

Thursday, February 4, 2016

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**KENT S. BUTLER MEMORIAL
GROUNDWATER STEWARDSHIP
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP**

Amount: **\$2,500**
Application and Essay Due: **March 22, 2016**
www.bseacd.org/education/scholarships/

Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District

Permit Update: Needmore Aquifer Test

Large volume permits (over 2 million gallons per year) require an aquifer test to inform the Board's decision on the final permit volume. In general, aquifer tests are designed to induce a measurable response in monitor wells. The volume pumped, rate of pumping, and measured response at monitor wells at various distances from the pumping well are used to evaluate aquifer parameters and model long-term aquifer response.

In late January, the District coordinated with Needmore Ranch owners and consultants to perform the required aquifer test in support of their application to convert the temporary permit to a regular permit pursuant to the HB 3405 permit process. Monitor wells were equipped with pressure transducers that continuously logged changes in water levels before, during, and after the pumping. After the post-pumping recovery period, data will be downloaded, compiled, analyzed and submitted to the District to satisfy the permit application requirements. Staff will evaluate the data and conclusions and present findings to the Board at a Board Meeting.

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2015 Groundwater Stewardship Award Winners

Many thanks to all of you that submitted nominations for the 2015 Groundwater Stewardship Awards. We had an exceptional pool of candidates. At the last Board Meeting, the Directors voted on this year's winners.

- **Lifetime Achievement** - Jack Hollon
- **Aquifer Advocate** - Bill Johnson
- **Water Quality Protection** - City of Sunset Valley
- **Innovation** - Zara Environmental
- **Education** - CoA WPD, Watershed Detectives Program
- **Research** - Hill Country Studio
- **Permitee of the Year** - Centex Materials

Groundwater is a shared resource. It is an honor to recognize these groups and individuals!

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FEATURED EVENT

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Current Drought Stage: NO DROUGHT

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



BARTON SPRINGS
10-day avg flow: 105 cfs
This average reflects the sustained recharge provided by the wet winter conditions.



LOVELADY WELL
Water level: 527 ft above msl
In response to the recent rains, the water level has risen about 10 ft since last month. This well is completed in the matrix of the aquifer and typically shows slow and steady water level changes.

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Memorial Groundwater Stewardship Essay Contest

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Scholarship Amount: \$2,500
Application Deadline: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 (before 5:00pm)

Each year one essay is selected as the winning entry by an independent evaluation panel, and the author receives 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, or hydrogeology. While essays must focus on groundwater issues, applicants do not have to be planning a career path in a water-related field.

The essay contest is open to high school juniors, seniors, and immediate graduates. Students must reside in one of the eight school districts overlapping the District boundary. These eight independent school districts are: Austin, Del Valle, Dripping Springs, Eanes, Hays Consolidated, Lockhart, San Marcos Consolidated, and Wimberley.

[view event details](#) →

Rule Change Timeline

The District has started the process for updating rules to better respond to the recent HB3405 legislation, temporary to regular permit conversion, expanded and shared territory, and Directors' direction. Rule change concepts were presented at the January 28th Board Meeting, and the following timeline for rule changes was approved.

Jan 28 – Rule concepts presented at Board Meeting
Feb 11 – Request Board's Approval to post Rules on 2/18
Feb 18 – Rules Formally Posted, Begin Public Comment Period
Feb 18-Mar 9 – Technical Workgroup Meeting
Feb 25 – Board Meeting and Discussion on Posted Rules
Mar 10 - Board Meeting/Rule Hearing to Adopt Rules
Mar 16 – 180 day deadline for Temporary Permit Applications to be Administratively Complete or Incomplete
Mar 30 - Publish Notice & Hearing in Paper, Mail Notice Letters

Rule changes, once posted, will be available through a Spotlight on the District home page. Once the rule changes are posted and the public comment period begins, comment can be made via written comments or oral comments at the Rule Hearing.

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Upcoming Events, Meetings, & Deadlines

Tues., Feb. 1: **Permittee meter readings due** ([details](#))
Thurs., Feb. 11: **BSEACD Board Meeting** ([details](#))
Mon., Feb 15: **Presidents Day** - Office closed
Thurs., Feb. 25: **BSEACD Board Meeting** ([details](#))
Tues., Mar. 1: **Permittee meter readings due** ([details](#))
Fri., Mar 4: **Groundwater Stewardship Award Luncheon**
Thurs., Mar 10: **BSEACD Board Meeting** ([details](#))
Tues. Mar 22: **Scholarship applications due** ([details](#))



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