

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

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Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District

21 Temporary Permits Received

In the newly added groundwater management zone, a temporary permit period allowed new permittees the opportunity to submit paperwork without application fees. The temporary permit grace period closed on Sept. 19. The District received 21 applications, and those applications are currently undergoing review.

To date, there are 4 large permits that trigger an aquifer test (that will happen in the next 6 months) to verify that pumping the proposed volume will not cause unreasonable impacts to surrounding wells and will not affect the District's ability to achieve the desired future condition for the aquifer. Needmore, LLC, Electro Purification, Aqua Texas, and Texas Old Town permits all trigger varying degrees of aquifer tests. The larger the permit, the more extensive the monitoring network for the aquifer test.

In the coming months, the District will work with landowners to establish appropriate monitoring networks for the aquifer tests. We'll be looking for wells to take periodic water level measurements at various distances surrounding the pumping centers. In large part, the monitoring network is well advanced in the Electro Purification area. We will be looking for willing well owners near the Needmore Ranch to serve as monitoring sites to establish baseline conditions and during the aquifer test.

Please know that the water level measurements are voluntary. The more we know about the aquifer dynamics and surrounding wells, the more informed the permit decisions can be. Now is a good time for homeowners to [register their well](#), if they haven't already. Registration provides well owner contact information and basic well details; there is no fee, no meter, and no site visit associated with well registration. District staff uses registered wells to help establish the monitoring network, calculate local groundwater demands, and inform the permit decision.

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DFC Discussion

Groundwater Management Zone 9 (GMA-9) is a collaboration of groundwater conservation districts that manage portions of the Trinity Aquifer. As part of a regional groundwater planning process that helps inform the State's Water Plan, one of GMA-9's tasks is to reach consensus on a Desired Future Condition (DFC) for the Trinity Aquifer.

IN THIS ISSUE

- [21 Temp. Permits Received](#)
- [DFC Discussion](#)
- [Nov. 7: Rainwater Revival](#)
- [GW levels on the decline](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)

Current Drought Stage: NO DROUGHT

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



10-day avg flow: 99.3 cfs
This discharge is 46 cfs above average, but flow started declining in mid-July.



Water level: 519 ft above msl
The water level is 19ft above average but started a steady decline in mid-August.

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supersede or take the place of local groundwater management put in place by local elected officials through groundwater conservation districts. The individual Districts' tailor their Rules and Bylaws to effectively manage and protect the local groundwater resources, and don't have to rely on the DFC for more than a planning tool.

That said, the GMA-9 has started the public hearing process for the DFCs and non-relevant aquifer designations. The public comment period extends through Thurs., Dec. 31, 2015. The BSEACD Board voted for the DFCs and non-relevant aquifer designations. The BSEACD Rules currently use management zones to protect sensitive portions of the District.

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FEATURED EVENT

Join Us at the Rainwater Revival



Sat., Nov. 7, 10-4: The District is helping sponsor this year's Rainwater Revival at the Dripping Springs Ranch Park (1042 Event Center Drive).

Join us for a family friendly way to talk with experts and see if rainwater harvesting is for you!

[attend this event](#) →[view event details](#) →

Groundwater Levels on the Decline

Both flow at Barton Springs and the water level at the Lovelady Monitor Well are declining. Barton Springs flow started declining in mid-July and the water level in Lovelady Monitor Well followed suit in mid-August. The [U.S Drought Monitor](#) shows Travis, Hays, and Caldwell counties continue with a "flash drought" that could intensify. We're through the typical high water use time of year, but water conservation in Central Texas is always a smart choice.

Upcoming Events, Meetings, & Deadlines

- Thurs., Oct. 8: **BSEACD Board Meeting** ([details](#))
- Mon., Oct. 19: **Temporary Permits' volume finalized** ([details](#))
- Thurs., Oct. 22: **BSEACD Board meeting**
- Tues., Nov. 3: **Election Day** (Directors elections next Nov. 2016)
- Sat., Nov. 7: **Rainwater Revival** ([details](#))
- Wed., Nov. 11: **Veterans Day** - Office closed
- Sat., Nov. 21: **Williamson Creek Cleanup** ([details](#))