness of the application
Review of Permit applications requiring extensive external technical consulting services (e.g. contract review, well construction, engineering plans and specifications, hydrogeological modeling).	$5,000 fee shall be due within 30 days upon the determination that external technical consulting services are needed. (**Fee may be assessed in addition to other applicable Special Fees.)**

Review of Permits with special provisions requiring ongoing, annual or periodic internal technical review or compliance evaluations.	A fee up to $1,000 shall be recurring, assessed annually upon permit renewal based upon the nature and duration of the special permit provisions that are in effect.
Special inspections or investigations, or requests from local government or private entities.	A fee up to $1,000 shall be assessed one time as determined by the General Manager.

Potential for Unreasonable Impact Fee
The District will assess a supplemental fee to address staff time needed to review a permit application found to have a potential for unreasonable impact(s). Per District Rules, this finding initiates additional application requirements, internal technical review, development of permit compliance measures, and/or development of special provisions. The fee will be based upon a staff time rate of $75 per hour for the amount of time needed for the additional review determined by the General Manager's preliminary finding. This fee will be due at two times: half within 30 days upon the completion of the General Manager's preliminary finding, and half within 30 days upon administrative completeness.

Returned Check Fee - $35
The District will assess the person writing the returned check a $35 fee for each check returned by the District depository due to insufficient funds, account closed, signature missing, or any other problem causing such a return. This fee will be charged each time a check is returned. If bank charges to the District's account exceed $35, the District shall assess the higher of the two amounts (a non-refundable fee assessment).

Accounting Fee - $110 per hour
Anyone requesting that the District conduct any accounting, other than the routine accounting normally done by the District, shall be assessed an accounting fee of $50 per hour of District staff time spent on the accounting. Accounting fees will not be assessed if District generated errors are found in the Permittee's account.

Variance Request Fees - $400
An applicant may, by meeting eligibility requirements of Section 3-1.25 or Section 3-7.10 and by written petition to the Board, request a variance from the requirements of District Rule 3-1 or District Rule 5, except Sections 3-1.20, 3-1.22, 3-1.23, and 3-1.24, or District Rule 3-7, respectively.

Legal Notice Fees
An applicant will pay for publishing any legal notices in accordance with the District rules.

III. FEE REFUNDS

The General Manager or a specifically designated representative may approve a refund of any fee for which no District service has been provided at the time of the request for refund is submitted. Requests for refunds must be submitted in writing to the District office and can be mailed, faxed, hand-delivered, or sent by e-mail. Fee payers who feel they have been unfairly denied a refund may request that the matter be reviewed by the Board.

Exempt Wells – Permit Actions	Application Fee
Register Existing Well/ Change of Ownership	$0
Drill New Exempt Well/ Well Modification	$450

Nonexempt Wells – Permit Actions	Application Fee
GP - Drill New Well (LPP) Limited Production Permit	$450
GP - Drill New Test Well (includes one pump test)	$450
GP - Conduct Pump Test	$50
GP - Drill New Monitor Well	$450
GP – Aquifer Tests	TBD upon completion of the test.
Individual Drilling Authorization – Drill New Well / Well Modification	$725
Individual Production Permit – to produce from a well	$600-$5000
Transport Permit – to transport out of District	$800
Production Volume Increase (Minor Amendment)	$600
Production Volume Increase (Major Amendment)	$850
Plug, Cap, Recomplete Abandoned Wells	$125-$250
Change of Ownership of Permitted Well	$75
Special Fees	$500-$5000
Potential for Unreasonable Impact(s) Fee	TBD upon GM preliminary findings