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Monday, March 6, 2017



Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District

Groundwater Awareness Week

March 5-11, 2017 is National Groundwater Awareness Week! While every week is groundwater awareness week at the District, this week is a special one because the National Groundwater Association adds their strength to promote general groundwater awareness, tips for well owners, links to monitoring sites, etc.


NGWA presents

Did you know?

Groundwater is the world's most extracted raw material with withdrawal rates currently in the estimated range of 259 trillion gallons/year.

national groundwater awareness week
March 5-11, 2017

NGWA.org/AwarenessWeek
WellOwner.org



We're joining in! This week there will be a flurry of news, cool views, tips and tricks, and groundwater facts. Check the [District's Facebook page](#) and Like Us to follow along!

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Well Water Checkup and Open House

This year's Well Water Checkup and Ask-An-Expert Open House will be on Wednesday, April 19, 2017. Screening is available to the first 75 well owners in the District to come in, pre-register and pick up sampling supplies and instructions. Sample kits will be available starting Tuesday, March 15 at the District office.

The USEPA recommends that 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. Samples from private water wells will be screened for common contaminants, including fecal coliform bacteria, nitrates, and salinity.

You'll be able to bring in your water sample for analysis on April 19, if you come between 11-1 you can talk with various experts while you wait for your results. More information about this year's experts will be available soon!

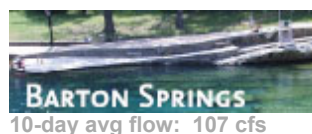
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Current Drought Stage: NO DROUGHT

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







10-day avg flow: 107 cfs



Water level: 539 ft above msl

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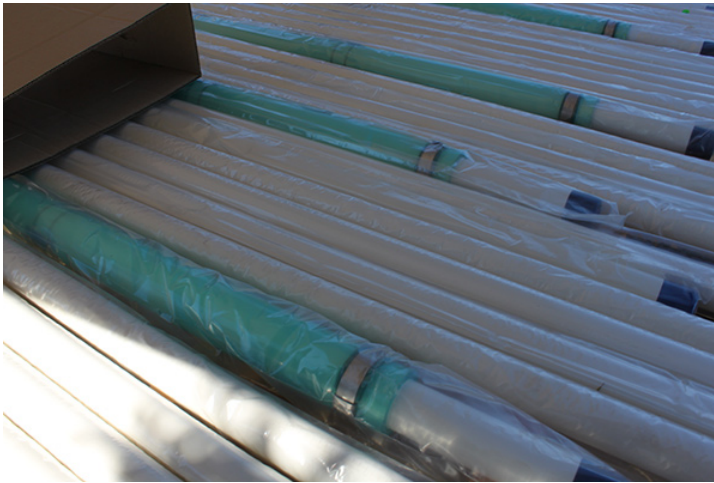
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Multiport Monitor Wells Installed

The District partnered with Hays County and Travis County to install two new multiport monitor wells to fill voids in the monitoring network in central Hays and western Travis counties. The wells use packers (shown below) to isolate sampling zones to allow measurements to be made in different layers of the aquifer. Both wells are now installed, and data collection has begun.



The central Hays Co. multiport monitor well is 850 ft deep and has 12 independent sampling zones within the Upper and Middle Trinity Aquifers. The western Travis Co. multiport monitor well is 715 ft deep and has 11 independent sampling zones from Middle and Lower Trinity Aquifers.

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Legislative Update

The District Board of Directors has decided to pursue two legislative initiatives this session that are both carry over from HB 3405 last session. The bills would provide for an adjustment in the District's boundaries and a means of equalizing the fee rate structure for permitted non-agricultural wells throughout the District. Bill summaries:

The boundary adjustment bill by Rep. Howard (HB 2424). This bill's purpose is to continue the efforts under HB 3405 to adjust the District boundaries in the northeastern part of the District in Travis County to better align with the aquifer boundaries. When the BSEACD was created in 1987, the boundaries were drawn to coincide with the boundaries of the fresh water portion of the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. Over time, better science has enabled us to better identify those aquifer boundaries, and this bill simply adjusts the boundary accordingly.

shared territory under HB 3405 created an arbitrary inequity in the fee rates for similarly situated well owners. Currently, new large water well owners in the District's original area (northern part) may pay a higher groundwater pumping fee rate than similarly situated new large water well owners in the recently annexed shared territory (southern part). This legislation will allow but limit an annual incremental increase in the fee rate for non-agricultural groundwater production in the shared territory until the fee rate is equal to the maximum fee rate paid by well owners in the original area.

Scholarship Deadline Approaching

Each year the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, in collaboration with our permittees, offers scholarships for two different age groups.

- [Kent Butler Memorial Scholarship available for Juniors and Seniors in High School](#)
- [Camp Scholarship available for students age 9-15](#)



The Kent Butler Memorial Groundwater Stewardship Essay Contest offers a \$2,500 scholarship to a high school junior or senior with the winning groundwater-related essay. The Aquatic Science Adventure Camp contest will send several students to the Texas State Summer Camp.

Both contests close on March 22, 2017 at 5:00. Students living within one of the eight school districts that cross the District's boundary are eligible (Austin, Del Valle, Dripping Springs, Eanes, Hays Consolidated, Lockhart, San Marcos Consolidated, and Wimberley).

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Upcoming Events, Meetings, & Deadlines

Mar. 5-11: **National Groundwater Awareness Week** ([details](#))

Thurs., Mar. 9: **BSEACD Board Meeting**

Wed., Mar. 15: **Barton Springs Groundwater Event** ([details](#))

Wed., Mar. 22: **Scholarship Applications Due** ([details](#))

Thurs., Mar. 23: **BSEACD Board Meeting**

Wed., Apr. 1: **Permittee Meter Readings Due** ([details](#))

Thurs., Apr. 13: **BSEACD Board Meeting**

Thurs., Apr. 27: **BSEACD Board Meeting**



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