In 2012 the Edwards Aquifer experienced severe drought, a brief respite from drought, and then drought conditions again (Figure 1).

The aquifer started 2012 in Stage III Critical Drought, brought about by the most severe single-year drought in Texas history in 2011. Above-average rainfall in the winter and early spring months of 2011-2012 generated sufficient soil moisture, runoff, and sustained creek flow to recharge the aquifer enough for the District’s Board to downgrade the Stage III Critical Drought to Stage II Alarm Drought in February 2012 and to “No Drought” conditions in March 2012. Above-average rainfall conditions persisted until about mid-March 2012 allowing Barton Springs to reach a peak discharge above 100 cfs. However, the wet conditions did not persist. The period from March through October consisted of a pattern of one wetter-than-average month followed by a very dry month. No rain fell at Camp Mabry or the District office from October 27 through December 14. Consequently, flow in the creeks began to subside, decreasing the amount of recharge entering the aquifer. The summer months in 2012 were very dry and hot causing creeks to eventually stop flowing over the recharge zone and

**Figure 1:** Hydrograph of the Lovelady Monitor Well, 2011-present. Periods of District declared drought are shown in gray.

**see AQUIFER STATUS on page 3**
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mary Stone  
Precinct 1 - President

Gary Franklin  
Precinct 2 - Vice President

Blake Dorsett  
Precinct 3 - Director

Dr. Robert D. Larsen  
Precinct 4 - Director

Craig Smith  
Precinct 5 - Secretary

**DISTRICT STAFF**

Kirk Holland, P.G.  
General Manager

Dana Christine Wilson  
Senior Administration Manager

Tammy Raymond  
Administrative Assistant - Personnel

Shannon DeLong  
Administrative Assistant - Accounting

Robin Gary  
Public Information and Education Coordinator  
Newsletter Editor

Dr. Brian Smith, P.G.  
Principal Hydrogeologist

Brian Hunt, P.G.  
Senior Hydrogeologist

Alan Andrews  
Hydrogeologist

John Dupnik, P.G.  
Assistant General Manager and  
Senior Regulatory Compliance Specialist

Kendall Bell-Enders  
Hydrogeologic Field Technician

---

**BSEACD PERMITTING SUMMARY**

(October 2012 - January 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permit Type</th>
<th>Number of Permits</th>
<th>Permitted Pumpage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exempt Wells</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDU General Permits</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>856,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Production Permits</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permit Amendments</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport Permits</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exempt Wells**  - These are low capacity wells used solely for large tract residential or livestock needs. These wells are exempt from permitting but must be registered with the District and meet District Well Construction Standards.

**Nonexempt Domestic Use (NDU) General Permits**  – This authorization is for wells that will be used solely for the domestic needs of residences located on small lots where there is no other alternative water source reasonably available. This pumpage is subject to drought restrictions, but may be authorized during drought since it is the sole source of domestic supply.

**Individual Production Permits**  - All other new nonexempt Trinity and Edwards wells must have one of these permits to be authorized for pumpage. Permits for new Edwards wells are designated as “Class C Conditional” Permits, which means that they are interruptible and subject to 100% curtailment during District-declared drought.

**Permit Amendments**  – These amendments are required to increase authorized pumpage for existing permittees (permit holders). Permit amendments for Edwards wells are designated as “Class C Conditional” Permits, which means they are subject to 100% curtailment during District-declared drought.

**Transport Permits**  – These permits are required to authorize the transport of groundwater out of the District. A Transport Permit may only authorize the transport of water permitted under an approved production permit.

- KENDALL BELL-ENDERS, HYDROGEOLOGIC FIELD TECHNICIAN

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**DISTRICT CALENDAR**

The Board of Directors usually meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month (beginning at 6 pm) at the District’s office at 1124 Regal Row, Austin, TX 78748. However, the meeting schedule and location are subject to change. The agenda for posted meetings can be found on the District website at www.bseacd.org at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Please contact the District office at 512-282-8441 with any questions.

Feb. 7 & 21  
Board meetings
Feb. 18  
Office closed for Presidents’ Day
Mar. 7 & 21  
Board meetings
Mar. 25  
Scholarship applications due
Apr. 11 & 25  
Board meetings
Apr. 16  
Free Water Well Check-up samples due
May 9 & 23  
Board meetings
May 27  
Office closed for Memorial Day
Recent Publications

The scientific staff of the District have been collaborating with other groundwater researchers, conducting scientific studies, and publishing the results of those studies for many years. Staff have been particularly productive the past two years with publication of 19 reports, papers, or abstracts. A listing of some of the key publications is presented below. Many of these publications are available on the District website (www.bseacd.org/publications/reports); those that are not are otherwise noted. District staff and interns are indicated in bold font.

**Survey of the Dissolved Oxygen in Groundwater During Drought Conditions, Barton Springs Segment of the Edwards Aquifer, Central Texas**

**Stephanie Lazo-Herencia, Brian Hunt, Brian Smith, and Robin Gary**

14th World Lake Conference, 2011

This poster presents a detailed map of the amount and distribution of dissolved oxygen in the groundwater of the Barton Springs segment. This is an important baseline study of water quality for water-supply and habitat concerns.

**Onion Creek Recharge Project, Northern Hays County, Texas**

**Brian Smith, Brian Hunt, and Joseph Beery**

TCEQ and US EPA Grant, 2011

This final report describes the construction and results of a recharge enhancement structure in Onion Creek that helps reduce the amount of stormwater contaminant entering the aquifer, and also increases the recharge potential at Antioch Cave.

**Surface to Subsurface Trinity Lithostratigraphy: Implications for Groundwater Availability in the Hill Country, Eastern Blanco and Northern Hays Counties, Texas**

**Brian Hunt, Doug Wierman, Al Broun, Charles Woodruff, Ron Fieseler**

Austin Geological Society Guidebook, 2011

This field trip guidebook describes basic geology and hydrogeology of the Trinity Aquifer in the Hill Country. The Trinity Aquifer is beneath the Edwards Aquifer in much of the District and is increasingly being targeted for production. The guidebook was produced in association with the Austin Geological Society and can be purchased from the UT Bureau of Economic Geology bookstore.

**Investigating Vertical Mixing Between Two Carbonate Aquifers Using a Multiport Well, Central Texas**

**Jenna Kromann, Corrine Wong, Brian Hunt, Brian Smith, and Jay Banner**

American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, 2011

This abstract and poster describe a study that documents how groundwater in the Edwards and underlying Middle Trinity aquifers are hydrologically isolated from each other, indicating that each can be treated as independent management units. This study was conducted in association with UT-Austin.

**Tracing Groundwater Flowpaths in the Vicinity of San Marcos Springs, Texas: Edwards Aquifer Authority, San Antonio, Texas**

**Steve Johnson, Geary Schindel, George Veni, Nico Hauwert, Brian Hunt, Brian Smith, and Marcus Gary**

Edwards Aquifer Authority, 2012, report

This report documents numerous dye tracing studies in the San Marcos area conducted primarily by the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA). The District collaborated with the EAA and others in dye traces that established recharge from the Blanco River flows to both Barton and San Marcos Springs under drought conditions.

**Revisiting the Hydrologic Divide Between the San Antonio and Barton Springs Segments of the Edwards Aquifer: Insights from Recent Studies**

**Brian Smith, Brian Hunt, and Steve B. Johnson**

Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies Annual Convention, 2012, This peer-reviewed paper presents evidence from numerous studies that describes the complex boundary between the Barton Springs and San Antonio segments of the Edwards Aquifer.

**Resistivity Imaging and Natural Potential Applications to the Antioch Fault Zone within Onion Creek, Barton Springs Segment of the Edwards Aquifer, near Buda, Texas**

**Mustafa Saribudak, Brian Hunt, and Brian Smith**

Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies Transactions, 2012

This paper describes the distribution and geometry of a fault that crosses Onion Creek near Antioch Cave. The fault is the boundary between the recharge and confined zones of the aquifer and is a significant influence on the hydrogeology of the aquifer.

**If Not the Edwards, Then What?**

**Brian Smith, Brian Hunt, and W. F. (Kirk) Holland**

Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies Transactions, 2012

This abstract describes some of the recent thoughts on alternative groundwater supplies in the District, such as use of the saline Edwards Aquifer, aquifer storage and recovery, and water reuse, among others.

**Temporal Trends in Precipitation and Hydrologic Responses Affecting the Barton Springs Segment of the Edwards Aquifer, Central Texas**

**Brian Hunt, Brian Smith, Raymond Slade Jr., Robin Gary, and W. F. (Kirk) Holland**

Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies Transactions, 2012

This paper describes historic trends of rainfall, streamflow, and spring discharge in Central Texas.

**Aquifer Status** (continued from page 1)

Aquifer levels to decline. The fall of 2012 continued to be relatively dry resulting in a steady decrease in springflow and aquifer levels. Although total rainfall for 2012 was above normal at 35 inches, its distribution in space and time was insufficient to overcome the deficit from the 2011 drought.

The Board declared Stage II Alarm Drought on November 15, after both Barton Springs and the Lovelady monitor well crossed their drought thresholds of 38 cfs and 478.4 ft-msl, respectively. As of the date of this newsletter, Alarm Stage II Drought remains in effect.

The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook by the National Weather Service indicates that drought conditions are expected to “persist or intensify” for central Texas through winter 2013. If the dry conditions persist, the District could declare Stage III Critical Drought sometime between late February and early March 2013.

—ALAN ANDREWS, BRIAN HUNT, AND BRIAN SMITH, HYDROGEOLOGISTS
Earlier this month the Texas Legislature convened for the 83rd time. While the first few weeks of a session are typically devoted to “getting ready” to get down to business, there is already a lot of bill activity, and even more speculation about what is going to happen this session. Most pundits suggest that “water” will be a big issue, with many bills addressing various aspects of water in Texas – funding part of the State Water Plan, drought management and relief, water utility rates, and, yes, groundwater supplies and their management.

BSEACD is championing two “local” bills and considering a third. All three of these are oriented toward maintaining and increasing the supplies of usable groundwater in the District and its environs. Prospective language has been drafted for all three of these bills, and all are now in various stages of law-making.

Enabling desalination and aquifer storage and recovery in our saline zone – This bill, HB 340, has been introduced by Rep. Eddie Rodriguez in the House, and a companion bill will likely be introduced in the Senate by Sen. Judith Zaffirini. The bill would remove an unintended obstacle to utilizing the Saline Edwards Aquifer, which underlies essentially all of BSEACD east of I-35, as a source of new water for this area. The current law and its implementing regulations prohibit any injection of water that has been physically, chemically, or biologically altered either into or through the Edwards anywhere in Travis and Hays counties, without any distinction between whether the Edwards water was fresh or brackish/saline. This prohibition was put into place as part of SB 2 in 2001 specifically to protect the freshwater Edwards Aquifer, but even the author of the bill that provided that statutory restriction has said it was not intended to be applicable to the brackish/saline zones. The District bill has provisions to protect the freshwater Edwards Aquifer, which of course is the primary water supply resource that we manage, and its major outlet at Barton Springs. It would allow in the saline zone circumscribed by our boundaries the development of the saline resource by 1) desalination with consideration of on-site injection of its brine concentrate either through the Edwards into the deeper saline Trinity Aquifer or even into the more saline parts of the Edwards, and also 2) the use of the saline Edwards as a host for aquifer storage and recovery of freshwater available during non-drought times from other sources and/or Edwards water that has received treatment for disinfection in existing potable water supply systems. The bill does not remove any existing protections on water quality that are provided by other state and federal regulations.

Requiring a study of protective wastewater management technologies for the contributing zone of the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer – This bill, which has been submitted to Legislative Council for initial drafting but has not yet been introduced, would have the Legislature direct TCEQ to conduct a study of all wastewater management options in the highly vulnerable contributing zone of the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer, as a precursor to possible additional protective rulemaking applicable to this aquifer. The objectives of this study would be to define minimum standards and numerical criteria for wastewater management and re-use strategies that protect existing water uses and users, reduce uncertainty concerning future requirements, and increase the supply of water of acceptable quality, up to potable water, recharging the aquifer. TCEQ would utilize the study’s findings as a basis for further rulemaking, as required and appropriate, since aquifer protection is already a designated use of the streams recharging this aquifer system. The District is currently meeting with various stakeholder groups to provide the Board with some assurances that the introduced language will be reasonable to those entities.

Providing additional funding to the District for better managing those aquifers that have reached the TWDB-determined Modeled Available Groundwater threshold and for developing alternative water supplies for its permittees – The District is considering a bill to change its enabling legislation that would allow (but not require) somewhat higher water use fees on all non-agricultural permittees that withdraw water from an aquifer in which its aggregated withdrawals are at or above the availability threshold determined by TWDB in the joint regional groundwater planning process. The only aquifer in the District that is in that condition is the freshwater Edwards Aquifer. Any change in the fees enabled by this bill would be implemented step-wise, i.e., with an increase to permittees of no more than ten percent annually, and would have a new ceiling equal to the raw (untreated, undelivered) water cost of surface water determined by the two river authorities in the District. These higher water use fees are warranted in light of this groundwater resource’s significant undervaluation, which tends to drive its preferentially higher use, and are now also necessary to support better management of that stressed aquifer system. In particular, no less than one-half of the additional funds raised by any such fee increase would be committed to specific, near-term projects for the investigation and development of alternative water supplies for the affected permittees. The District is currently undertaking discussions with its permittees and other stakeholders, including the City of Austin, which will indicate the support for such a bill and also how the bill’s initial language could be modified to address concerns.

Of course, in addition to pursuing the District’s own legislative agenda described above, we will also be actively evaluating the positive and negative effects of other bills on groundwater management generally and on our aquifers specifically, and providing the Legislature our inputs through testimony on them, as deemed appropriate.

The District strives to be as transparent as we can in all our operations, and that is certainly true with respect to prospective legislation. We welcome any questions, comments, or suggestions from all stakeholders about these or other groundwater-related bills – please let me know by email to feedback@bseacd.org.

- KIRK HOLLAND, GM
Late last year, the Board, with the help of consultant Dave Anderson, identified several interest groups that should be part of the Management Advisory Committee (MAC), a standing body that annually will make an independent assessment of the progress of the District toward the biological and operational goals of the District Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). As the final documentation of the HCP is still being developed, the MAC will:

- Provide a forum for exchange of information relative to covered species;
- Provide advice on covered species management activities;
- Advise the District on budgetary issues relating to the management of covered species;
- Advise the District on priorities for conservation actions;
- Review and comment on the District’s HCP annual report, both to the District and the USFWS; and
- Guide the development and implementation of the adaptive management program.

The staff solicited expressions of interest from representatives of interest groups and also the public, and in January the Board approved the following as the members of the initial HCP MAC:

- Cindy Loeffler, TPWD (Regulatory Agency)
- Chris Herrington, City of Austin (Protection)
- Jennifer Walker, Sierra Club (Protection)
- Bryan Brooks, Baylor University (Ecological Expert)
- Laurie Dries, City of Austin (Ecological Expert)
- Jason Biemer, City of Kyle (Public Water Supply)
- David Loftis, Centex Materials (Private Sector Permittee)
- Scott Nester (Private Property Interests)
- Christy Muse (Private Property Interests)
- Todd Voteller, Ph.D., GBRA (River Authority)
- Jon White, Travis County (County Government)
- Clif Ladd (At-Large)
- Karen Huber (At-Large)

The MAC will meet once or twice in the next year or so as a prelude to carrying out its prescribed functions under the HCP, with the first annual review projected to be made in late 2014. Kevin Connally, US FWS, will participate in MAC activities in an advisory role.

The meetings of the MAC will be posted as open meetings, and it is expected that the District Board will participate in these meetings. They will be open to the public, with comments from the public welcome.

For more information visit:
www.bseacd.org/projects/habitat-conservation-plan/

- KIRK HOLLAND, GM

Our permittees and end-users of groundwater are grappling with increasing demand for water and reduced availability of local firm-yield supplies, especially during the droughts that are becoming the “new normal.” The District has underway a two-pronged effort to reduce demand for groundwater and to increase supply of water available to our constituents.

This initiative is focused on users of the freshwater Edwards Aquifer, as its currently projected use during a future extreme drought will exceed the water that will be available without creating system-wide adverse consequences. It has been designated the “Closing the Gap” initiative. The “demand reduction” goal was addressed in a stakeholder process in early 2012 that culminated in a set of new rules in late 2012 that required additional reductions in pumping during extreme drought but also developed incentives to substitute alternative supplies for Edwards use, either on a full-time basis or during drought. The “new supplies” goal is now being taken up.

In December, the District Board identified several specific “interest groups” for a new, ad hoc stakeholder advisory committee (SAC) to help it identify, evaluate and recommend means of increasing water supplies available in our jurisdictional area. The staff solicited expressions of interest from both members of these interest groups and also the public, and in January the Board approved the following as members of the Alternative Water Supply SAC:

- Todd Voteller, Ph.D., GBRA (Potential Partners)
- Vicky Kennedy, Travis County (Potential Partners)
- Daniel Meyer, Plum Creek CD (Potential Partners)
- Mike Personett, City of Austin (Potential Partners)
- Mark Zeppa, IWSCOT (Permittees)
- David Loftis, Centex (Permittees)
- Joseph Marini, Texas Lehigh (Permittees)
- Jason Biemer, City of Kyle (Permittees)
- Stanley Fees, City of Buda (Permittees)
- Charles Laws, Creedmoor-Maha WSC (Permittees)
- Matthew Scott, Ruby Ranch WSC (Permittees)
- Jennifer Walker, Sierra Club (Environmental Entities)
- Mary Kelly, Parulla, LLC (Environmental Entities)
- Sarah Faust, SBCA/SOSA (Environmental Entities)
- Graham Moore, LAN, Inc. (Engineers & Resources)
- Byron Benoit, Associated Drilling (Engineers & Resources)
- Michael Barrett, Ph.D., UT CRWR (Engineers & Resources)
- David Parkhill, URS (Engineers & Resources)
- John Littlefield, Southwest Engineers (Engineers & Resources)
- Wendall Braniff, Ph.D., Onion Creek resident (Public/At-Large)
- Tim Miller, Millberg Farms (Public/At-Large)
- Don Inbody, Ph.D., Hays Country Oaks 2 resident (Public/At-Large)
- Cynthia Wilcox, Travis Country resident (Public/At-Large)

The SAC members will review a white paper prepared by District staff and will meet this spring to develop recommendations for the Board’s consideration. Meetings will be open to the public, with comments from the public welcome.

For more information visit:
www.bseacd.org/projects/alternate-water-supplies/
There are 24 water suppliers within the District that pump water from the Edwards and/or Trinity aquifers to serve their residents and businesses in their areas. The majority of these water utilities rely solely on groundwater. However, some utilities supplement supplies with surface water from either the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority or the Lower Colorado River Authority (e.g., City of Sunset Valley, City of Kyle, Creedmoor-Maha, Monarch, and Goforth). Regardless, during drought to preserve water levels and protect springflows, all suppliers must meet the mandatory groundwater pumping reductions set forth by the District Board of Directors and follow an approved User Drought Contingency Plan that establishes how water use reduction will be achieved. These plans are what drive water restrictions for residents and businesses.

A five-member Board of Directors is the governing body of the District and ensures the District’s work is consistent with the mission, District rules, and local priorities. Directors are elected in the November general elections of even-numbered years by the registered voters in five single-member precincts.

The Board sets policies and adopts rules and bylaws that guide District operations and direct permitting and enforcement decisions. Board meetings are generally held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month and are open to the public. The Board also appoints ad hoc advisory committees to review various activities and procedures and make recommendations to the District. These committees are made up of local citizens and other stakeholders who are knowledgeable about environmental and economic concerns within the District as well as technical specialists in various fields.

Directors are active participants in the various communities that comprise the District’s stakeholders. The majority of the District’s permitted pumpage is associated with public water supplies. The primary Director for these utilities and their users served is identified in Table 1 and Figure 2. See page 7 for Director profiles and contact information.

- ROBIN GARY, PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Table 1. Water utilities using groundwater within the District and their corresponding primary Director contact.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Supplier</th>
<th>Primary Director</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aqua Texas, Inc. - Bear Creek Park</td>
<td>Gary Franklin, Pct. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aqua Texas, Inc. - Bliss Spillar</td>
<td>Mary Stone, Pct. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aqua Texas, Inc. - Leisurewoods</td>
<td>Mary Stone, Pct. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aqua Texas, Inc. - Mooreland</td>
<td>Gary Franklin, Pct. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aqua Texas, Inc. - Onion Creek Meadows</td>
<td>Gary Franklin, Pct. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aqua Texas, Inc. - Shady Hollow Estates</td>
<td>Gary Franklin, Pct. 2</td>
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<td>Arroyo Doble Water System</td>
<td>Gary Franklin, Pct. 2</td>
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<td>Cimarron Park Water Company, Inc.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Of Buda</td>
<td>Mary Stone, Pct. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Of Hays Water Department</td>
<td>Mary Stone, Pct. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>City Of Kyle</td>
<td>Mary Stone, Pct. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>City Of Sunset Valley</td>
<td>Craig Smith, Pct. 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creedmoor-Maha Water Supply Co.</td>
<td>Blake Dorsett, Pct. 3</td>
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<td>Goforth Special Utility District</td>
<td>Blake Dorsett, Pct. 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Huntington Utility Company, L.L.C.</td>
<td>Mary Stone, Pct. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malone Water Supply</td>
<td>Gary Franklin, Pct. 2</td>
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<td>Monarch Utilities, Inc.</td>
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<td>Mountain City Oaks Water System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mystic Oak Water Co-Op</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Forest Water Supply Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruby Ranch Water Supply Co.</td>
<td>Mary Stone, Pct. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slaughter Creek Acres Water Supply</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twin Creek Park Water Supply Co.</td>
<td>Gary Franklin, Pct. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Village Of San Leanna</td>
<td>Gary Franklin, Pct. 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2. Map showing water suppliers in the District. For a larger map visit: www.bseacd.org/publications/maps
**BSEACD Board of Directors**

**Precinct 1**

**Mary Stone**  
Board President  
mstone@bseacd.org

Mary Stone has been a resident of Hays County for 20 years. She is a mother of two busy teenagers, a registered nurse, and a professional photographer. She is a community activist and has served as a board member of both the Hays Education Foundation and the Hays Youth Soccer Association.

**Precinct 2**

**Gary Franklin**  
Vice President  
Term: May 2006 - Nov. 2014  
gfranklin@bseacd.org

Gary Franklin is a chemist and project manager at the LCRA Environmental Laboratory Services where he oversees and coordinates chemical analyses including water quality testing and soil analysis. He is an active caver and serves as the Vice Chair for the Underground Texas Grotto.

**Precinct 3**

**Blake Dorsett**  
Director  
bdorsett@bseacd.org

Blake Dorsett is a licensed groundwater treatment plant and water distribution system operator specializing in underground water line installation and maintenance. He has served as Fire Chief of the Chisholm Trail Volunteer Fire Department and remains an active senior firefighter of the Department.

**Precinct 4**

**Robert Larsen, PhD**  
Director  
Term: May 2003 - Nov. 2016  
r Larsen@bseacd.org

Dr. Bob Larsen is a Texas State University professor who specializes in solid waste planning and management, land use planning, and transportation issues. He serves as a member of the TCEQ Pollution Prevention Advisory Committee and the Director of the Texas State Government Partnership Program.

**Precinct 5**

**Craig Smith**  
Secretary  
Term: May 1998 - Nov. 2014  
csmith@bseacd.org

Craig Smith is an Assistant Travis County Attorney and a year-round, daily Barton Springs pool swimmer (100 miles in 2012), a board member of Save Barton Creek Association and the Hill Country Conservancy.

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**Well Water Quality Testing: Apr. 16, 2013**

Private water wells should be tested annually for contaminants that can jeopardize the health of its users, especially vulnerable populations like children, the elderly, or those with compromised immune systems.

The District in partnership with the Texas Well Owner Network, the Blanco and Hays County Offices of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, and the Texas Water Resources Institute, and with support from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, will provide a water well screening day for area residents on April 16, 2013.

Samples from private water wells will be screened for common contaminants, including fecal coliform bacteria, nitrates, and high salinity. The cost is normally $10 per sample, but the BSEACD will cover the cost of analysis for private wells within its boundary. Samples must be turned in to the BSEACD office.

The presence of **fecal coliform bacteria** in water indicates that waste from humans or warm-blooded animals may have contaminated the water. Water contaminated with fecal coliform bacteria is more likely to also have pathogens present that can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, or other symptoms.

Water with **nitrates** at levels of 10 parts per million (ppm) is considered unsafe for human consumption. Nitrate levels above 10 ppm can disrupt the blood's ability to carry oxygen throughout the body, resulting in a condition called methemoglobinemia. Infants less than 6 months of age and young livestock are most susceptible.

**Salinity** as measured by Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) is also an important parameter. Water with high TDS levels may leave deposits and have a salty taste. Additionally, using water with high TDS for irrigation may damage the soil or plants.

A meeting explaining screening results will be held at 6:00 p.m. on April 17, 2013, at the Dripping Springs Vocational Agriculture Building (behind the Dripping Springs Middle School), located at 111 Tiger Lane, Dripping Springs, Texas. Participants will receive testing results, information on corrective measures for identified problems, and strategies to better manage a private well.

For more information and sampling instructions visit:  
www.bseacd.org/education/water-well-check-up

- ROBIN GARY, PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION COORDINATOR
2013 District Scholarships

The Summer Camp and College Scholarship contests are open! Many thanks to Goforth Special Utility District for donating a portion of their Conservation Credits to support these scholarship programs. Here are the details for both programs . . . please pass along to any students who may be interested!

Kent S. Butler Memorial Groundwater Stewardship Scholarship Essay Contest

High school juniors and seniors
Application deadline: March 25, 2013
Scholarship amount: $2,500

The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (BSEACD) is now soliciting applications and essays for the 2013 Kent S. Butler Memorial Groundwater Stewardship Scholarship Essay Contest through Monday, March 25, 2013. The essay contest is open to high school juniors, seniors, and immediate graduates. Students must reside in one of the six school districts overlapping the District boundary. These six independent school districts are: Austin, Eanes, Dripping Springs, Hays Consolidated, Del Valle, and Lockhart.

One essay will be selected as the winning entry by an independent evaluation panel, and the author will receive a $2,500 scholarship to the college, community college, or training institution of his/her choice.

Essays must generally discuss groundwater issues, which may include but are not limited to:

- non-point source pollution
- pollution prevention
- water conservation
- hydrogeology

While essays must focus on groundwater issues, applicants do not have to be planning a career path in a water-related field. Deadline for submissions: 5:00p.m. on Monday, March 25, 2013.

2013 Groundwater Essay Contest application form and rules available here: www.bseacd.org/education/scholarships/#College

Aquatic Science Adventure Camp Scholarships

Students ages 9 through 15 years old
Application deadline: March 25, 2013
Scholarship amounts: $600 or $150, depending on length of camp

The District is now soliciting applications and essays for its 2013 Camp Scholarship program for the Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center’s Aquatic Science Adventure Camp through Monday, March 25, 2013. We estimate this year’s program will provide:

- Two $600 scholarships to the week-long Aquatic Science Adventure Camp. (Note: Parent will be responsible for providing $150 camp deposit fee, which will be needed to hold the child’s spot.)
- Two $150 scholarships to the 2-Day Aquatic Science Adventure Camp. (Note: All $130 will be paid for by BSEACD.)

The Camp scholarship contest is open to children ages 9 through 15 who reside in one of the six school districts within the District’s boundaries. Interested students must submit an application and a one-page essay/artwork entitled “Why I want to attend the Aquatic Science Adventure Camp!” Scholarship winners will be chosen in a random drawing; only completed applications with essays/artwork will be eligible. Deadline for submissions: 5:00p.m. on Monday, March 25, 2013.

Both English and Spanish application packets available here: www.bseacd.org/education/scholarships/#Camp