

Agenda Back-Up for the
Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer
Conservation District
Board of Directors

Regular Meeting
September 11, 2025
4:00 P.M.



NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING of the BARTON SPRINGS-EDWARDS AQUIFER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, September 11, 2025

4:00 PM

IN-PERSON

Notice is given that a **Regular Meeting** of the Board of Directors (Board) of the Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District will be held on **Thursday, September 11, 2025**, commencing at **4:00 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

Note: The Board of Directors of the Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District reserves the right to meet in a closed 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.**
2. **Citizen Communications (Public Comments of a General Nature).**
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 August 14, 2025, Regular Meeting and Public Hearing.
4. **General Manager's Report.**

a. Aquifer Status Report

5. Staff Presentation: “Update on 2026 DFC planning cycle for GMA 10”

6. 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.
- b. Discussion and possible action on declaring the next stage of drought.
- c. Discussion and possible action on submitting comments to the Texas Environmental Commission on Environmental Quality related to the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. WQ0016475001 and the Decision of the TCEQ Executive Director for Allied Development LLC.
- d. 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.
- e. Discussion and possible action related to the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the General Manager, including but not limited to, conducting interviews of candidates for the General Manager position.
- f. 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, possible amendments to the District rules and management plan, or implementation issues related to the rules or plan, the District rules or groundwater-related legislative activities, aquifer 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

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.

Please note: This agenda and available related documentation, if any, have been posted on the District website, 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.

Item 1

Call to Order

Item 2

Citizen Communications

Item 3

Consent Agenda

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Item 4

General Manager's Report

- a. Aquifer status update

Summary of Team Activities in August - September 2025

Aquifer Science

August Activities

- TAGD attendance
- Package FY25 monitor well data to TWDB
- 2026 DFC planning cycle coordination for GMA 10
- Quarterly monitor well visits
- Barton Springs Multiport slug testing
- TWDB Southern Trinity Groundwater Availability Model evaluation
- Barton Springs manual flow measurements
- Abandoned well risk assessment: Construction and analysis of the O and C factors of the Slovene approach are nearing completion. Dealing with complex and large datasets has slowed project progress, due to longer processing times and more room for errors to occur during data manipulation.
- District drought analysis: Creating technical memo for the python tool that will allow staff to easily pull and clean data from the PRISM Climate Group. Reanalyzed precipitation datasets using engineered data for a more sophisticated analysis.

On Deck:

- TAS Phase II Trinity model development (ongoing)
- Barton Springs Multiport slug testing (ongoing)
- Multiport quarterly visits and Barton Springs manual flow measurements
- Abandoned well risk assessment: completion of vulnerability assessment using Slovene approach scale
- District drought analysis: Packaging python PRISM script in a District GitHub repository. Multivariate regression analysis using newly engineered dataset.

Regulatory Compliance

August Activities:

- Staff continued to process new applications, assist permittees with drought compliance, and assess DMF's and additional penalties to eligible overpumpers.
- Staff have prepared UDCP update templates and mailed out update requests on September 2nd along with permit renewals and fees.
- Staff continuing to work with LRE on completion of database development.
- LPP Annual Meter Reading for 2025 efforts have begun; first notice sent out on August 25th; second notice for late submission went out September 11th.

On Deck:

- In anticipation of a Stage 3 Exceptional Drought declaration; staff are preparing for tasks related to this declaration including sending notice letters to permittees and changing out yard signs already placed in the field.

Communications and Outreach

August Activities

Team Summary

- Prepared and helped organize the 8.14.25 board meeting.
- Published new drought chart across District website and share related information via website, social media, and email.
- Attended the TAGD Summit.
- Assisted with hiring of administrative coordinator.

On Deck

- Prepare for 9.11.25 board meeting.
- Assist with onboarding new Administrative Coordinator, Alyssa Garcia.
- Plan for Neighborhood Well Visits for November 2025.
- Conduct interview for next Well Owner Spotlight.
- Prepare for Stage 3 Exceptional Drought as needed.

Administration

- The Administrative Team will welcome Alyssa Garcia as the new Administrative Coordinator starting on Monday, September 8.
- The Administrative team handles a variety of recurring tasks, including generating invoices, processing payments, paying bills, and managing meter readings.

Status Report Update September 11, 2025 Board Meeting

Summary of Significant Activities – Prepared by Staff Leads

Upcoming Dates of Interest

- [Hill Country Alliance Leadership Summit](#) – September 25, Dripping Springs, TX
- [Geological Society of America \(GSA\) Connects](#) – October 19-22, San Antonio, TX
- Barton Springs University – October 28, Austin, TX

DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

Drought Status and Water-Level Monitoring (*Justin*)

The District declared Stage 2 Critical Drought (formerly Stage 3 Critical Drought) on October 3, 2024. This was a result of the Lovelady monitor well's 10-day groundwater level reaching below the District's Stage 2 threshold of 462.7 feet mean sea level (ft-msl) on Oct. 1. As of September 4, 2025, the District remains in Stage 2 Critical Drought.

In August, Camp Mabry recorded 1.2 inches of rainfall, while Austin – Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA) measured 1.3 inches. Together, that averages 1.2 inches across the area – well below the historical August average of 2.9 inches. This shortfall of 1.7 inches is especially notable because August is typically Central Texas' fifth-wettest month, often boosted by tropical systems during hurricane season. With no storms developing yet in the Gulf this year, conditions stayed dry and drought has intensified.

Looking at 2025 as a whole, Central Texas is currently only about 2 inches behind the year-to-date average. However, when viewed over the longer term, the region remains in a deep cumulative deficit of roughly 21 inches over the past three years. This long-term deficit has clearly intensified drought conditions, resulting in declining water levels and reductions in long-term aquifer storage. Without significant rainfall we could drop into Stage 3 Exceptional Drought (formerly Stage 4 Exceptional Drought) by late September as groundwater levels continue to decline.

Looking ahead, September is often the most active month in Texas for tropical storms and hurricanes in the Gulf. Historically it is also the fourth-wettest month of the year, averaging 3.2 inches of rain. Forecasts currently suggest near-normal rainfall this September, which could help avoid moving into Stage 3 Exceptional Drought.

As of September 4, the 10-day average flow at Barton Springs is about 22 cubic feet per second (cfs). This estimate comes from the two most recent manual measurements: 25.6 cfs on July 24 and 18.7 cfs on August 13. The next manual measurement is scheduled for September 10.

As of September 4, the 10-day average water level at the Lovelady monitor well was 457.3 feet above mean sea level (ft-msl), placing it in Stage 2 Critical Drought. Without another timely and significant rainfall, Lovelady could trigger a Stage 3 declaration by late September.

The Lowe-Coronado Middle Trinity monitor well, located in the Rolling Oaks neighborhood of Driftwood, has been in steady decline since March 2025 and showed very little improvement from the above-average rains in July. This downward trend is consistent across all regional aquifers, including the overlying Upper Trinity.

As of September 4, the 10-day average flow at [Jacob's Well Spring \(JWS\)](#) is just 0.1 cfs.

The [Blanco River at Wimberley](#) briefly spiked to flows of 25–50 cfs after the valley received about 1.4 inches of rain in late August. However, those peaks were short-lived, and river flows have since dropped back down to 8-12 cfs.

DISTRICT PROJECTS

GMA Joint Planning

➤ ***GMA 10 Coordination (Bri and Jeff)***

The next GMA 10 meeting is scheduled for September, 2025. Draft model files for the new Southern Trinity Groundwater Availability Model (STGAM) have been made available. District staff is working closely with Collier Consulting Inc. –the consultant hired to assist GMA 10 with DFC planning and exploratory report— to coordinate activities for the upcoming 2026 DFC planning cycle, including planning predictive model scenarios using the new STGAM.

Trinity Aquifer Sustainable Yield Study & Planning

➤ ***Policy Concepts, Research Needs, and Advisory Workgroup Activity (Jeff and Bri)***

The Trinity Sustainable Yield Committee met on July 30, 2025 to discuss next steps for Trinity Sustainable Yield science and policy development.

Technical Evaluations (Jeff)

Aquifer Science staff continue to collect and analyze hydrogeologic data to advance the state of the best available science of the Trinity Aquifers. This increased understanding will provide a robust scientific framework to guide Trinity Sustainable Yield policymaking efforts, a major priority for the District. In addition, we continue to maintain and expand the District’s monitoring well network, and are closely monitoring impacts from the present drought on aquifer levels in both the Edwards and Trinity Aquifers. In August 2025, aquifer science staff began a technical evaluation of the new TWDB STGAM model, which has important implications for regional planning of the Trinity Aquifer.

Habitat Conservation Plan (Staff)

➤ ***FY 2025 HCP/ITP coordination to begin in early September***

Database Management System – LRE Water (Jacob)

LRE Water has presented us with a next work plan to continue work on a few items that have emerged over the last year but were not part of Phase 2. Updates to the transducer data upload tool have also been made and are under review before deployment. A management page for WQ data has been deployed, functions include the ability to manage parameters. Integrating our geocontacts into our wells layer will be the next priority to complete in Phase 2.

District Drought Temporal Analysis (Bri)

To expand on a prior exploratory statistical analysis of drought conditions, a more sophisticated dataset is being compiled to broaden the scope of the study and to diversity the climatic characteristics of the region that are being analyzed – including antecedent conditions, evapotranspiration, etc. Exploratory statistics are being applied to newly collected data to identify other patterns or anomalies. This allows for the data to simultaneously be cleaned and prepped for a more in-depth analysis.

Abandoned Well Risk Assessment (Bri)

Dealing with more complex and large datasets has slowed the progress of this project, due to longer processing times and more room for errors to occur during data analysis. Because of this, the Slovene approach will be implemented as the only vulnerability scale in the first phase of this project – to be

followed up by a similar assessment using the karst aquifer vulnerability assessment for sensitivity analyses.

ILA Commitments (*Staff*)

The District has an ILA with COA to coordinate studies for the respective HCPs such as scientific feasibility studies and monitoring evaluations; to collaborate on the planning of future Kent Butler Summits; and to exchange technical information regularly on an annual basis. An annual technical meeting is held between the District and COA in December each year to discuss each organization's activities related to their respective HCPs. The next meeting will be held in December 2025.

Region K Planning Activities (*Bri*)

The Region K LCRWPG met on August 27 to discuss comments received on the IPP and the timeline and coordination of the 2030 planning cycle – the 7th cycle of this group. The group meets again on September 25, to review and approve the final Regional Water Planning document.

New Maps, Publications, or Reports

A list of recent publications can be found at: <https://bseacd.org/scientific-reports/>

RULEMAKING, PERMITTING, AND ENFORCEMENT (Erin, Jacob, District Counsel, and Rules and Enforcement Committee)

Rulemaking and Enforcement

- On August 14 staff presented a draft of Rules and Bylaws with redlined updates relating to drought communications and stage name updates at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors. These changes were approved and adopted by the Board at this meeting.

Drought (Erin)

- Will continue working with permittees to ensure compliance per their Agreed Orders.
- Will continue monthly pumpage analysis to determine all permittee's compliance status of drought curtailments.
- Will continue to assist permittees in ensuring they successfully comply with their UDCPs and Stage 2 Critical drought curtailments for the month of September.

Enforcement and Compliance Matters (Erin)

Compliance/Enforcement			
Permittee or Entity Name	Aquifer	Use Type	Notes
Aqua Texas, Inc. – Bear Creek Park	Edwards	PWS	Agreed Order Executed.
Aqua Texas, Inc. – Bliss Spillar (Edwards)	Edwards	PWS	Agreed Order Executed.
Aqua Texas, Inc. – Bliss Spillar (Lower Trinity)	Lower Trinity	PWS	No agreed order: penalty assessed and paid.
Creedmoor-MAHA	Edwards	PWS	Agreed Order Executed.
Monarch Utilities, Inc.	Edwards	PWS	Agreed Order Executed.
Tindol Restaurant Group, LLC	Middle Trinity	Commercial	Agreed Order Executed.
Aqua Texas, Inc. – Sierra West	Middle Trinity	PWS	Agreed Order Executed.
Seiders, Roy	Middle Trinity	Irrigation	Agreed Order Executed.
Ruby Ranch Water Supply Corporation	Edwards	PWS	Agreed Order Executed; working to fulfill the final technical requirements.
Texas Old Town	Upper Trinity	Irrigation	No agreed order: penalty assessed and paid.
Aqua Texas, Inc. - Onion Creek Meadows	Edwards	PWS	No Agreed Order; penalty assessed and paid.
Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks	Edwards	Commercial	No agreed order: penalty assessed and paid.

Permitting Activity (Erin, Jacob)

Upcoming					
Precinct	Application Type	Aquifer	Applicant Name	Use Type	Volume Request (GPY)
2 – Stansberry	WDA/Production	Middle Trinity	Bryan Boyd is consultant	Commercial – Medical Clinic	TBD
2- Stansberry	WDA	Middle Trinity	Creedmoor-Maha, WSC	Monitoring	0 – Monitor Well

2- Stansberry	WDA	Middle Trinity	Creedmoor- Maha, WSC	Aquifer Testing	TBD
<i>In Review</i>					
<i>Precinct</i>	<i>Application Type</i>	<i>Aquifer</i>	<i>Applicant Name</i>	<i>Use Type</i>	<i>Volume Request (GPY)</i>
1 – Cradit	Exempt	Middle Trinity	S & P Living Trust	Domestic	7 GPM
5 – Puig- Williams	WDA	Middle Trinity	Will B and Beverley M Crenshaw	Irrigation	> 2 Million
1 - Cradit	Plugging (2)	Edwards	Liberty Civil Construction	Abandoned	0 - Plugging
<i>Recently Approved and/or Admin Complete</i>					
<i>Precinct</i>	<i>Application Type</i>	<i>Aquifer</i>	<i>Applicant Name</i>	<i>Use Type</i>	<i>Volume Request (GPY)</i>
4 - Williams	TBD	Edwards	St. Paul's Catholic Church	Abandon	0

AQUIFER STUDIES

(Jeff and Justin)

Permitting Hydrogeologic Studies:

AS staff continues to work with Regulatory Compliance on permitting issues as they arise, including provided geologic interpretation of geophysical logs prior to final well completion to ensure that new wells are completed accurately within the target water-bearing interval. In August 2025 AS staff continued to work closely with Jacob Newton and LRE water to ensure that the District's monitoring well data is fully migrated onto the new database. AS also worked with Jacob to develop a new public-facing interactive map which will allow the public to view and download all water level data collected by the District. This map has been published and is now available on the District website.

Groundwater Studies: *Dye Tracing, Water Quality, Aquifer Characterizations*

- Barton Springs multiport well study
 - Slug test aquifer permeability data collection July-August 2025
 - Geochemical analysis of multiport samples collected in May 2025
 - Analysis of multiport water level data for validation and improvement of Barton Springs flow estimates.
- Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) sampling – collecting water level, water quality and chemistry from select wells with funding provided by TWDB.
- Magellan Pipeline annual sampling (TPH & BTEX) on June 5, 2025 – results and resampling pending.
- Aquifer Test plans – evaluating submitted plans, designing monitor well networks, and data collection for analysis.
- AS staff are working with the GM on design updates to the drought resources presented in regular monthly board meetings to improve communication on drought impacts.

Field Activities:

- Barton Springs multiport well water quality measurements, rain-event data collection and slug testing.
- Cooperating with USGS and City of Austin staff to confirm accurate real-time gauge reporting at Barton Springs and Lovelady. Conducting bi-weekly to monthly field measurements.
- Cooperating with USGS staff to confirm accurate real-time gauge reporting at Jacob's Well and the Blanco River at Wimberley.
- Calibrating telemetry monitoring equipment at the Needmore index well (Amos) and reviewing pumping and water-level data as drought worsens.
- Antioch- Continuing to maintain the system and to collect data on flow into the vault (when there is flow). A recent visit to Antioch Cave to assess operating components and electronics indicated the need to recondition most electrical systems.
- Well monitoring- Because of drought, staff are increasing the amount of time maintaining equipment in numerous monitor wells and downloading and interpreting data; and occasionally checking on wells that have been reported as "dry".

Trinity Aquifer Modeling Development:

In August 2025 aquifer science staff began a technical evaluation of the draft Southern Trinity Groundwater Availability Model files, released by the TWDB in late July. This model will likely be used by the TWDB to calculate modeled available groundwater (MAG) for the Trinity aquifer in GMAs 9 and 10.

Thus, understanding how the model simulates water levels under different pumping scenarios will be critical in the upcoming 2026 DFC planning cycle.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

(Shay)

Drought Communications

- July Drought Update
 - <https://bseacd.org/2025/08/drought-update-july-2025/>
- Drought-related social media posts - *These were shared on Facebook, Instagram, X, and LinkedIn.*
 - <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/17BkeTiX9H/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19t3Rm5Cjv/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/174GCGE4A5/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1CLWs4NXF7/>
- Drought Chart Updates and Permittee Communications
 - Published article on drought chart update: [Upcoming Changes to District's Drought Chart](#)
 - Shared information via website, homepage banner, and social media channels
 - Distributed email notification to permittees: [View Email](#)
 - Distributed email notification to full newsletter audience: [View Email](#)
 - Collaborated with website consultant to implement drought chart updates across the District's site

Articles/News Segments in which the District was Mentioned

- Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District general manager steps down – 8.13.25, [Hays Free Press](#)
- Well Owner Spotlight: Victoria and Travis Cox – 8.11.25, [BSEACD](#)
- Updates to the District's Drought Chart: Effective September 1, 2025 – 8.19.25, [BSEACD](#)

Outreach

Four Rivers Association of Realtors

- Shay was invited to participate in a panel for realtors across the region along with the general managers from Hays Trinity, Guadalupe County, Comal County, and Plum Creek GCDs.
- The first session took place on August 12, 2025 and focused on general hydrogeology and GCD information. Approximately 50 realtors were in attendance.
- The second session took place on September 2, 2025 and focused on drilling, permits, and regulation. Approximately 50 realtors were in attendance once again.

Wesleyan University Interview

- Researchers from Wesleyan University reached out to the District inquiring about an interview. They are conducting a mixed methods study on the changing nature and cultural value of springs in the Edwards Trinity Aquifers.
- Shay and Jeff participated in an hour interview about the cultural and ecological significance of the aquifers in the area and the District's involvement in their protection.
- A research paper is anticipated to result from the project next year and will be shared with the District upon completion.

Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts Summit

- Shay attended the TAGD Summit, where she connected with GCDs from across the state and gained insights into ongoing aquifer research, legislative updates on groundwater policies, and the key challenges and progress that GCDs are currently experiencing.

Administrative Coordinator Vacancy

Due to the vacancy in this position, Shay has been required to take on additional administrative responsibilities to prepare for board meetings along with other relevant tasks.

Digital Communications Data

Social Media Data				
Platform	August Reach	% MOM Growth: August vs. July	Followers	% MOM Growth: August vs. July
Facebook	11,724	-96%	3,298	2%
Instagram	4,946	-55%	1,937	1%
X	379	-66%	833	0
LinkedIn	2,583	-59%	548	4%

Social media engagement declined in August compared to the previous month. This drop is partly due to the closure of the General Manager and Administrative Coordinator positions, which had boosted engagement in July. Additionally, with Shay's time redirected to support other team needs during these vacancies, fewer posts were created across the District's social media platforms in August.

Mass Email Data	# Sent	# Opened	Open Rate %	# Clicks	Click Rate %
August Newsletter	2,318	1,120	48%	278	24%

Website Data	Avg. Engagement Time/User	Views	Event Count	Most Visited Page	Top Landing Page
August 2025	26 seconds	5,360	14,367	Well Owner Spotlight: The Coxes	Well Owner Spotlight: The Coxes
July 2025	40 seconds	6,751	18,102	Drought Status & Resources	Drought Status & Resources

ADMINISTRATION

(Tina Cooper/AAG)

Alyssa Garcia, the District's new Administrative Coordinator, will start her position on Monday, September 8.

The Administration Team typically has repetitive monthly tasks e.g. monthly bank reconciliations, monthly adjusting journal entries, accounts payable, payroll, contract/grant/project tracking, office maintenance and repairs, budget monitoring, bi-weekly payroll journal updates, directors' compensation, pre-pays, DMFs, posting public meetings, preparing meeting backups, etc. These types of tasks are not listed in this report because they are repetitive. Administration status reports are generally more summarized than the other teams, as we list our extraordinary tasks outside of our routine tasks, while supporting all other teams.

Item 5

Staff Presentation

Update on 2026 DFC planning cycle for GMA 10

Item 6

Board Discussion and Possible Action

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

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- c. Discussion and possible action on submitting comments to the Texas Environmental Commission on Environmental Quality related to the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. WQ0016475001 and the Decision of the TCEQ Executive Director for Allied Development LLC.

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