Barton Springs
Edwards Aquifer
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# ANNUAL REPORT
# FISCAL YEAR 2025

(To be Board-approved on December 12, 2025)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### August 31, 2025

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Vanessa Puig-Williams, President | Precinct 5 | November 2022 - November 2026 |
| Blayne Stansberry, Vice President | Precinct 2 | November 2014 - November 2026 |
| Christy Williams, Secretary | Precinct 4 | November 2020 - November 2028 |
| Lily Lucas, Director | Precinct 3 | November 2021 - November 2028 |
| Jon Cradit, Director | Precinct 1 | November 2024 - November 2028 |

# DISTRICT STAFF

## August 31, 2025

| | |
|---|---|
| **Aquifer Science Team** | |
| Jeff Watson, P.G. | Staff Hydrogeologist |
| Justin Camp | Senior Hydrogeologist Technician |
| Bri Moore | Water Resource Data Analyst |
| **Communications and Outreach Team** | |
| Shay Hlavaty | Communications and Outreach Manager |
| **Regulatory Compliance Team** | |
| Erin Swanson | Regulatory Compliance Manager/Team Leader |
| Jacob Newton | Regulatory Compliance Specialist |

*Note: Tim Loftus served as the General Manager for the District through August 8, 2025. Hannah Riggs served as the Office Manager through July 11, 2025.*

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# 1.0 BACKGROUND

The Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (District) Bylaws require the District Board President or the District General Manager (GM) to report on the status of the District and its programs annually to the Board and to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). This document is the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 2025), covering the period from September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025.

According to District Bylaw 4-6, this report shall include:

- The status of the aquifer and the District's programs,
- A financial report to include the report of the annual audit and the security of any District investments,
- A review and evaluation of professional services rendered to the District,
- A status report of any capital projects of the District, and
- The evaluation of the District's long-range plans pursuant to §36.107 (now §36.1071) of the Texas Water Code.

This introductory section provides an overview of the District and summarizes the mission and vision of the District and its Board-established critical success factors. Other major report sections that follow include a summary of the active programs in FY 2025; a recap of other specific information required by statute, including an assessment of performance in terms of objectives and performance standards identified in the prevailing Management Plan (MP); and a financial summary. The Board's assessment of progress toward the MP's objectives by performance standards and the basis for that assessment are included as Appendix A. The annual audit report conducted by an independent audit firm is included in its entirety as Appendix B.

## 1.1 General Information About the District

The District was created in 1987 by the 70$^{th}$ Texas Legislature, under Senate Bill 988. Its statutory authorities include Chapter 52 (later revised to Chapter 36) of the Texas Water Code, applicable to all groundwater conservation districts (GCDs) in the state, and the District's enabling legislation, now codified as Chapter 8802, Special District Local Laws Code. The District's legislative mandate is to conserve, protect, and enhance the groundwater resources located within the District boundaries. The District has the power and authority to undertake various studies, assess fees on groundwater pumpage and transport, and to implement structural facilities and non-structural programs to achieve its statutory mandate. The District has rulemaking authority to implement its policies and procedures and to help ensure the management of groundwater resources. The District is not a taxing authority. Its only sources of revenue are groundwater production fees, including a water use fee supplement paid by the City of Austin (CoA); administrative processing fees; and occasional grants from various local, state, and federal programs for special projects.

Upon creation in 1987, the District's jurisdictional area encompassed approximately 255 square miles and was generally defined to include all the area within the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer with an extended area to the east to incorporate the service areas of the Creedmoor-Maha Water Supply Corporation (WSC), Goforth Special Utility District (SUD), and Monarch Utilities. In this area, designated as the "Exclusive Territory," the District has authority over all groundwater resources. In 2015, the 84th Texas Legislature House Bill 3405 expanded the District's jurisdictional area to include the portion of Hays County located within the boundaries of the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) excluding the overlapping area in the Plum Creek Conservation District (see the Figure below). The newly annexed area designated as "Shared Territory," excludes the Edwards Aquifer and includes all other aquifers, including the underlying Upper Trinity, Middle Trinity, and Lower Trinity aquifers (i.e., Trinity Aquifer). The District serves southern Travis County, central and eastern Hays County, and portions of northwestern Caldwell County. The District's jurisdictional area, including the Shared Territory encompasses approximately 420 square miles and includes both urban and rural areas.

Water from the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer serves as the primary water source for public water supply, industrial, and commercial purposes in the District, and is a major source of high-quality base flow to the Colorado River via discharge through the Barton Springs complex. The Barton Springs complex provides the only known habitat for the listed endangered Barton Springs and Austin blind salamanders under the federal Endangered Species Act, requiring all activities that would or could adversely affect the species to represent optimal conservation efforts. The Trinity Aquifer, underlying the Edwards, is an important primary water resource in some parts of the District and is increasingly being developed as an alternative water supply to the oversubscribed Edwards Aquifer in both the Exclusive and Shared Territories. Some wells in the District also produce water from the Taylor and Austin Chalk formations as well as various alluvial deposits along river and stream banks.

A five-member Board of Directors (Board) governs the District. The Directors are elected in even-numbered years to staggered four-year terms from the five single-member precincts that comprise the District. As a result of legislation in 2011 and subsequent Board action in late FY 2011, director elections were moved from the May local elections date to the November general elections date.

In accordance with District Bylaws, the Board elects its officers for one-year terms in January of each year. At the time of this report, this has not yet taken place. The elected officers in January 2025 were Vanessa Puig-Williams, President; Blayne Stansberry, Vice President; and Christy Williams, Secretary. As a local political subdivision of the State of Texas, all meetings of the Board are conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, and the District's business is subject to the Texas Public Information Act.

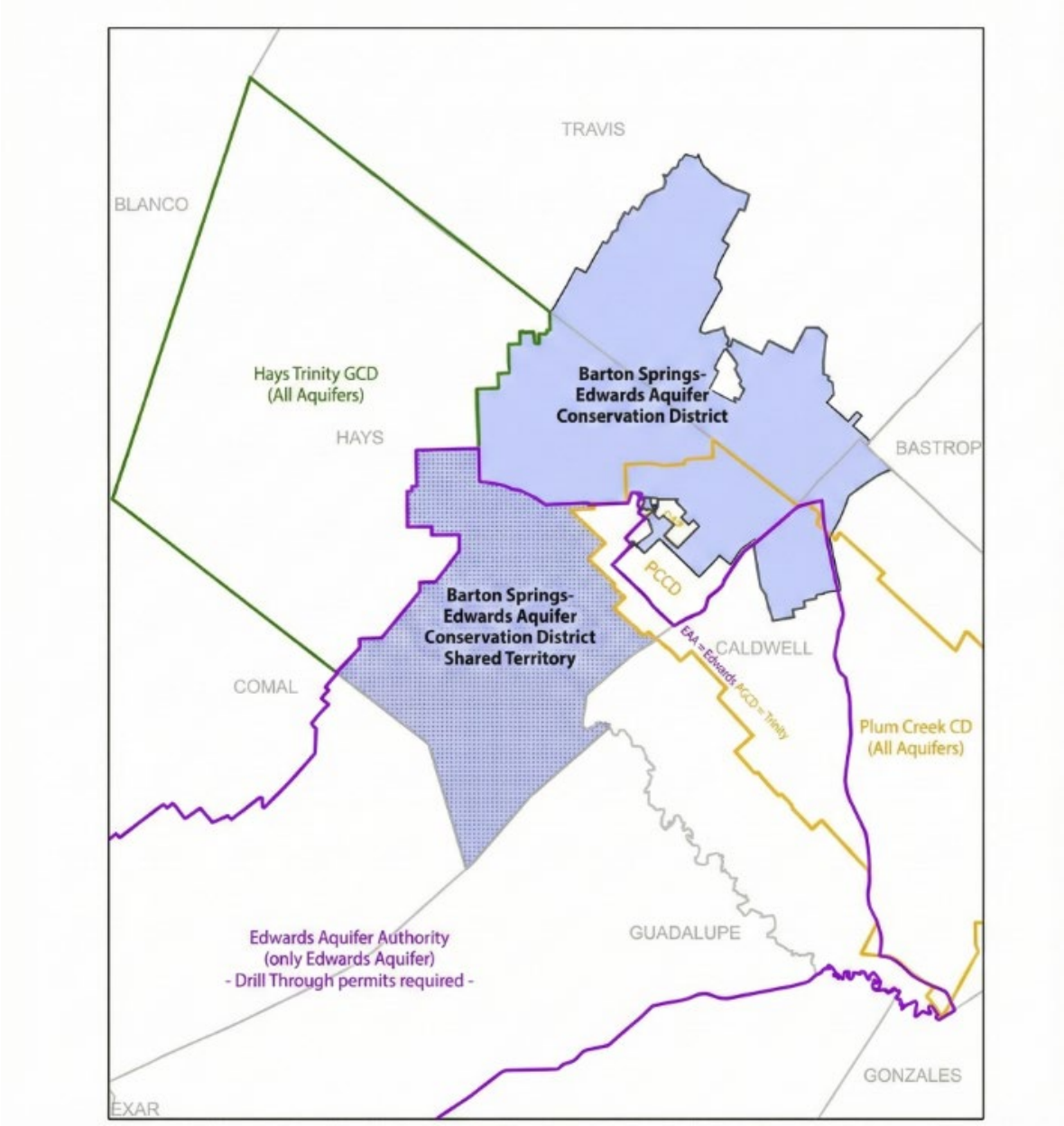



Figure - The District's territory including the expanded Shared Territory and the adjacent groundwater conservation districts and their respective jurisdiction over aquifers.

## 1.2 District Mission and Vision Statements

The District Board has assessed and articulated not only the mission of the District but also its vision and overarching strategic purpose.

The mission of the District is largely mandated by and adapted from its enabling legislation and statutes:

> *"The Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, as the responsible public agency and authority, is committed to conserving, protecting, recharging, and preventing waste of groundwater and to preserving all aquifers within the District."*

The vision of the District provides a succinct statement of the ultimate, continuing goal of the District, describing the standard by which it will execute its mission:

> *"The Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District will excel in its operations and administration so that it is considered the model and standard for other groundwater districts."*

The overarching strategic purpose articulates more action-oriented direction consistent with the mission and vision:

> *"We will manage the District aquifers to optimize the sustainable uses of groundwater in satisfying community interests."*

## 1.3 District Critical Success Factors

The District has established a set of continuing "critical success factors" that flow from and are generally consistent with the goals and objectives of the District's Management Plan. These critical success factors include:

- Providing sound science to support and form the basis of policy and tactical decisions made by the District that affect water supply users and endangered species habitats;
- Being highly efficient, accurate, and fair in administering Staff activities related to all District programs;
- Developing and instituting an equitable and consistently administered regulatory program that is required to serve our mission;
- Becoming a respected and effective part of the state and local political landscape for water resource management and its stakeholder communities;
- Serving our permittees, stakeholders, and the public at large as a readily accessible source of first resort for reliable information about local water, groundwater, aquifer science, water use and conservation; and

- Providing the programmatic and resource basis for innovative, cost-effective solutions to augment the sustainable quantity of water in the District and to protect the quality of District waters required for various existing uses.

# 2.0 DISTRICT PROGRAM AREAS AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

The District constitutes eight staff members, including the General Manager (GM), and a five-member, elected Board of Directors. Staff have various duties that are organized in practice by the following teams: General Management, Administrative, Regulatory Compliance, Aquifer Science, and Communications and Outreach. Each staff member reports to the GM, including one staff member whose frontline supervisor is the Regulatory Compliance Manager. Additionally, the District is supported by a part-time, on-site consultant who provides on-demand Human Resource services and also performs bookkeeping and payroll duties.

The GM meets with each group on a biweekly basis. Additionally, two all-staff meetings are conducted each month; one prior to and another following each Board meeting to ensure preparation and debriefing respectively. The District strives for and has achieved with each other a high-level of trust, communication, and productivity in service to each other and our collective mission.

This section of the report summarizes the operational groups that existed throughout Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 2025) and provides some highlights and notable achievements for each. Appendix A contains more information and details on the work undertaken by these groups in support of the various goals, objectives, and performance standards identified in the applicable *2022 District Management Plan* (MP).

## 2.1 General Management Team

FY 2025 began with Tim Loftus continuing as the District's GM. Tim Loftus tendered his resignation, and his last day serving as GM was August 8, 2025. A replacement GM had not been hired by the start of FY 2026.

The GM serves as the District's Chief Operating Officer and is responsible for the day-to-day business of the District. In addition to managing a staff of seven people and one part-time consultant who performs bookkeeping, payroll, and on-demand Human Resource services, the GM is an *ex-officio* member of all the other teams. The key areas of functional responsibilities for the GM include ensuring Staff performance and development, programmatic planning and execution, stakeholder relationship development and cultivation, and financial administration of the District.

The GM:

- Ensures that the policies and direction of the Board are implemented effectively, appropriately, and efficiently;
- Provides leadership both inside and outside the District organization in accomplishing the mission, vision, and goals of the District; and
- Serves as an advocate for the Staff with the Board, and an advocate for the Board with the Staff.

**In FY 2025, some highlights for the office of the GM**:

- **Cybersecurity Policy** –Pursuant to HB 3834, the District must ensure that all Board members and Staff complete a state-verified cybersecurity training program each year. The District is responsible for verifying and reporting annual completion to the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) and conducting periodic audits to ensure compliance. The Administration Team maintains all training certificates and records of DIR submissions which the Staff completed in the summer of 2025.
- **Legislative Session** – During FY 2025, the Texas Legislature was in session. The GM monitored the proceedings however no legislation was filed that specifically named the District.
- **Regional and Joint Planning** – The GM served as the Coordinator of the Joint-Planning process. Regular meetings were held during FY 2025. Per a FY 2024, Interlocal Agreement, Collier Consulting continues to act as this planning round's consultant. The Plum Creek Conservation District serves as the Administrative Coordinator for Groundwater Management Area 10 (GMA 10) and manages the financial arrangement with the consultant whose scope-of-work was agreed to by all six participating groundwater conservation districts (GCDs).
- **Trinity Sustainable Yield Study and Planning** – In FY 2025, the District achieved several key milestones related to the Trinity Aquifer. Working with LRE Water, the Trinity well-impact analysis study was completed, providing a comprehensive inventory of existing Hays County wells to identify areas of potential water level decline concern. The District also significantly revised its Rules and Bylaws for non-exempt Trinity permit applications, aligning aquifer testing requirements with neighboring GCDs to ensure sufficient data is collected for impact estimation. Also, the Trinity Sustainable Yield Board subcommittee regularly met with Staff to advance this major District priority.
- **New Hire** – Bri Moore was hired on September 9, 2024, for the newly created Water Resource Data Analyst position.
- **Litigation** – The District was not involved in any litigation matters during FY 2025.

### 2.1.1 Board and Staff Training and Open Meetings Act:

There were no Open Meetings Act violations in FY 2025.

The GM and Staff engaged in a Culture Competency workshop under the general umbrella of team building. These exercises were facilitated by the Austin Alliance Group.

## 2.2 Administration Team

The Administration Team for FY 2025 was administered by Hannah Riggs, Office Manager, Tina Cooper, consultant from Austin Alliance Group, and Tim Loftus, General Manager (GM). Hannah Riggs left the District on June 11, 2025. Tim Loftus left the District on August 8, 2025.

The Administration Team is responsible for banking, accounting, timekeeping and payroll administration, records retention and management, facilities and vehicle fleet management, personnel and human resources administration, benefits administration, contracts administration, director compensation and reimbursement administration, state/federal grant administration, and monthly meter readings.

**In FY 2025, some highlights for the Administration Team included:**

- Board and Staff maintained their financial resources in a manner that maximizes liquidity while maintaining the greatest return on District fund balances by investing in securities or investment pools that operate in low-risk investments and are backed by the state and/or federal government.
- Contracted for and participated in the independent annual financial audit, including the provision of all financial records, and preparation of the Management Discussion and Analysis. Year-end reports are submitted to the TCEQ and the State Pension Review Board (PRB), as required by law.
- Developed and monitored the District annual budgets. In FY 2025, there were two versions. The initial budget was brought before the Board in a public hearing held on June 12, 2025 where it was approved. The Board approved a budget revision on August 14, 2025.
- Administrative staff is responsible for proper maintenance, management, retention, and disposition of all District records; inventory of District property (asset management); and capital depreciation. Administration preserved and protected all public documents in accordance with state and federal laws, the adopted District Records Retention Schedule, and with the Texas State Library regulations; and maintained the District's reference material library.
- Assisted the District's information technology (IT) consultant in making improvements to the IT infrastructure to standardize productivity tools and improved security and resolving various Staff IT issues.
- Ensure the elections process is conducted and documented in accordance with applicable requirements and timelines.
- Ongoing maintenance and updates are being conducted for the Employee Policy Manual.

## 2.3 Aquifer Science Team

The Aquifer Science Team is involved in various internal and externally funded groundwater research and assessment programs. The team consists of Jeff Watson, P.G., Senior Hydrogeologist and Justin Camp, Senior Hydrogeologic Technician, Bri Moore, Water Resource Data Analyst, and from time-to-time other staff members, including interns.

To protect and manage the groundwater resources of the District's aquifers, the District continued an active research program that is designed to better understand the hydrogeology and hydrodynamics of aquifers in the District, and to advise the Board on policy-related decisions.

In FY 2025, the Aquifer Science Team worked on many projects, developed new technical reports and memos, presented technical talks, published technical papers, and attended technical conferences including:

- Jeff Watson and Justin Camp attended the 2025 Geological Society of America – South Central Section meeting where Jeff Watson presented a talk on Preliminary Barton Springs Multiport Well findings and Justin Camp presented a poster on the Driftwood Multiport Dual Head study (March 9-11, 2025).
- Jeff Watson and Justin Camp led a project to sample the newly completed Barton Springs Multiport monitoring well for water chemistry and some isotopes in collaboration with City of Austin and USGS staff (May 15-19, 2025).
- Jeff Watson gave a presentation on the Barton Springs Multiport Well to the Austin Geological Society (June 2, 2025).
- Bri Moore gave a presentation on the Abandoned Well Assessment project to the San Antonio Water User Group Meeting hosted by Esri (June 3, 2025).
- Bri Moore attended the annual Esri User's Conference (July 14 – 18, 2025).
- Jeff Watson attended the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Southern Trinity Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) Technical Stakeholder Committee meeting (August 8, 2025).
- Jeff Watson, Justin Camp, and Bri Moore attended the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD) Groundwater Summit (August 19-20, 2025).
- Justin Camp and Jeff Watson collaborated in a multi-agency initiative, involving CoA, USGS and University of Texas, to gather an extensive dataset aimed at optimizing manual measurements downstream of Barton Springs (September 2025).

Presented technical information and studies to the public and students:

- Jeff Watson gave a lecture to the University of Texas Karst Hydrogeology class (September 25, 2024).
- Jeff Watson and Justin Camp presented at Barton Springs University (October 15, 2024).

- Justin Camp and Jeff Watson led a field trip tour of the Antioch multiport well and cave for BSEACD Board members, HTGCD staff, City of Kyle and Buda staff and the Watershed Association staff (February 4, 2025).
- Justin Camp gave a presentation to Univ. of Texas students for "Guardians of our Water" with Dr. David Hillis (March 3, 2025).
- Jeff Watson co-led a field trip to the University of Texas Hydro Field Camp Class for measuring flow at Barton Springs (May 7, 2025).

**In FY 2025, other highlights for the Aquifer Science Team included:**

- Collaborated with District Staff and Board to update the District rules and requirements for aquifer tests.
- Collaborated in a multi-agency initiative, involving CoA, USGS and University of Texas, to gather an extensive dataset aimed at optimizing manual measurements downstream of Barton Springs.
- Provided technical guidance and leadership in the Trinity Sustainable Yield Project, including assisting with issuing RFQs for consulting support, technical oversight of ongoing consulting projects, and providing technical advising to the Trinity Sustainable Yield subcommittee.
- Maintained a monitor well network of about 50 wells with instruments that collect hourly data. The District's HOBO weather station at the District office also collects hourly data and reports to an online dashboard accessible on the District website.
- The District routinely measures water levels in the eight multiport monitor wells that are completed in the Edwards and Trinity Aquifers.
- Determined and documented drought status, ensuring the District's monthly drought updates were accurately maintained and current.
- Maintained the Antioch Cave Recharge Enhancement Project as required by the District's Management Plan and HCP permit.
- Implemented an annual sampling program in cooperation with Magellan Pipeline Company related to the operation of the Longhorn Pipeline that transports crude oil through the District. On August 14, 2024, Staff sampled about six springs and well sites for hydrocarbon contaminants as a screening test for BTEX and TPH.
- Provided technical evaluation of aquifer test plans and submitted hydrogeologic reports for non-exempt permit applications, evaluating proposed projects for their potential for unreasonable impacts.
- Collected water-quality data (major ions and isotopes) from 11 sample locations in cooperation with the TWDB.
- Held the annual meeting between CoA and District Staff to discuss the status of their respective Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) projects (November 22, 2024).
- District Staff hosted the sixth annual HCP Management Advisory Committee **(**MAC) meeting to discuss the accomplishments of the District's HCP projects (February 10, 2025).

- Attended GMA 10 meetings and provided technical input and discussion. Jeff Watson acted as GMA 10 coordinator after Tim Loftus's departure from the District.

**Published Papers and District Documents**:

- Watson, J.A. and J. Camp, 2024, *Preliminary Data Report on Two Monitoring Wells Installed in the Barton Springs Segment of the Edwards Aquifer, Austin Texas*, BSEACD Report of Investigations 2024-1202, December 2024.
- Smith, B., Watson, J., Camp, J., Hunt, B. (2025). *Hydrologic Confinement Between Two Karst Hydrogeologic Units in Central Texas, USA.* In: Fiorillo, F., Parise, M., Petitta, M., Leone, G., Liso, I.S., Lorenzi, V. (eds) Eurokarst 2024. Eurokarst 2024. Advances in Karst Science. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-84338-9_26

## 2.4 Communications and Outreach Team

The Communications and Outreach Team is engaged in a wide range of programs designed to inform and involve well owners, permittees, stakeholders, and the general public. The team is run by Shay Hlavaty, who supports the District's communication initiatives and, as needed, includes other personnel who contribute to outreach efforts throughout the year.

To support the District's mission of protecting and managing groundwater resources, the Communications and Outreach Team leads efforts to increase public understanding of the District, the aquifers within its boundaries, drought stages, and the importance of water conservation. These efforts help ensure that stakeholders receive timely, accurate information that supports informed decision-making and community awareness.

In FY 2025, the Communications and Outreach Team developed and distributed a variety of educational materials, provided updates on drought conditions and District activities, expanded conservation messaging, and engaged the community through outreach events, digital communications, and partnerships.

**In FY 2025, highlights for the Communications and Outreach Team included:**

**Outreach Events** – Through the Communications and Outreach Team, the District engaged with nearly 1,100 community members by coordinating or co-organizing a variety of events held throughout the District's territory, including:

- **Barton Springs University** – Shay Hlavaty and Jacob Newton engaged students in a hands-on activity on total dissolved solids and basic hydrogeology at Save Our Springs' annual Barton Springs University event at Barton Springs Pool. Jeff Watson also hosted a presentation on general hydrogeology of the Edwards Aquifer for students and the general public.
  This event took place on October 22, 2024 and 60 participants were reached.
- **Neighborhood Well Visits** – Shay Hlavaty, Jacob Newton, and Justin Camp visited 11

well owners and their wells in the River Mountain Ranch neighborhood near Woodcreek. Staff collected data and fostered relationships with participants. These visits took place November 12-20, 2025 and included 11 participating homes.

- **Buda Arbor Day** – Shay Hlavaty presented to 5th grade students from the City of Buda at their annual Texas Arbor Day Celebration about Barton Springs salamanders, the Edwards Aquifer, and water conservation. This event took place on November 8, 2025 and reached 200 students and 10 teachers
- **Creedmoor Elementary Program** – Shay Hlavaty presented about Barton Springs salamanders, the Edwards Aquifer, and water conservation to students participating in the elementary school's after-school program. This event took place on November 8, 2025 and reached 50 students.
- **Hot Science Cool Talks: The Future of Texas Water** – Shay Hlavaty and Bri Moore hosted an exhibit highlighting the District's work and current drought stage. Hlavaty co-coordinated the event with the University of Texas, which featured a presentation by Dr. Robert Mace of the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment on the future of Texas water, including local hydrogeology, drought conditions, and water conservation. This event took place on March 28, 2025 and reached 455 attendees. The District partnered with 21 water-focused organizations for exhibiting.
- **Annual Well Water Checkup** – Shay Hlavaty co-coordinated the Annual Well Water Checkup and educational programming with Texas Well Owners Network along with Hays Trinity and Southwest Travis County GCDs. This event took place on April 8, 2025 and reached 69 well owners for well water testing along with 25 people who attended the educational programing
- **Stagecoach Conservation Fair** – Shay Hlavaty tabled at this event co-hosted by the City of Buda and the Hays County Texas Master Naturalists. This event took place on May 10, 2025 and reached 20 adults and children
- **Discovery Day at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center** – Shay Hlavaty tabled at this Discovery Day event that focused on water and water conservation. This event took place on June 8, 225 and reached over 100 adults and children.
- **Groundwater to the Gulf** – Shay Hlavaty co-planned the annual Groundwater to the Gulf continuing education programming and hosted an event focused on measuring Barton Springs flow. This event took place on June 10-12, 2025 and reached 34 teachers and environmental communicators.

**News Articles and Segments Mentioning the District**

- *Stage III Drought for Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District,* Spectrum News, Link unavailable online
- *Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District Declines into Stage III Drought*, Wimberley View, 10/9/2024
- *Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District Now Under Stage III Restrictions,* Hays Free Press, 10/9/2024

- *Lack of Rainfall Having Major Impact on Barton Springs,* Jahmal Kennedy, CBS Austin, 11/18/2024
- *Saving Texas Springs: A Balance of Groundwater and Growth,* Travis Loop, Waterloop, 3/3/2025
- *Residents Invited to Water Well Screenings and Results Meeting,* Dripping Springs Century News, 4/2/2025
- *How Much Rain Would it Take to Get Out of Drought Conditions?* Angela Shen, Fox7 News, 5/5/2025
- *Aquifers Close to Stage IV Drought*, Freddy Vela, KXAN, 5/12/2025
- *Barton Springs Salamanders Help Track Drought*, Grace Thornton, KVUE, 5/26/25

**Written Articles**

Staff wrote the following articles to highlight the work of the District and the status of local aquifers. These articles were published on the District website, newsletters, and/or social media channels.

- *Barton Springs Flow and Repairs,* Shay Hlavaty, BSEACD, 9/11/2024
- *Post Construction Well Inspection: What We Look for and Why*, Shay Hlavaty, BSEACD, 9/27/2024
- *Little Bear Recharge Enhancement Project – How it Impacts the District,* Shay Hlavaty, BSEACD, 11/24/2024
- *Protecting Your Well and Pipes from Freezing Temperatures*, Shay Hlavaty, BSEACD, 1/3/2025
- *Antioch Cave – Protecting Recharge in the District*, Shay Hlavaty, BSEACD, 2/10/2025
- *Protecting Salamanders and Springflow,* Shay Hlavaty, BSEACD, 4/2/2025
- *Extensive Sampling at the Barton Springs Multiport Monitor Well,* Shay Hlavaty, BSEACD, 5/20/2025

**Website Updates: Added Webpages or Capabilities**

- GMA 10 and Region K (Created)
- Rainwater Harvesting (Created)
- Website search capability (Added)
- Interactive Data Map/ The Database (Added)
- Drought Status (Updated)
- Conservation-Based Rate Structures (Updated)

**Digital Communications Data**

| Social Media Growth Across: FY 2024 vs. FY 2025 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Platform** | **Followers as of August 2024** | **Followers as of August 2025** | **Follower Growth** | **Growth Year Over Year %** |
| Facebook | 1,958 | 3,298 | 1,340 | 68% |
| Instagram | 1,100 | 1,937 | 837 | 76% |
| Twitter | 858 | 833 | -25 | -3% |
| LinkedIn | 332 | 549 | 217 | 65% |

| Newsletter Data: FY 2024 vs. FY 2025 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Year** | **Avg Open Rate %** | **Avg. Click Rate %** | **Newsletter Subscribers** |
| FY 2024 | 43% | 8% | 2360 |
| FY 2025 | 47% | 17% | 2318 |

## 2.5 Regulatory Compliance Team

The Regulatory Compliance Team consists of one Regulatory Compliance Manager and one Regulatory Compliance Coordinator who are responsible for a wide range of District responsibilities including drought management, pumpage tracking/compliance assessment, rulemaking, rule and well construction standard interpretation, permitting, enforcement, well inspections, well pluggings, and drilling oversight. Erin Swanson serves as the Regulatory Compliance Manager, with Jacob Newton, Regulatory Compliance Coordinator, completing the team. Regulatory Compliance Team members have also actively attended and participated in community outreach and regional development and planning groups, and served as District liaisons to local municipalities, political subdivisions, permittees, and licensed drillers and pump installers in the area.

**In FY 2025, some highlights of the Regulatory Compliance Team included:**

- **Development Activities Over Recharge & Contributing Zones** – The District continues to monitor for proposed Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permits in the contributing and recharge zones of the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer.

The District continues to track legislation regarding wastewater discharges in the Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone.

- **Rules and Enforcement Committee** – Regulatory Staff and the General Manager (GM) collaborated throughout FY 2025 on discussions regarding potential rule updates and changes. These efforts resulted in the Board of Directors adopting several significant revisions during the year.
    - On April 10, 2025, the Board approved updates to the District's aquifer testing guidelines. The revisions clarify testing requirements for the Edwards and Trinity aquifers and better account for the hydrogeologic differences between the two formations.
    - On August 14, 2025, the Board adopted changes to the District's drought-stage nomenclature and drought-related communications. These updates were designed to reduce confusion among permittees and end-users caused by the previous stage names.
    - On November 14, 2024, the Board approved updates to the District's Enforcement Plan and its drought-related enforcement policy. These revisions clarify procedures for addressing non-compliance with monthly drought curtailments and streamline the enforcement process to ensure it is fair and consistent for all permittees.
- **DFC Planning** – Staff actively collaborated in planning discussions with the other five GCDs that make up GMA 10. Members of GMA 10 are working with Collier Consulting during the current round of planning. Administrative matters – an Interlocal Agreement between the six GCDs and a contract with the consultant - and discussions of the factors required to be addressed, dominated the year. The GCDS are waiting on a new Southern Trinity Groundwater Availability Model to be released to advance DFC-related discussions.
- **Trinity Sustainable Yield** –The Regulatory Compliance Manager participated in additional TSY meetings to bring a regulatory perspective to discussions on the District's policy objectives for the project and to evaluate how emerging data and the conclusions drawn from that data may influence future rulemaking and the current version of those rules and bylaws.
- **Habitat Conservation Plan** – On November 22, 2024, Staff held the annual HCP ILA meeting with the CoA. The District and the CoA agreed to collaborate and coordinate routine and planned communication and activities including flow/aquifer level measurements and monitoring, and regional issues. Regulatory Compliance Staff assisted in drafting the first U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) HCP Annual Report. Staff also held the third annual Management Advisory Committee (MAC) meeting since the issuance of the HCP on February 7th to provide an overview of the annual report and to solicit feedback. The FY 2024 annual report was submitted to USFWS on February 27, 2025.
- **Management Plan** – Staff continued to work towards achieving the goals of the District's 5-year Management Plan (MP), covering the period 2022 to 2027. Progress with the MP during FY 2025 was presented to the Board of Directors on December 13, 2024.
- **Database Development and Upgrade** – In November of 2022, Staff entered into a contract with LRE to develop a database. Phase 2 of the project was completed in March of 2025.

Administrative records, ownership history, and the ability to manage water quality parameters and permits groups were incorporated. The field services app was developed and completed at this time that supports field inspections, water level data collection, and well documentation. Phase 3 of the project began in May of 2025. In this phase, Staff are working with LRE Water to develop the ability to upload transducer data, incorporate WellIntell and HydroVu data, develop preset maps for the website, and develop a permittee portal. LRE Water will also work with District Staff on setting up permittees with their own user accounts and finish implementing the online registration functionality. Phase 3 of the database is expected to conclude in April of 2026.

- **External Communication and Coordination** – Work groups and projects involving Staff participation included:
    - Edwards Aquifer recharge and contributing zone development activity coordination
    - Regular meetings of the Regional Water Quality Protection Plan workgroup
    - Texas Department of Licensing and Registration - Well Construction Standards
    - Texas Association of Groundwater Districts – Legislative Subcommittees
    - Texas Water Conservation Association – Groundwater Subcommittee
    - Groundwater Management Area 10
    - Regional Water Planning Group K
- **Implementation and Compliance of Existing Rules** – Staff reviews permit compliance of each permittee, and monitor existing wells for compliance with the Rules, and Well Construction Standards. Through required meter readings reports, performing regular inspections of wells, and reviewing pumpage compliance at regular intervals, Staff are able to ensure that permitted wells and well systems are operated as intended. Staff also maintain an open dialogue with permittees when compliance matters arise and facilitate solutions through pre-enforcement discussions.
    - **Inspections and Investigations** – During FY 2025, Staff conducted a number of inspections relating to the processing of permit applications. Staff completed 18 inspections related to special investigations, site permittee inspections, and permit applications. Staff collected 11 water quality samples during routine neighborhood site visits for domestic users. There were three formal enforcement actions initiated in FY 2025. All these actions were for non-compliance of meeting monthly drought target volumes. All these actions were for non-compliance of meeting monthly drought target volumes.
    - **Barton Springs Pool Plume Event** – An event occurred between December 18 - 20, 2018, where three separate, discrete, and visible discharges of turbidity from Barton Springs into Barton Springs Pool were observed. CoA Staff worked with District Staff to identify the likely source of turbidity as sediment produced from the drilling of boreholes for a geothermal system in the Barton Hills area about ¾ of mile (4,000 ft) SSW from Barton Springs. Once the source was identified, the CoA and the District worked together to develop additional drilling protocols within proximity to Barton Springs to

minimize future turbidity plumes related to drilling activities. In FY 2025, Staff continued coordination with City of Austin staff to ensure drilling protocols developed in FY 2019 for the Risk Management Zone were followed to minimize future turbidity plumes related to drilling activities. A summary of the inspections, investigations, and site visits conducted in FY 2025 is provided below.

| Inspections/ Investigations/ Visits | FY 2023 | FY 2024 | FY 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Exempt Well Inspections | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Limited Production Permit Inspections | 4 | 7 | 3 |
| Individual Production Permit Inspections | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Test Well Inspections | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Plugging Inspections | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Special Investigation Inspections | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| Other Permittee Meetings/Visits * | 20 | 14 | 19 |
| **Multiple meetings were held with some permittees.* | | | |
| **TOTAL** | **28** | **25** | **33** |

- **Meter Reporting** – Monthly meter readings were collected from all individual permittees each month with the large majority reported in a timely manner. Permittees failing to submit timely reports were provided with notices of the District's intent to collect meter readings. Most delinquent permittees were generally responsive once the notice was received. Meter readings not received after the notice was provided were collected, and a fee was assessed, in accordance with the Rules. The annual meter reading requirement for all Limited Production Permits (LPPs) was due in September 2025. Email correspondence and notifications were provided to the nonexempt domestic users in an effort to ensure compliance; however, approximately 30% did not timely submit a meter reading.
- **User Drought Contingency Plans, and User Conservation Plans (UDCPs and UCPs)** – In FY 2025, Staff worked to update 152 permit records in order to incorporate updated drought planning documents into their records. According to the District MP, all permittees must update their UDCP and UCP plans at least every five years. Therefore, since all UDCPs were updated in FY 2025, Staff in FY 2030 will again work to update these templates to get all UDCPs updated.
- **Right Sizing and Alternative Sources** – After notice and an opportunity for a hearing,

the Board may renew a permit with a reduced amount of the authorized production if the authorized withdrawal volume is no longer commensurate with reasonable non-speculative demand, or actual production from a well is substantially less than the authorized permit amount for multiple years without any rationale that reasonably relates to efforts to utilize alternative water supplies, conserve, or improve water use efficiency. The District has been actively encouraging alternative source projects to reduce the dependency on the aquifers during drought. Staff have collaborated with water suppliers on aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) projects in providing regulatory and technical guidance. The Ruby Ranch ASR project was approved and has been in operation since the summer of FY 2021, and the City of Buda project was approved in the summer of FY 2024. In FY 2025, Staff began preliminary discussions with consultants for a potential third ASR project to be completed within the District's boundaries in the coming years.

- **Drought Compliance** – The District implements a drought management program that requires mandatory monthly pumpage curtailments during District-declared drought stages. The District began FY 2025 in Stage II Alarm drought. The District declared Stage III Critical Drought on and remained in this stage until November 1, 2024 and remained in this stage until the end of FY 2025. The District has implemented all drought-related rules and curtailments in accordance with the District's enforcement plan and drought management protocols. Drought enforcement measures were assessed for Stage II Alarm Drought from the beginning of FY 2024 through November 2024 with Stage III Critical enforcement measures being assessed for the remainder of FY 2025. Monthly drought compliance reports for all individual permittees were provided to the Board each month of FY 2025 during District-declared drought, and those reports can be found on the drought management website pages.
- **Well Registration** – Staff processed and reviewed all well registrations, permit renewals, and applications for permits, permit amendments, and authorizations in accordance with the Rules, Well Construction Standards, and other District guidelines in accordance with specified procedural timeframes. All newly drilled or modified exempt and nonexempt wells were automatically registered at the time of application and complied with District Rules, including Well Construction Standards. During FY 2025, the District continued with an online registration system to receive well registration applications from well owners. The online registration system was implemented in June 2015 in response to recent annexation efforts associated with the passage of HB 3405. Staff received and processed one registration form in FY 2025.
- **Application Reviews** – To ensure that all firm-yield production permits are evaluated with consideration given to the District's demand-based and non-speculative permitting standards, Staff completed comprehensive administrative and technical reviews of permit application requests. A summary of the number and type of applications processed and approved for authorizations, permits, and permit amendments including approved use types and commensurate permit volumes for production permits and amendments, is provided below. A summary of the new wells drilled in FY 2025 is provided in the table below.

| New Wells Drilled | FY 2023 | FY 2024 | FY 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| New Exempt Wells | 6 | 4 | 6 |
| Limited Production Permits (Nonexempt Domestic Wells) | 10 | 9 | 4 |
| Individual Wells | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| Test Wells | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Replacement Wells | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| **TOTAL** | 16 | 16 | 1 |

A summary of the processed permit applications in FY 2025 is provided in the table below.

| Processed Permit Applications | FY 2023 | FY 2024 | FY 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minor Amendment | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Major Amendments | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| New Exempt Well | 8 | 4 | 8 |
| Limited Production Permit (Nonexempt Domestic Wells) | 19 | 7 | 5 |
| Individual Production Permit | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Individual Well Drilling Authorizations or Well Modification | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Test Well | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Well Plugging | 5 | 3 | 15 |
| Replacement Well | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| **Total** | **35** | **23** | **35** |

A summary of the individual production permits processed in FY 2025 is provided in the table below.

| Annual Volume (gpy) | Production Permits Processed | Permit Type | Use Type | Aquifer |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1,500,000 | Far South Mining | Historic Trinity | Irrigation | Middle Trinity |
| 770,000 | Prominence Midtown, LP | Conditional Class C Edwards | Commercial | Edwards |

### 2.5.1 Permit Summary:

A summary of the active individual production permits to date in FY 2025 is provided in the table below.

| Active Individual Permits | FY 2023 | FY 2024 | FY 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Conditional A Edwards | 27 | 27 | 12 |
| Conditional B Edwards | 3 | 3 | 19 |
| Conditional C Edwards | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| Conditional D Edwards | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Historical Edwards | 74 | 74 | 74 |
| Historical Trinity | 34 | 37 | 37 |
| Historical Chalk or Alluvial | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Transport Permits | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| **Total** | **147** | **149** | **152** |

A summary of the active general permits to date in FY 2025 is provided in the table below.

| Active General Permits | FY 2023 | FY 2024 | FY 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Limited Production Permits (LPP) | 194 | 203 | 208 |
| Test Permits | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Monitoring Permits | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **194** | **203** | **208** |

**2.5.2 Production Summary and Exempt Estimates:** Staff monitors annual withdrawals from all nonexempt wells through required monthly or annual meter reports to ensure that groundwater is used as efficiently as possible for beneficial use.
A summary of the volume of aggregate groundwater withdrawals permitted and produced from permitted wells for each Management Zone is provided below.

A summary of the permitted production volumes for each Management Zone is provided on the next page.

| FY 2025 Permitted Pumpage by Management Zone (MZ) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Edwards MZs** | **Gallons** | **Cubic Feet per Second (cfs)** | **Acre-feet** |
| Historical (Individual) | 2,309,082,596 | 9.79 | 7,086 |
| Historical (LPP) | 2,500,000 | 0.011 | 8 |
| Total Historical | *2,311,582,596* | *9.80* | *7,094* |
| Conditional (Individual) | 505,188,008 | 2.14 | 1,550 |
| Conditional (LPP) | 68,500,000 | 0.29 | 210 |
| Total Conditional | *570,938,008* | *2.42* | *1,752* |
| **Total Edwards** | **2,882,520,604** | **12.22** | **8,855** |
| | | | |
| **Trinity MZs** | | | |
| Historical (Individual) | 629,294,517 | 2.67 | 1,931 |
| Historical (LPP) | 34,500,000 | 0.15 | 106 |
| **Total Trinity** | **663,794,517** | **2.81** | **2,037** |
| | | | |
| **Other Aquifers MZs** | | | |
| Historical (Individual) | 2,500,000 | 0.011 | 8 |
| Historical (LPP) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total Other Aquifers** | **2,500,000** | **0.01** | **8** |
| | | | |
| **Total Permitted** | **3,551,565,121** | **15.06** | **10,899** |

A summary of the actual versus permitted production volumes for each Management Zone is also provided below.

| FY 2025 Production from Individual Permittees | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Production Zone** | **Actual Production** | **Permitted Individual Production** |
| Edwards | 1,535,887,998 | 2,882,520,604 |
| Trinity | 278,983,148 | 621,294,517 |
| Austin Chalk or Alluvial | 500 | 2,500,000 |
| **Total (gallons)** | **1,814,871,646** | **3,446,065,121** |
| | (5,569.64ac ft) | 10,575.59 ac ft) |

| FY 2025 Production from Limited Production Permits | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Production Zone** | Actual Production* | Permitted Limited Production |
| Edwards | 14,326,501 | 68,500,000 |
| Trinity | 7,424,683 | 34,500,000 |
| Austin Chalk or Alluvial | 0 | 0 |
| **Total (Gallons)** | **21,751,187** | **102,750,000** |
| | (67.75 ac ft) | (319.16 ac ft) |
| **Actual production is a volume estimate calculation described in the findings and conclusions of the BSEACD Staff Report 2010. Average Annual exempt well production is approximately 104,573 gallons per year (gpy).* | | |

A summary and description of the estimated exempt well production volumes for the Edwards and Trinity Management Zones is also provided below.

| **Edwards Aquifer – Estimated Exempt Wells Production** | | | **Trinity Aquifer – Estimated Exempt Wells Production** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Average Annual Volume per Exempt Well (gpy) | 104,573 | | Average Annual Volume per Exempt Well (gpy) | 104,573 |
| Total Est Volume of Exempt Well Production (gpy)* | 106,455,314 | | Total Est Volume of Exempt Well Production (gpy)* | 121,722,972 |
| *Estimated number of wells* | 1018 | | *Estimated number of wells* | 1,164 |
| *Cubic Feet per Second* | 0.45 | | *Cubic Feet per Second* | 0.52 |
| *% of Permitted Edwards Production* | 3.61% | | *% of Permitted Trinity Production* | 18.56% |
| *% of Actual Edwards Production* | 6.87% | | *% of Actual Trinity Production* | 42.49% |
| *Permitted Edwards Production(gpy)* | *2,950,770,604* | | *Permitted Trinity Production (gpy)* | *655,794,517* |
| **2010 BSEACD Staff Report – Average Exempt Well Use is 104,573 gpy* | | | **2010 BSEACD Staff Report – Average Exempt Well Use is 104,573 gpy* | |

**Edwards Aquifer Exempt Use Estimates**

The most current estimate for Edwards exempt well production is described in a 2010 District report (Banda et al., 2010). The methodology findings are fully described and involve using GIS to count the total number of potential exempt water wells within the District, and determine how to add them to existing databases of wells. The volume of annual estimated production from exempt wells was based upon water-use profiles and metered data. The 2010 report findings conclude that the estimated production, volumes for Edwards Exempt wells was 104,050,000 gallons / 319.32 acre-feet (0.44 cfs) and the estimated number of exempt wells was 995.This volume was approximately equal to 5% of the permitted volume at that time and was thought to be a proportion that could be applied going forward.

However, considering that the current estimate of exempt Edwards wells is about 1018, the number, and therefore volumetric use of exempt Edwards is relatively constant, and substantiates the use of the 0.45 cfs (106,455,314 gallons / 326.7 acre-feet).

**Trinity Aquifer Exempt Use Estimates**

Very few exempt Trinity wells existed in the District prior to the HB 3405 annexation. After annexation of a substantial portion of Hays County, the total number of exempt Trinity wells within the District was largely unknown due to the complexity of geology, aquifer completion, and lack of available information. In 2019, Staff developed a method to help estimate the number of exempt wells completed in the Trinity Aquifer in the District that focused on the annexation area. The results of the methodology are briefly described in the District Staff Report 2019 (Gary et al., 2019). The methodology estimates the number of exempt Trinity wells using GIS, and considers existing well completions, water service areas, geology, and County Appraisal District information. Considering meter data and average annual household use, the estimated production volumes for Trinity Exempt wells is about 1164 wells, the number, and therefore volumetric use is approximately 121,722,972 gallons / 373.55 acre-feet (0.52 cfs).

# 3.0 REQUIRED DATA AND INFORMATION

The District Bylaws and MP require a number of specific items to be included in the Annual Report. This information is included in the following subsections of the Annual Report.

## 3.1 Aquifer Status

Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 2025) (beginning September 1, 2024) opened with the Austin/Hill Country region in “Alarm Drought” status, following a wetter-than-usual start to the year with above-average rainfall in January, April, May, and July. However, very dry conditions in August and September quickly erased those gains, prompting the Board to declare Stage III Critical Drought on October 3, 2024. Rainfall for August and September totaled just 1.6 inches—4.6 inches below the historical average—further intensifying drought conditions. October, typically the second-wettest month with an average of 4.1 inches of rain, delivered only 0.01 inches across the District, making it the second-driest October on record (surpassed only by 1952).

Below-average rainfall persisted through November and December 2024, and water levels at the Lovelady monitor well continued to decline. The year 2024 also surpassed 2023 as the warmest year on record at Camp Mabry, with an average temperature of 72.8°F—half a degree hotter than the previous year. With regard to precipitation, 2024 was the 37th-driest year on record for Austin. By the end of December, the Lovelady water level measured 458.3 feet above mean sea level (ft-msl), approximately 1.2 feet above the Stage IV Exceptional Drought threshold.

Calendar year 2025 began with 2.0 inches of rain in January and 2.7 inches in February—February marking the first above-average month since July 2024. From January through March, rainfall totaled 6.3 inches, about 1.2 inches below the historical average, representing "average rainfall" conditions for winter. This early precipitation kept water levels at the Lovelady well hovering just above the Stage IV Drought threshold, with little movement in either direction.

From April through September, the region recorded 15.5 inches of rain, about 3.3 inches below normal. April received 1.9 inches, roughly half an inch below average. May and June—typically two of Central Texas's wettest months—recorded 6.0 inches and 1.6 inches, respectively. May's rainfall provided modest recharge, and an additional 4.6 inches in July helped increase Barton Springs flow to around 40 cubic feet per second (cfs).

Despite these rainfall events, water levels at the Lovelady well showed only a limited response, appearing to stabilize briefly and slow the typical seasonal decline.

Conditions worsened again during August and September, when extreme heat and very little rainfall—just 1.2 inches in August and 0.1 inches in September—led to further declines in water levels and spring flow. On September 11, 2025, the 10-day average water level at the Lovelady well dropped into the Stage 3 Exceptional Drought threshold (formerly known as Stage 4 Exceptional Drought with the updated drought chart). The Board declared Stage 3 that same day, marking only the second Exceptional Drought declaration in the District's 38-year history. The first occurred in December 2023.

As rainfall deficits persisted and Barton Springs flow remained low (between 14–20 cfs), complications emerged with the USGS real-time flow gauge. These included the installation of boards in downstream spillways by City of Austin staff to raise pool levels. To ensure accurate drought tracking, the District shifted to manually measuring Barton Springs flow every 10–20 days to maintain reliable 10-day average estimates.

In summary, the Austin/Hill Country region has received approximately 24.3 inches of rain so far in 2025 (through October 31), which is 6 inches below the annual average. Unless November and December deliver more than 10 inches of rain, 2025 will conclude as another below-average year. For comparison, 2024 and 2023 ended with rainfall deficits of 7.1 and 9.4 inches, and Camp Mabry is now 24 inches below normal over the past three years. As November begins, the region is entering its 41st consecutive month of drought.

## 3.2 Grant Program

In FY 2024, the District secured grant funding through the City of Austin Salamander Conservation fund to drill a multiport monitoring well next to Barton Springs Pool. Work was completed on the well in June 2024. In FY 2025, District Staff conducted an extensive data collection program on the Barton Springs Multiport well, including numerous water level

profiles, permeability testing, and water chemistry sampling. Findings from these data collection efforts have been presented in technical conferences, such as the Geological Society of America's GSA Connects 2025 conference. Aquifer Science Staff plan to publish data to make it more widely available to the public and scientists.

## 3.3 Professional Services

The District expended $118,677 for professional services in FY 2025. This amount included legal fees of $76,175 for general counsel support provided by Bickerstaff, Heath, Delgado & Acosta LLP of Austin.

Additional professional services for FY 2025 also reported in the above amount include the District's third-party retirement plan administrator, The Standard, for $18,886.

The District hired P. Andrew Hall, LLC for the FY 2025 audit. The fee paid for these professional services was $13,500.

The second year of a two-year engagement with SledgeLaw Group for legislative consulting services incurred a cost of $45,000.

The District's new database project continued to employ LRE Water and cost $41,291 in FY 2025.

These professional services do not include the contracted labor that comprises programmatic support to various team initiatives and that is budgeted as part of the individual team budgets.

## 3.4 Capital Projects

In FY 2025, the District recorded several capital outlays exceeding $5,000. These included duct work totaling $5,350, replacement of hardware used for virtual Board meetings costing $11,184, and multiple workstation upgrades totaling $9,829.

## 3.5 Financial Report

As authorized in the District Bylaws, the Board utilizes the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company (commonly referred to as "TexPool") as a depository for its funds not required by its current operations. There are several built-in controls and safeguards in the TexPool account mechanisms. The District has established and maintains funds in three TexPool accounts to further minimize risk and to partition funds designated for certain potential uses. To facilitate payments and timely deposits, the District also maintains both checking and payroll accounts with Truist, which are FDIC-insured. Monies are moved electronically between these Truist

accounts and the TexPool accounts, generally keeping funds not required by current operations in TexPool, and therefore the cash balances in the operating bank accounts as small as prudently feasible. The District has no additional monetary investments other than its cash fund accounts.

End-of-the-year cash and account balances and an independent assessment of financial controls will be found in the Annual Audit Report, included as Appendix B, upon completion of the financial audit.

## 3.6 Evaluation of District's Long-Range Plan Pursuant To §36.1071

### 3.6.1 Background

TWC §36.1071 requires all GCDs to establish and maintain a long-range comprehensive plan for groundwater management in the District. This long-range plan is a five-year plan called the District Management Plan (MP). The MP must be reviewed, revised as necessary, readopted, and reapproved at least once every five years. The current plan was adopted by Board resolution in October of 2022, approved by the TWDB in December 2022, amended by Board resolution in August 2023, and approved by the TWDB in August 2024. Pursuant to the code provisions, all GCDs are required to assess progress quantitatively toward the objectives in their prevailing MP at least annually. This assessment is summarized in the following Section 3.6.2 and elaborated on in Appendix A of this Annual Report.

### 3.6.2 Board Evaluation of Goals, Objectives, and Progress Assessment

Section 2.0 of this report highlights some activities for each of the operational teams. A more comprehensive and detailed listing of the activities of the District is included in Appendix A, which was prepared by Staff to assist the Board's evaluation of the progress made in FY 2025 toward the goals, objectives, and performance standards identified in the prevailing District MP.

On December 11, 2025, the Board reviewed the information in Appendix A, discussed its conformance with the plan objectives and their subsidiary performance standards, and then took action to evaluate progress made by the District toward these strategic objectives, as specified in the metrics for each of the objectives.

Following a proper motion and second, and discussion in a properly noticed Open Meeting, the Board unanimously approved the progress toward each and all objectives in FY 2025 as being satisfactory. The basis for that decision-making is included in this Annual Report as Appendix A.

# ANNUAL REPORT
# FISCAL YEAR 2025

# Appendix A

## Assessment of Progress Toward Management Plan Goals and Objectives

# Table of Contents

# GOAL 1
## PROVIDING THE MOST EFFICIENT USE OF GROUNDWATER

31 TAC 356.52(A)(1)(A)/TWC §36.1071(A)(1)

**Objective 1-1.** Provide and maintain on an ongoing basis a sound statutory, regulatory, financial, and policy framework for continued District operations and programmatic needs.

Performance Standards

A. Develop, implement, and revise, as necessary, the District Management Plan (MP) in accordance with state law and requirements. Each year the Board will evaluate progress towards satisfying the District goals. A summary of the Board evaluation and any updates or revisions to the MP will be provided in the Annual Report.

   In FY 2024, the District amended MP by Board Resolution in August 2023. The amended plan was approved by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) on August 15, 2024. Updates reflected a new Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) run/report by the TWDB.

   In order to achieve the goals, management objectives, and performance standards adopted in the MP, on December 12, 2024, the District's Board of Directors (Board) evaluated progress made, and approved the District's FY 2024 Annual Report and Appendix A (Assessment of Progress toward Management Plan Goals and Objectives). Appendix B (the annual financial audit) was also presented at the December 12, 2024 Board Meeting.

B. Review and modify District Rules as warranted to provide and maintain a sound statutory basis for continued District operations, and to ensure consistency with both District authority and programmatic needs. A summary of any rule amendments adopted in the previous fiscal year will be included in the Annual Report.

   During FY 2025, public hearings were held on:
   - November 7, 2024, in which the Board of Directors acted to amend District Rules 3-7.8.
   - April 10, 2025, in which the Board of Directors acted to amend District Rules 3-1.24, 3-1.25, 3-1.4, 3-1.6, and 3-1.9.
   - August 14, 2025, in which the Board of Directors acted to amend District Rules 2-1, 3-1.18, 3-1.20, 3-1.23, 3-1.24, 3-3.7, 3-7.3, 3-7.5, 3-7.6, 3-7.7, and 3-7.10.

**Objective 1-2.** Monitor aggregated use of various types of water wells in the District, as feasible and appropriate, to assess overall groundwater use and trends on a continuing basis.

Performance Standards

Monitor annual withdrawals from all nonexempt wells through required monthly or annual meter reports to ensure that groundwater is used as efficiently as possible for beneficial use. A summary of the volume of aggregate groundwater withdrawals permitted and actually produced from permitted wells for each Management Zone (MZ) and permit type will be provided in the Annual Report.

A summary of annual withdrawals including the actual versus permitted production volumes for each Management Zone is provided below.

| FY 2025 Production from Individual Permittees | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Production Zone** | **Actual Production** | **Permitted Individual Production** |
| Edwards | 1,535,887,998 | 2,882,520,604 |
| Trinity | 278,983,148 | 621,294,517 |
| Austin Chalk or Alluvial | 500 | 2,500,000 |
| **Total (gallons)** | **1,814,871,646** | **3,446,065,121** |
| | (5,569.64ac ft) | 10,575.59 ac ft) |

| FY 2025 Production from Limited Production Permits | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Production Zone** | **Actual Production*** | **Permitted Limited Production** |
| Edwards | 14,326,501 | 68,500,000 |
| Trinity | 7,424,683 | 34,500,000 |
| Austin Chalk or Alluvial | 0 | 0 |
| **Total (gallons)** | **21,751,187** | **103,000,000** |
| | (67.75 ac ft) | (319.16 ac ft) |
| **Actual production is a volume estimate calculation described in the findings and conclusions of the BSEACD Staff Report 2010. Average Annual exempt well production is approximately 104,573 gpy* | | |

**Objective 1-3.** Evaluate quantitatively at least every five years the amount of groundwater withdrawn by exempt wells in the District to ensure an accurate accounting of total withdrawals in a water budget that includes both regulated and non-regulated withdrawals, so that appropriate groundwater management actions are taken.

Performance Standards

Provide an estimate of groundwater withdrawn by exempt wells in the District using Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation and TWDB databases, and District well records; and update the estimate every five years with the District's MP updates.

This is a joint effort between the Aquifer Science, Communications and Outreach, and Regulatory Compliance groups.

In the interim years between MP updates, the most current estimates of exempt well withdrawals will be included in a summary of the volume of aggregate groundwater withdrawals permitted and actually produced from permitted wells for each MZ and permit type that will be provided in the annual report.

Summary tables of the estimated exempt well production volumes for the Edwards and Trinity MZs are provided in the next page.

| Edwards Aquifer – Estimated Exempt Wells Production | |
|---|---|
| Average Annual Volume per Exempt Well (gpy) | 104,573 |
| **Total Est Volume of Exempt Well Production (gpy)*** | **106,455,314** |
| Estimated number of wells | 1018 |
| Cubic Feet Per Second | 0.45 |
| % of Permitted Edwards Production | 3.61% |
| % of Actual Edwards Production | 6.87% |
| Permitted Edwards Production(gpy) | 2,950,770,604 |
| **2010 BSEACD Staff Report – Avg Exempt Well Use=104,573 gpy* | |

| Trinity Aquifer – Estimated Exempt Wells Production | |
|---|---|
| Average Annual Volume per Exempt Well (gpy) | 104,573 |
| **Total Est Volume of Exempt Well Production (gpy)*** | **121,722,972** |
| Estimated number of wells | 1164 |
| Cubic Feet Per Second | 0.52 |
| % of Permitted Trinity Production | 18.56% |
| % of Actual Trinity Production | 42.49% |
| Permitted Trinity Production (gpy) | 655,794,517 |
| **2010 BSEACD Staff Report – Avg Exempt Well Use=104,573 gpy* | |

**Objective 1-4.** Develop and maintain programs that inform and educate citizens of all ages about groundwater and springflow-related matters, which affect both water supplies and salamander ecology.

Performance Standards

Publicize District drought trigger status (Barton Springs ten-day average discharge and Lovelady monitor well water level) in monthly eNews bulletins and continuously on the District website.

Provide summaries of associated outreach and education programs, events, workshops, and meetings in the monthly team activity reports in the publicly available Board backup.

**Publicizing District Drought Trigger Status - Newsletter and Drought Updates**

Throughout the fiscal year, the District distributed bi-monthly newsletters to more than 2,300 subscribers. Each issue featured updates on drought conditions, the state of the aquifers, aquifer research, informational articles, and upcoming community events.

To broaden outreach, newsletters were also shared on the District's website and posted across all social media platforms.

During months of drought, the District published monthly Drought Updates to keep the community informed. These updates provided data on drought trigger status, rainfall, Barton Springs flow, the status of groundwater levels in Lovelady, and regional water supply conditions, along with water conservation tips. Drought Updates were included in newsletters or sent as standalone emails, featured on the website, and shared on social media channels.

FY 2025 Newsletters and Drought Updates can be viewed below:

- 09/2024 - August Drought Update
- 10/2024 - September and October Newsletter
- 11/2024 - October Drought Update
- 12/2024 - November and December Newsletter
- 01/2025 - December Drought Update
- 02/2025 - January and February Newsletter
- 03/2025 - February Drought Update
- 04/2025 - March and April Newsletter
- 05/2025 - April Drought Update
- 06/2025 - May and June Newsletter
- 07/2025 - June Drought Update
- 08/2025 - July and August Newsletter

**Sharing Drought Trigger Status on the District's Website**
The District's updated drought chart is continuously displayed on the home page of the website at www.bseacd.org. As part of the navigation bar, there is a button that displays the current stage of drought at the top of every page. Additionally, the opening slide on the home page displays the current drought status and a link to a related article about the most recent declaration.

The drought status and additional related information can be seen at www.bseacd.org/droughtstatus. Other than the website's home page, the Drought Status page is the most visited portion of the website, receiving thousands of views per year.

**Relevant Outreach Efforts**

- **Kent Butler Scholarship** – After being cancelled in 2023, the Kent Butler Scholarship was reinstated by the District for 2024 and continued in 2025. In partnership with the Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center, the District provided $6,000 to support five students (ages 9–14) attending the Center's five-day, overnight Aquatic Science Adventure Camp, as well as one student attending a $500 week-long day camp. The District values this scholarship as an important investment in cultivating future water professionals and fostering stewardship of local surface and groundwater resources.

Applicants submitted a one-page statement outlining what they hoped to learn, accompanied by related artwork. Staff promoted the opportunity across all school districts within our service area—including Wimberley, Austin, San Marcos, Hays, Eanes, and Del Valle—and received seven applications from students of various ages.

- **Groundwater to the Gulf** – The annual Groundwater to the Gulf program—a three-day, field-based educational event led by the Colorado River Alliance—was held June 10–12, 2025. This program equips educators with water-conservation curriculum, resource materials, and hands-on learning activities for use in classrooms and community outreach. This collaborative event is made possible through support from numerous local water-focused organizations, including the Lower Colorado River Authority, the City of Austin, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Wild Basin, and others. The District led an engaging session on springflow at Barton Springs, where staff introduced the District's mission, programs, and methods for determining drought stages. Participants then conducted a hands-on springflow measurement activity at Barking Springs using oranges as float gauges. District Staff also assisted with additional educational sessions and captured photos that were shared widely among program partners. More than 34 educators participated in this year's program, which the District highlighted across its social media channels to showcase the event's success and partnerships.
- **Barton Springs University** – The District participated in Save Our Springs' Barton Springs University event on October 28, 2025. District representatives Shay Hlavaty and Jacob Newton led an interactive, hands-on activity focused on conductivity and total dissolved solids of water from the tap, rainwater, Trinity Aquifer, Edwards Aquifer, and seawater. During their session, they provided an overview of the District's mission, key programs, relationship between surface water and groundwater, Barton Springs Salamander habitat conservation, and an update on current drought conditions. Approximately 700 students attended Barton Springs University, with nearly 60 participants engaging directly with District Staff. The event and the District's involvement were featured on social media and included in a Board Report to share outcomes and community impact.
- **Salamander Communications** – To help educate the community about the District's efforts to conserve the habitat of the Barton Springs Salamander, the District collaborated with the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department and KVUE News. An article was published on the District's website, social media channels, and in the monthly newsletter, highlighting the District's work to protect the groundwater habitats the salamanders depend on, as well as the population monitoring conducted by the City of Austin. In addition, KVUE News conducted an on-site interview at Eliza Springs, where Shay Hlavaty and City of Austin salamander biologists discussed how the ongoing drought conditions are affecting the species and its habitat.

    - *Protecting Salamanders and Springflow,* Shay Hlavaty, BSEACD, 4/2/2025
    - *Barton Springs Salamanders Help Track Drought,* Grace Thornton, KVUE, 5/26/2025

- **Four Rivers Association of Realtors Speaker Series** – Shay Hlavaty participated as a panelist in the Four Rivers Association of Realtors Speaker Series, joining general managers from the Hays Trinity, Guadalupe County, Comal County, and Plum Creek groundwater conservation districts. The first session, held on August 12, 2025, focused on general hydrogeology and an overview of groundwater conservation districts and their operations, including drought management. The second session, on September 2, 2025, covered topics related to well drilling, permitting, and regulation. Approximately 50 realtors attended each event and were actively engaged in discussions throughout the sessions.

**Objective 1-5.** Ensure responsible and effective management of District finances such that the District has the near-term and long-term financial means to support its mission.

Performance Standards

Receive a clean financial audit each year. A copy of the auditor's report will be included in the Annual Report (as Appendix B).

The Board expects to receive and approve the FY 2025 Annual Financial Audit report provided by the District's financial auditor at its Board Meeting on December 11, 2025. It will be included in the Annual Report as Appendix B.

Timely develop and approve fiscal-year budgets and amendments.

During FY 2025, there were two FY 2026 budget versions brought before the Board of Directors. The preliminary budget was presented in a properly-noticed public hearing held on June 12, 2025 where it was approved. The Board approved a final FY 2026 Budget on August 14, 2025.

**Objective 1-6.** Provide efficient administrative support and infrastructure, such that District operations are executed reliably and accurately, meet Staff and local stakeholder needs, and conform to District policies and with federal and state requirements.

Performance Standards

Maintain, retain, and control all District records in accordance with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission-approved District Records Retention Schedule to allow for safekeeping and efficient retrieval of any and all records, and annually audit records for effective management of use, maintenance, retention, preservation and disposal of the records' life cycle as required by the Local Government Code.
A summary of records requests received under the Texas Public Information Act (PIA), any training provided to staff or directors, or any claims of violation of the PIA will be provided in the Annual Report under the General Management Team Highlights.

The Administration Team is responsible for proper maintenance, management, retention, and disposition of all District records; inventory of District property (asset management); and capital depreciation. Administration preserved and protected all public documents in accordance with state and federal laws, the adopted District Records Retention Schedule, and with the Texas State Library regulations; and maintained the District's reference material library.

District records were maintained effectively, and there were no violations of the Public Information Act (PIA).

Develop, post, and distribute District Board agendas, meeting materials, and backup documentation in a timely and required manner; post select documents on the District website, and maintain official records, files, and minutes of Board meetings appropriately.

The Administration Team developed, posted, and distributed all materials and backup documentation for all 10 District Regular Meetings and one Special Called Meeting held in FY 2024. There were also seven Public Hearings. All meeting minutes were approved by the Board at a subsequent meeting. Administrative staff maintained the officials records of each meeting on the District's website and in the District's digital library.

**Objective 1-7.** Manage and coordinate electoral process for Board members.

Performance Standards

Ensure the elections process is conducted and documented in accordance with applicable requirements and timelines. Election documents will be maintained on file, and a summary of elections-related dates and activities will be provided in the Annual Report for years when elections occur.

The District holds elections no more often than every two years during even-numbered years, but during an odd-numbered fiscal year .

Three candidates filed for the November 5, 2024 (FY 2025) election but were unopposed at the end of the filing deadline. The elections, therefore, were cancelled. Two candidates were running for reelection (precincts 3 and 4) and one candidate will be new (Precinct 1) since the incumbent chose not to run for reelection after one term.

# GOAL 2
## CONTROLLING AND PREVENTING WASTE OF GROUNDWATER

31 TAC 356.52(A)(1)(B)/TWC §36.1071(A)(2))

**Objective 2-1.** Require all newly drilled exempt and nonexempt wells, and all plugged wells to be registered and to comply with applicable District Rules, including Well Construction Standards.

Performance Standard

A summary of the number and type of applications processed and approved for authorizations, permits, and permit amendments including approved use types and commensurate permit volumes for production permits and amendments will also be provided in the Annual Report.

To ensure that all firm-yield production permits are evaluated with consideration given to the District's demand-based and nonspeculative permitting standards, Staff completed comprehensive administrative and technical reviews of permit application requests. A summary of the number and type of applications processed and approved for authorizations, permits, and permit amendments, including approved use types and commensurate permit volumes for production permits and amendments, is provided below.

A summary of the processed permitting applications in FY 2025 is provided in the table on the next page.

| Processed Permit Applications | FY 2023 | FY 2024 | FY 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minor Amendment | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Major Amendments | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| New Exempt Well | 8 | 4 | 8 |
| Limited Production Permit (Nonexempt Domestic Wells) | 19 | 7 | 5 |
| Individual Production Permit | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Individual Well Drilling Authorizations or Well Modification | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Test Well | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Well Plugging | 5 | 3 | 15 |
| Replacement Well | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| **TOTAL** | **35** | **23** | **35** |

A summary of the individual production permits processed in FY 2025 is provided in the table below.

| Annual Volume (gpy) | Production Permits Processed | Permit Type | Use Type | Aquifer |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1,500,000 | Far South Mining | Historic Trinity | Irrigation | Middle Trinity |
| 770,000 | Prominence Midtown, LP | Conditional Class C Edwards | Commercial | Edwards |

**Objective 2-2.** Ensure permitted wells and well systems are operated as intended by requiring reporting of periodic meter readings, making periodic inspections of wells, and reviewing pumpage compliance at regular intervals that are meaningful with respect to the existing aquifer conditions.

Performance Standards

Inspect all new wells for compliance with the Rules, and Well Construction Standards, and provide a summary of the number and type of inspections or investigations in the Annual Report.

During FY 2025, Staff conducted a number of inspections relating to the processing of permit applications. Staff completed two inspections related to special investigations and one permittee site inspection. Staff collected 15 water quality samples during routine neighborhood site visits for domestic users. There were three formal enforcement actions initiated in FY 2025. All these actions were for non-compliance of meeting monthly drought target volumes. All these actions were for non-compliance of meeting monthly drought target volumes.

| Inspections/ Investigations/ Visits | FY 2023 | FY 2024 | FY 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Exempt Well Inspections | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| Limited Production Permit Inspections | 4 | 7 | 0 |
| Individual Production Permit Inspections | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Test Well Inspections | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Plugging Inspections | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Special Investigation Inspections | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Other Permittee Meetings/Visits * | 6 | 20 | 14 |
| **Multiple meetings were held with some permittees.* | | | |
| **TOTAL** | **28** | **25** | **24** |

Provide a summary of the volume of aggregate groundwater withdrawals permitted and actually produced from permitted wells for each MZ and permit type in the Annual Report.

A summary of the actual versus permitted production volumes for each MZ is provided above in the Objective 1-2 Performance Standard update.

**Objective 2-3.** Provide leadership and technical assistance to government entities, organizations, and individuals affected by groundwater-utilizing land use activities, including support of or opposition to legislative initiatives or projects that are inconsistent with this objective.

Performance Standards

A. In even-numbered fiscal years, provide a summary of interim legislative activity and related District efforts in the Annual Report. In odd-numbered fiscal years, provide a legislative debrief to the Board on bills of interest to the District, and provide a summary in the Annual Report.

During FY 2025, the Texas State Legislature met. No bills were filed specific to the District.

- HB 1633 amends Chapter 36 of the Water Code to require a groundwater conservation district to consider if an applicant's proposed use of water unreasonably affects wells that are registered with the District and exempt from permitting before granting or denying a permit or permit amendment.
- HB 5560 amends Chapter 36 of the Water Code to provide that in an enforcement action brought by a district, the court may assess a penalty greater than the maximum authorized (increased by the bill from $10,000 per day to $25,000 per day) if the court determines the person gained an economic benefit as a result of the violation that was greater than the maximum penalty. A penalty assessed under the new subsection must be in an amount determined by the court to be necessary and appropriate to outweigh the economic benefit gained by the violator and discourage future violations.
- HJR 7 (passed by the citizens of Texas as Prop 4 in the October election) amends the Texas Constitution to provide that the net revenue from state sales taxes above $48 billion be deposited in the Texas Water Fund until 2035 for water infrastructure.

B. Provide a summary of District activity related to other land use activities affecting groundwater in the Annual Report.

*Development Activities Over Recharge and Contributing Zones:*

No new development activities moved forward during the fiscal year.

The District continues to monitor as many proposed/new developments as possible and Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permits in the contributing and recharge zones of the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. Additionally, the District continues to track legislation regarding wastewater discharges in the Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone.

**Objective 2-4.** Ensure all firm-yield production permits are evaluated with consideration given to the demand-based permitting standards including verification of beneficial use that is commensurate with reasonable non-speculative demand.

Performance Standard

A summary of the number and type of applications processed and approved for authorizations, permits, and permit amendments including approved use types and commensurate permit volumes for production permits and amendments will be provided in the Annual Report.

To ensure that all firm-yield production permits are evaluated with consideration given to the District's demand-based and nonspeculative permitting standards, Staff completed comprehensive administrative and technical reviews of permit application requests.

A summary of the number and type of applications processed and approved for authorizations, permits, and permit amendments including approved use types and commensurate permit volumes for production permits and amendments is provided below.

A summary of the processed permitting applications in FY 2025 is provided in the table below.

| Processed Permit Applications | FY 2023 | FY 2024 | FY 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minor Amendment | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Major Amendments | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| New Exempt Well | 8 | 4 | 8 |
| Limited Production Permit (Nonexempt Domestic Wells) | 19 | 7 | 5 |
| Individual Production Permit | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Individual Well Drilling Authorizations or Well Modification | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Test Well | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Well Plugging | 5 | 3 | 15 |
| Replacement Well | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| **TOTAL** | **35** | **23** | **35** |

A summary of the individual production permits processed in FY 2025 is provided in the table below.

| Annual Volume (gpy) | Production Permits Processed | Permit Type | Use Type | Aquifer |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1,500,000 | Far South Mining | Historic Trinity | Irrigation | Middle Trinity |
| 770,000 | Prominence Midtown, LP | Conditional Class C Edwards | Commercial | Edwards |

# GOAL 3
## ADDRESSING CONJUNCTIVE SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES

31 TAC 356.52(A)(1)(D)/TWC §36.1071(A)(4)

**Objective 3-1.** Assess the physical and institutional availability of existing regional surface water and alternative groundwater supplies, and the feasibility of those sources as viable supplemental or substitute supplies for District groundwater users.

Performance Standard

A summary of District activity related to this objective will be provided in the Annual Report.

Identify available alternative water resources and supplies that may facilitate source substitution and reduce demand on the Edwards Aquifer while increasing regional water supplies; and evaluate feasibility by considering available/proposed infrastructure, financial factors, logistical/engineering factors, and potential secondary impacts (development density/intensity or recharge water quality).

The District has two active aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) permits operating Middle Trinity injection wells: Ruby Ranch Water Supply Corporation (RRWSC), and the City of Buda. These permits are among the first of their kind in the state and represent an innovative groundwater management approach for relieving demand pressure on the District's managed aquifers. In FY 2025, District Staff continued to collaborate with these ASR permittees to collect water quality and monitoring well data to evaluate potential impacts of ASR operations on the Middle Trinity Aquifer.

In FY 2025, the District hired LRE Water to conduct a Lower Trinity Aquifer water availability study. This study will supplement previous investigations by District Staff in quantifying water storage and recharge in the Lower Trinity and help determine its potential as an alternative supply source to the Edwards and Middle Trinity aquifers. The Lower Trinity Aquifer water availability study has an expected completion date in December 2025.

**Objective 3-2.** Encourage and assist District permittees to diversify their water supplies by assessing the feasibility of alternative water supplies and fostering arrangements with currently available alternative water suppliers.

Performance Standard

A summary of District activity related to this objective will be provided in the Annual Report.

Identify available alternative water resources and supplies that may facilitate source substitution and reduce demand on the Edwards Aquifer, while increasing regional water supplies; and evaluate feasibility by considering available/proposed infrastructure, financial factors, logistical/engineering factors, and potential secondary impacts (development density/intensity or recharge water quality).

From FY 2021-2023 Staff worked with the City of Buda to facilitate development and testing of a Middle Trinity ASR test well. Aquifer Science Staff cooperated with Staff and consultants with the City of Buda to collect comprehensive data during multiple ASR injection and recovery cycles. Data was evaluated to quantify aquifer impacts and ensure the feasibility of the project. In FY 2024, after completion of the multi-year pilot project, the City of Buda applied for and was granted an ASR permit by the District and the Buda ASR system is now operational. In FY 2025 Staff continue to collect and evaluate hydrogeologic data to better understand how the Trinity Aquifer responds to permitted ASR injection and withdrawal operations over longer timeframes and thus increase our understanding of the feasibility of ASR projects as an alternate water supply strategy for District permittees.

In FY 2025 the Aquifer Science team continued to collect and evaluate water level and water chemistry data collected from the Lower Trinity Aquifer, to assess the viability of the Lower Trinity Aquifer as an alternative supply for District Permittees. Currently the District maintains two Lower Trinity monitoring wells. One of these monitoring wells is the Bliss Spillar Lower Trinity production well, the District's second Lower Trinity non-exempt permit which was issued in FY 2023. Data collected from this well will provide valuable insight on how the Lower Trinity responds to production over time.

**Objective 3-3.** Demonstrate the importance of the relationship between surface water and groundwater, and the need for implementing prudent conjunctive use through educational programs with permittees and public outreach programs.

Performance Standards

Provide summaries of associated outreach and education programs, events, workshops, and meetings in the monthly team activity reports in the publicly-available Board backup.

**Relevant Outreach Events**

- **Antioch Tour** – In February 2025, District Staff led a tour of the innovative infrastructure over Antioch Cave, a key recharge site for the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. Located within the creekbed of Onion Creek, just over a mile from downtown Buda, Antioch Cave is the largest recharge feature on the creek, which serves as the primary contributor of recharge to the Barton Springs segment. During the tour, Staff educated attendees about the innovative structure, research results, as well as the interactions between groundwater and surface water. Participants on the tour included representatives from the District Staff and Board, City of Buda, City of Kyle, Hays Trinity

Groundwater Conservation District, and the Watershed Association. An article entitled "Antioch Cave – Protecting Recharge in the District" was published on our website, social media, and monthly newsletter.

- **Meteorological Society Chapter Meeting** – Bob Rose, meteorologist for LCRA, invited the District to provide an aquifer status update at the April meeting for the local Meteorological Society Chapter. On April 2, Jeff presented drought conditions, the status of the Edwards and Trinity aquifers, and discussed surface and groundwater interactions. During the event, Shay Hlavaty collected contact information from several network meteorologists throughout the area to support sharing future drought communications with the media.
- **LCRA Tour** – On July 1, 2025, District Staff, along with team members from the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, toured the Tom Miller Dam and River Operations at LCRA near Red Bud Isle. Presenters Bob Rose, meteorlogist for LCRA, and Dan Yates, Director of River Operations at LCRA, discussed the history of the Highland Lakes, past droughts and floods, and the status of surface water in the region at that time. This tour helped both District and LCRA staff better understand the interconnectivity of the surface and groundwater our organizations oversee.

**Relevant Articles and Webpages**

- *Little Bear Recharge Enhancement Project – How it impacts the District*, Shay Hlavaty, BSEACD, 11/13/2024
- *Extensive Sampling at the Barton Springs Multiport Monitor Well*, Shay Hlavaty, BSEACD, 5/20/2025
- GMA 10 and Region K webpage

**Objective 3-4.** Actively participate in the regional water planning process to provide input into policies, planning elements, and activities that affect the aquifers managed by the District.

Performance Standard

Regularly attend regional water planning group meetings and annually report on meetings attended.

In FY 2025, Staff attended meetings of the Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (Region K) and reported on any key updates at the Board Meetings. The GM and the alternate served as the Groundwater Management Area (GMA) 10 representatives through August 31, 2025 and continue to serve as liaisons.

Region K Meetings attended include:

- October 16, 2024
- December 6, 2024
- January 15, 2025

- February 20, 2025
- May 14, 2025
- July 2, 2025
- August 27, 2025

GMA-10 Meetings attended include:

- September 23, 2024
- December 9, 2024
- March 17, 2025
- May 19, 2025

# GOAL 4
## ADDRESSING NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES WHICH IMPACT THE USE AND AVAILABILITY OF GROUNDWATER, AND WHICH ARE IMPACTED BY THE USE OF GROUNDWATER

31 TAC 356.52 (A)(1)(E)/TWC §36.1071(A)(5)

**Objective 4-1.** Assess ambient conditions in District aquifers on a recurring basis by (1) sampling and collecting groundwater data from selected wells and springs monthly, (2) conducting scientific investigations as indicated by new data and models to better determine groundwater availability for the District aquifers, and (3) conducting studies as warranted to help increase understanding of the aquifers and, to the extent feasible, detect possible threats to water quality and evaluate their consequences.

Performance Standard

Review water-level and water-quality data that are maintained by the District and/or TWDB, or other agencies, on a regular basis.

Staff visits approximately 50 monitor wells quarterly, in addition to numerous other wells throughout the year, including eight multiport monitor wells. Data is collected and organized into individual spreadsheets and databases. Staff also regularly samples wells and springs for detailed geochemical analyses as a cooperator for the TWDB (11 sites in FY 2025). All data has been compiled in the TWDB database that is publicly available. No significant changes in water-quality data were observed during FY 2025.

Improve existing analytical or numerical models or work with other organizations on analytical or numerical models that can be applied to the aquifers in the District.

In FY 2025, Staff attended technical advisory stakeholder meetings for the TWDB Southern Trinity Groundwater Availability Model (STGAM). Draft model files were released in August 2025 and Staff has been working closely with TWDB modeling staff to provide input and feedback for the model. The STGAM will likely be used to guide development of the

Since FY 2020, District Staff have worked in-house to develop new numerical groundwater models to simulate groundwater flow, springflow, and storage under different pumping and drought scenarios. These modeling efforts resulted in publication of the Trinity Aquifer Sustainability Model (TAS) in FY 2023, which has improved our understanding of the impacts of pumping in the District on springflow and water levels. In FY 2025, pumping scenarios from the TAS model were used to inform policymaking efforts for the Trinity Sustainable Yield project, a key District priority. A summary report of the TAS model can be found at the following link: Trinity Aquifer Sustainability Model.

**Objective 4-2.** Evaluate site-specific hydrogeologic data from applicable production permits to assess potential impact of withdrawals to groundwater quantity and quality, public health and welfare, contribution to waste, and unreasonable well interference.

Performance Standard

This involves evaluations of certain production permit applications for the potential to cause unreasonable impacts as defined by District rule. To evaluate the potential for unreasonable impacts, staff will (1) perform a technical evaluation of the application, aquifer test, and hydrogeological report; (2) use best available science and analytical tools to estimate amount of drawdown from pumping and influence on other water resources; and (3) recommend proposed permit conditions to the Board for avoiding unreasonable impacts if warranted.

Staff continue to work with permit applicants and their consultants to plan and execute aquifer tests that meet the District's high standards for test design and data quality and ensure that submitted hydrogeologic reports provide adequate data to perform evaluations for unreasonable impacts. In November 2024 District Staff cooperated with consultants to perform an aquifer test for a new well in the Sierra West Water Supply Corp system. This well was completed in the Middle Trinity Aquifer. Prior to the test, District Staff worked closely with consultants to design and plan the aquifer test. 13 different wells were monitored by District Staff during the test. Data from the test was evaluated by District Staff to better understand likely drawdowns due to pumping in this area, and to estimate local hydrogeologic characteristics which can be used in future modeling efforts.

In December 2025, the District completed its well impact analysis project, which was subcontracted to LRE Water. The project delivered a robust database of known exempt and non-exempt wells within the District. This dataset will provide a valuable tool for evaluating future non-exempt permits for the potential for unreasonable impacts to existing wells.

**Objective 4-3.** Implement separate Management Zones (MZs) and, as warranted, different management strategies to address more effectively the groundwater management needs for the various aquifers in the District.

Performance Standard

Increase the understanding of District aquifers by assessing aquifer conditions, logging wells, and collecting water quality data. A summary of the number of water quality samples performed will be provided in the Annual Report.

To increase the understanding of District aquifers and water level conditions, Staff collected groundwater data from selected wells and performed field assessments such as logging wells and collecting water quality samples.

- The Aquifer Science Team collected 11 samples from sample sites including wells and springs from the Edwards and Trinity Aquifers for major ions and isotopes.
- The Regulatory Compliance Team collected 15 water quality samples during routine neighborhood site visits.

A summary of the volume of aggregate groundwater withdrawals permitted and actually produced from permitted wells for each MZ and permit type is provided in the Annual Report.

To ensure that all firm-yield production permits are evaluated with consideration given to the District's demand-based and non-speculative permitting standards, Staff completed comprehensive administrative and technical reviews of permit application requests. A summary of the number and type of applications processed and approved for authorizations, permits, and permit amendments including approved use types and commensurate permit volumes for production permits and amendments is provided below.

A summary of the processed permitting applications in FY 2025 is provided in the table below.

| Processed Permit Applications | FY 2023 | FY 2024 | FY 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minor Amendment | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Major Amendments | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| New Exempt Well | 8 | 4 | 8 |
| Limited Production Permit (Nonexempt Domestic Wells) | 19 | 7 | 5 |
| Individual Production Permit | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Individual Well Drilling Authorizations or Well Modification | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Test Well | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Well Plugging | 5 | 3 | 15 |
| Replacement Well | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| **TOTAL** | **35** | **23** | **35** |

A summary of the individual production permits processed in FY 2025 is provided in the table below.

| Annual Volume (gpy) | Production Permits Processed | Permit Type | Use Type | Aquifer |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1,500,000 | Far South Mining | Historic Trinity | Irrigation | Middle Trinity |
| 770,000 | Prominence Midtown, LP | Conditional Class C Edwards | Commercial | Edwards |

**Objective 4-4.** Actively participate in the joint planning processes for the relevant aquifers in the District to establish and refine desired future conditions (DFCs) that protect the aquifers and the Covered Species of the District Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

Performance Standard

Attend at least 75% of the GMA (groundwater management area) meetings, and annually report on meetings attended, GMA decisions on DFCs, and other relevant GMA business.

Staff attended 100% of the GMA 10 meetings that were held in FY 2025: September 23, 2024; December 9, 2024; March 17, 2025; and May 19, 2025. The GMA discussions included the following topics:

- GMA 10 members finalized an Interlocal Agreement that designated the Plum Creek Conservation District as the Administrative Coordinator to engage in a contract with Collier Consulting.
- Working through the DFC planning schedule with the consultant.
- Report that the pending completion of the new Trinity Aquifer Groundwater Availability Model may be completed in time for use in this planning cycle.
- Discussion of potential DFC scenarios on a per-district and/or per-GMA-wide basis.

**Objective 4-5.** Implement the measures of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the Covered Species and covered activity to support the biological goals and objectives of the HCP.

Performance Standard

Prior to ITP permit issuance, a progress report summarizing activities related to the USFWS review of the ITP application will be provided in the Annual Report. Upon ITP issuance, the HCP annual report documenting the District's activities and compliance with ITP permit requirements will be incorporated into the Annual Report by reference.

The USFWS approved the District's HCP in July 2018 and published the Record of Decision and the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). On September 20, 2018, the USFWS issued a 20-year ITP. On April 11, 2019, the Board approved an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between the District and the City of Austin (CoA) to collaborate and coordinate routine and planned activities relative to each entity's respective HCP.

The District and the CoA meet annually to discuss their efforts, independent and joint, related to the HCP. The first annual meeting to discuss their respective HCP-related activities was held on December 10, 2019. The second annual meeting was held via Zoom during the pandemic on December 16, 2020. The third meeting was held on December 6, 2021, and a fourth meeting was held on December 12, 2022. The fifth meeting was conducted on December 12, 2023. And the sixth meeting was conducted on November 22, 2024.

On February 10, 2024, a meeting was held with the District HCP Management Advisory Committee (MAC) to discuss the District's HCP-related activities for FY 2024. On February 27, 2025, the sixth HCP/ITP Annual Report was submitted to the USFWS.

# GOAL 5
## ADDRESSING DROUGHT CONDITIONS

31 TAC 356.52 (A)(1)(F)/TWC §36.1071(A)(6)

**Objective 5-1.** Adopt and keep updated a science-based drought trigger methodology, and frequently monitor drought stages on the basis of actual aquifer conditions, and declare drought conditions as determined by analyzing data from the District's defined drought triggers and from existing and such other new drought-declaration factors, especially the prevailing dissolved oxygen (DO) concentration trends at the spring outlets, as warranted.

Performance Standards

During periods of District-declared drought, prepare a drought chart at least monthly to report the stage of drought and the conditions that indicate that stage of drought. During periods of non-drought, prepare the drought charts at least once every three months.

Staff monitored the District's two drought trigger sites: flow measured at/near the Barton Springs Pool and water levels measured at the Lovelady monitor well; plus numerous other indicators of drought conditions relating to the Edwards Aquifer. The District contracts with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for the Lovelady well to maintain equipment, collect, and host as real-time data on their website. The CoA contracts with the USGS to maintain the data for Barton Springs.

Barton Springs flow monitoring during persistent drought conditions in FY 2025 presented measurement challenges. Two drought stage declarations within a twelve-month period (October 2024 – September 2025) required several manual measurements to verify flow conditions. Pool maintenance activities, coupled with USGS gauge maintenance, introduced significant uncertainty in the USGS real-time gauge readings. To validate discharge measurements as springflow approached newer drought thresholds, Staff conducted manual flow measurements in collaboration with CoA and USGS. This supplemental data collection ensured optimal measurement accuracy for making drought decisions.

In FY 2025, Staff frequently verified water-level values measured by the equipment at the Lovelady monitor well (which has recorded data since 1949) and verified discharge measurements made at Barton Springs. During periods of District-declared drought, and preceding potential drought, Staff provided updated reports of aquifer conditions at each Board meeting. Data from Trinity monitor wells were also collected and evaluated at these times.

In 2018, Staff evaluated the current drought trigger methodology as it relates to the Middle Trinity Aquifer. Results were published in a memo and found that the District's established Edwards Aquifer triggers are indeed representative of drought conditions, regardless of the aquifer. In FY 2025, Staff continued to monitor Trinity Aquifer water-level drops in response to

the ongoing drought and evaluate whether the established Edwards drought triggers are still representative of Trinity Aquifer conditions. To date, the established triggers appear to be adequate. Staff will continue to evaluate Trinity Aquifer water levels as drought conditions persist. If Trinity Aquifer behavior deviates significantly from the Edwards, a reevaluation of established drought triggers may be warranted.

A summary of the drought indicator conditions and any declared drought stages and duration will be provided in the Annual Report.

**Objective 5-2.** Implement a drought management program that step-wise curtails freshwater Edwards Aquifer use to at least 50% by volume of 2014 authorized aggregate monthly use during Extreme Drought, and that designs/uses other programs that provide an incentive for additional curtailments where possible. For all other aquifers, implement a drought management program that requires mandatory monthly pumpage curtailments during District-declared drought stages.

Performance Standard

During District-declared drought, enforce compliance with drought management rules to achieve overall monthly pumpage curtailments within 10% of the aggregate curtailment goal of the prevailing drought stage. A monthly drought compliance report for all individual permittees will be provided to the Board during District-declared drought, and a summary will be included in the Annual Report.

The District implements a drought management program that requires mandatory monthly pumpage curtailments during District-declared drought stages. The District began FY 2025 in Stage II Alarm drought. The District declared Stage III Critical Drought on and remained in this stage until November 1, 2024 and remained in this stage until the end of FY 2025. The District has implemented all drought-related rules and curtailments in accordance with the District's Enforcement Plan and drought management protocols. Drought enforcement measures were assessed for Stage II Alarm Drought from the beginning of FY 2024 through November 2024 with Stage III Critical enforcement measures being assessed for the remainder of FY 2025. Monthly drought compliance reports for all individual permittees were provided to the Board each month of FY 2025 during District-declared drought, and those reports can be found on the drought management website pages.

**Objective 5-3.** Inform and educate permittees and other well owners about the significance of declared drought stages and the severity of drought and encourage practices and behaviors that reduce water use by a stage-appropriate amount.

Performance Standards

During District-declared drought, publicize declared drought stages and associated demand reduction targets in monthly eNews bulletins and continuously on the District website. A summary of drought and water conservation related newsletter articles, press releases, and drought updates sent to Press, Permittees, Well Owners and eNews subscribers will be provided in the Annual Report.

### Publicizing Declared Drought Stages

- **Newsletters, Drought Updates, and Website** – Declared drought stages are publicized in the District's newsletters, Drought Updates, and across the website. Additional information on these resources can be found in Objective 1-4 of this report.
- **Drought Press Coverage** – As the region entered its third consecutive year of drought, the District continued to receive significant press coverage throughout FY 2025. In October 2024, Staff distributed a press release announcing the Stage III Critical Drought declaration to more than 25 media contacts statewide and strengthened relationships with key outlets, including KXAN, KVUE, and the *Austin Chronicle*. Below is a summary of drought-focused communications sent to permittees and newsletter subscribers, as well as press releases shared with media contacts and posted on the District website. Also included are the resulting news articles and broadcast segments published online and in print.
    - *September and October Newsletter: District Declares Stage III Critical Drought,* 10/3/2025
    - *District Declares Stage III Critical Drought*, Shay Hlavaty, BSEACD, 10/3/2024
    - *Stage III Drought for Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District* – Spectrum News, Link unavailable online
    - *Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District declines into Stage III Drought* – Wimberley View, 10/9/24
    - *Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District Now Under Stage III Restrictions*, Hays Free Press, 10/9/24
    - *Lack of Rainfall Having Major Impact on Barton Springs*, CBS Austin, 11/18/24
    - *How much rain would it take to get out of drought conditions?*, Angela Shen, Fox7 News, 5/5/2025
    - *Aquifers Close to Stage IV Drought*, Freddy Vela, KXAN, 5/12/2025
    - *Barton Springs salamanders help track drought*, Grace Thornton, KVUE, 5/26/25

### Drought Stage Outreach

- **Neighborhood Well Visits** – The District conducted 11 Neighborhood Well Visits in the River Mountain Ranch neighborhood, located just east of Woodcreek, on November 12, 13, and 20, 2025. Each visit lasted approximately 30 minutes. Shay Hlavaty, Justin Camp, Jacob Newton, and Erin Swanson met with well owners to measure wells, test water quality, collect samples, and distribute Well Owner Welcome Kits containing information on well maintenance, drought stages, and District programs.

These visits strengthened community relationships, improved awareness of the District's mission, provided insight on current drought conditions and status, and enhanced the dataset on existing wells in the area.

- River Mountain Ranch was selected for this outreach effort because:
    - It is located within the Shared Territory, where many well owners are not yet familiar with the District, making in-person engagement valuable.
    - The neighborhood relies on Trinity Aquifer wells, providing an opportunity to collect additional data on aquifer conditions.
    - Many wells were drilled prior to 2015, before the area was incorporated into the Shared Territory, and had not previously been visited by District Staff.
- **Well Water Checkups** – The District had 69 well owners participate in the 2025 Well Water Checkup—more than double the number of participants in 2023 and 2024. District Staff shared basic information with participants about the District, our territory, and the current drought stage. An educational well owner program was held on April 8, where the Texas Well Owners Network presented on well maintenance, well logs, and interpreting water sample test results. A webpage for the event can be viewed here. This event was a collaborative effort between Texas A&M AgriLife, Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, Southwest Travis County Groundwater Conservation District, and the District. Data collected from participants will be added to the District's database to support ongoing groundwater monitoring and research.

**Relevant Articles**

In the District News portion of the website, articles were shared providing insight on the ongoing drought, the status of the aquifers, and ways to actively conserve water. Some of these articles are "Messages from the General Manager", which are shared quarterly and include drought insight from Tim Loftus. These articles were shared across the District's social media platforms, newsletters, and Drought Updates.

- *Post Construction Well Inspection – Why it Matters*, Shay Hlavaty, BSEACD, 9/27/2025
- *Message from the General Manager – October 2024*, Tim Loftus, BSEACD, 10/3/2024
- *Protecting Your Wells and Pipes from Freezing Temperatures*, Shay Hlavaty, BSEACD, 1/3/2025
- *Message from the General Manger – February 2025,* Tim Loftus, BSEACD, 2/10/2025
- *2025 Well Water Checkup,* Shay Hlavaty, BSEACD, 3/4/2025

**Objective 5-4.** Assist and, where feasible, incentivize individual freshwater Edwards Aquifer historic-production permittees in developing drought planning strategies to comply with drought rules, including (1) pumping curtailments by drought stage to at least 50% of the 2014 authorized use during Extreme Drought, (2) "right-sizing" authorized use over the long term to reconcile actual water demands and permitted levels, and (3) as necessary and with appropriate conditions, source substitution with alternative supplies.

Performance Standards

Require an updated User Conservation Plan and User Drought Contingency Plan (UCP/UDCP) from Permittees within one year of each five-year MP Adoption.
In FY 2025, Staff worked to update 152 permit records in order to incorporate updated drought planning documents into their records. According to the District MP, all permittees must update their UDCP and UCP plans at least every five years. Therefore, since all UDCPs were updated in FY 2025, Staff in FY 2030 will again work to update these templates to get all UDCPs updated.

Provide a summary of any activity related to permit right sizing or source substitution with alternative supplies that may reduce demand on the freshwater Edwards Aquifer in the Annual Report.

After notice and an opportunity for a hearing, the Board may renew a permit with a reduced amount of the authorized production if the authorized withdrawal volume is no longer commensurate with reasonable non- speculative demand, or actual production from a well is substantially less than the authorized permit amount for multiple years without any rationale that reasonably relates to efforts to utilize alternative water supplies, conserve, or improve water use efficiency. Staff typically conducts an overpumpage analysis every few years, and conducted the analysis in FY 2019, therefore Staff did not conduct an overpumpage analysis in FY 2025.

The District has been actively encouraging alternative source projects to reduce the dependency on the aquifers during drought. Staff have collaborated with water suppliers on aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) projects in providing regulatory and technical guidance. The Ruby Ranch ASR project was approved and has been in operation since the summer of FY 2021 and the City of Buda ASR project was approved in the summer of FY 2024. In FY 2025, Staff began preliminary discussions with consultants for a potential third ASR project to be completed within the District's boundaries in the coming years.

**Objective 5-5.** Implement a Conservation Permit that is held by the District and accumulates and preserves withdrawals from the freshwater Edwards Aquifer that were previously authorized with historic-use status and that is retired or otherwise additionally curtailed during severe drought, for use as ecological flow at Barton Springs during Extreme Drought and thereby increase springflow for a given set of hydrologic conditions.

Performance Standard

A summary of the volume of aggregate groundwater withdrawals permitted and actually produced from permitted wells for each Management Zone (MZ) and permit type including the volume reserved in the freshwater Edwards Conservation Permit for ecological flows will be provided in the Annual Report.

A summary of the actual versus permitted production volumes for each MZ is provided in Objective 1-2. The amount of Historic Use groundwater (i.e., permitted fresh Edwards volume) that has been retired (i.e., held under the District's Conservation Permit) and placed into the Ecological Flow Reserve since 2009 is 82,305,124 gallons or 0.35 cfs. Ecological Flow Reserve is a protected volume and not subject to further permitting. Additionally, 1,200,000 gallons per year of Historical Trinity Aquifer permitted water has been retired; no Fresh Edwards/Conditional A permitted water has been retired.

# GOAL 6
## ADDRESSING CONSERVATION AND RAINWATER HARVESTING WHERE APPROPRIATE AND COST-EFFECTIVE

31TAC 356.52 (a)(1)(G)/TWC §36.1071(a)(7)

**Objective 6-1.** Develop and maintain programs that inform, educate, and support District permittees in their efforts to educate their end-user customers about water conservation and its benefits, and about drought-period temporary demand reduction measures.

Performance Standards

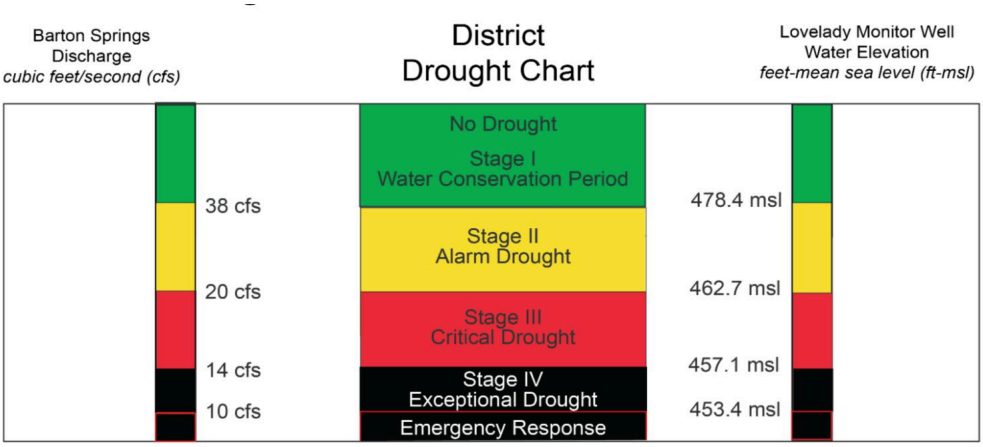
A summary of efforts to assist permittees in developing drought and conservation messaging strategies will be provided in the Annual Report.

Publicize declared drought stages and associated demand reduction targets monthly in eNews bulletins and continuously on the District website.

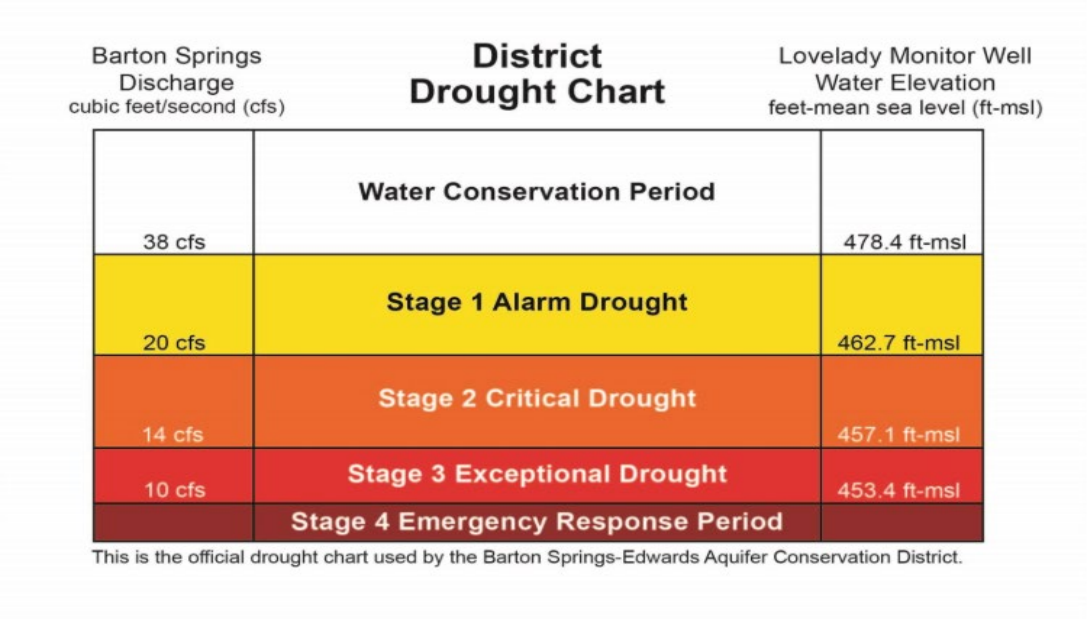
**Permittee Communications**

- **Drought Chart Updates** – In FY 2025, the Communications and Outreach team proposed and planned updates to the District's official Drought Chart to improve public understanding and provide greater clarity for permittees. Throughout the year, Shay Hlavaty gathered input from District Staff, Board Members, and several major permittees, including the City of Buda, City of Kyle, Creedmoor-Maha Water Supply Corp., Goforth, Ruby Ranch, and Aqua Texas. Based on this feedback, the following updates were Board approved to take effect on September 1, 2025.
    - Change "Stage I No Drought" to "Water Conservation Period."
    - Rename "Stage II Alarm Drought" to "Stage 1 Alarm Drought," with subsequent stage numbers adjusted accordingly.
    - Replace Roman numerals with standard numbers to align with common conventions used by permittees.
    - Update chart colors to more effectively convey the severity of each drought stage.
- These revisions were designed to ensure consistency across all District communications and to make the drought chart more intuitive for both the public and permit holders. The following article and emails were shared with relevant audiences at the end of FY 2024 leading to the implementation of the changes including permittees, District newsletter subscribers, and the general public:
    - Updates to District's Drought Chart: Effective September 1, 2025, Shay Hlavaty, BSEACD, 8/19/2025
    - District Permittee Updates – August 2025, 8/25/2025
    - Drought Chart Update, 8/28/2025

Pictured below is the District's drought chart through the end of FY 2025.




Pictured below is the District's drought chart, which was approved by the Board to be implemented at the beginning of FY 2026.




## Permittee Outreach

- **Creedmoor Maha Water Supply Corp Water Conservation Program** – In 2024, Creedmoor Maha Water Supply Corp (CMWSC) launched a Water Conservation Program aimed at reducing groundwater use from the District. Shay Hlavaty attended several CMWSC meetings throughout the year to support their efforts along with representatives from the cities of Mustang Ridge and Creedmoor. The program's

primary focus was hosting a community water conservation event, while also exploring additional strategies such as rainwater barrel implementation, incentives for residents who report leaks, and encouraging new developments to incorporate drought-tolerant landscaping.

- **Buda Arbor Day** – The District participated in the City of Buda's Arbor Day event on November 8, 2024, at Green Meadows Park. The invitation came from Blake Neffendorf, Director of Public Works at the City of Buda. Shay Hlavaty presented to nearly 200 fifth-grade students, teaching them about local groundwater resources, the connection between their homes and the Barton Springs Salamander, the impacts of drought, and the importance of water conservation. The educational program developed for this event was replicated for other fourth to sixth grade students across the District.
- **Creedmoor Elementary** – Following the Buda Arbor Day event, the District was invited by Matt Pickle with Creedmoor Maha to present an educational program at Creedmoor Elementary's after-school program on November 8, 2024. Shay Hlavaty delivered the same presentation used for Buda students earlier in the day and collaborated with the Colorado River Alliance to bring their Mobile River exhibit to the school. The Mobile River, a trailer equipped with interactive games, videos, and activities, helped engage students in learning about water resources and conservation throughout the remainder of the program. This event included about 50 students ranging from kindergarten through fifth grade.
- **Discovery Day at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center** – On June 8, 2025, Shay Hlavaty represented the District at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's Discovery Day. The event drew nearly 1,000 attendees, with over 100 participants visiting the District's table. Shay Hlavaty engaged attendees in discussions about drought conditions, groundwater monitoring, and the role of a groundwater conservation district. Conversations also highlighted the District's programs and their connection to protecting the habitat of the Barton Springs Salamander.
- **Well Owner Spotlight: Travis and Victoria Cox** – The Well Owner Spotlight series was started in August 2025 to highlight the conservation efforts of District permittees. The series started by highlighting Travis and Victoria Cox who have a permit with the District for 8,000,000 gallons per year in the Driftwood area. The Coxes have exemplified water conservation through rainwater capture, water reuse, and native landscaping. The article, as seen here, was published in the District's August newsletter, on the website, and across social media outlets. Following the publishing of the Well Owner Spotlight, the Coxes were named one of Texas Water Development Board's 2025 Texas Rain Catcher Award recipients.

**Objective 6-2.** Encourage use of conservation-oriented rate structures by water utility permittees to discourage egregious water demand by individual end-users during declared drought.

Performance Standard

On an annual basis, the District will provide an informational resource or reference document to all public water supply permittees to serve as resources related to conservation best management strategies and conservation-oriented rate structures.

**Conservation-Based Rate Structures Page** – The District updated a webpage on its website to provide more comprehensive resources on conservation-based rate structures. The page explains:

- What these rate structures are and the different types
- Why they are beneficial
- Offers several relevant references and tools for permittees.

This resource was also shared in an email distributed by the Regulatory Compliance team during the summer of 2025, in a message with information about the updated UDPs and UDCPs.

**Objective 6-3.** Develop and maintain programs that educate and inform District groundwater users and constituents of all ages about water conservation practices and the use of alternate water sources such as rainwater harvesting, gray water, and condensate reuse.

Performance Standard

Summarize water conservation related newsletter articles, press releases, and events in the Annual Report. Summary will describe the preparation and dissemination of materials shared with District groundwater users and area residents that inform them about water conservation and alternate water sources.

**Hot Science Cool Talks: The Future of Texas Water** – For the District's second annual Groundwater Symposium, the District partnered with the University Texas (UT) and their Hot Science – Cool Talks series. This event on March 28, 2025 brought together more than 455 attendees and 21 conservation-focused organizations for an evening of learning and engagement. The District hosted an exhibit table, where Staff members Shay Hlavaty and Bri Moore engaged with approximately 30 participants. Conversations focused on the connection between surface and groundwater, the District's drought management stages, and ongoing efforts to protect the Barton Springs Salamander. The highlight of the event was a presentation by Dr. Robert Mace of Texas State University's Meadows Center for Water and the Environment. He discussed the current Central Texas drought, the relationship between surface and groundwater systems, and practical water conservation strategies, including rainwater harvesting, air-conditioning condensate reuse, and water reclamation. As an official event partner, the District received recognition throughout the evening, with its name and logo prominently featured in event materials and announcements. This event was promoted on the District's website, social media outlets, and newsletter along with UT's communications outlets.

**Rainwater Harvesting**

- **Webpage** – A new rainwater harvesting webpage was developed and added to the District website. The page features key resources, introductory guidance for those getting started, and a list of local retailers. Its content was created with assistance from staff at Harvest Rain.
- **Resource Sharing** – The Hill Country Alliance updated their "Rainwater Harvesting Issue Paper". This document is included on the District's rainwater harvesting page, shared in a social media post, published in a newsletter, and included as a resource in the folders handed out during the Neighborhood Well Visits.

# GOAL 7
# ADDRESSING RECHARGE ENHANCEMENT WHERE APPROPRIATE AND COST-EFFECTIVE

31TAC 356.52 (A)(1)(G)/TWC §36.1071(A)(7)

**Objective 7-1.** Improve recharge to the freshwater Edwards Aquifer by conducting studies and, as feasible and allowed by law, physically altering (cleaning, enlarging, protecting, diverting surface water) discrete recharge features that will lead to an increase in recharge and water in storage beyond what otherwise would exist naturally.

Performance Standard

Maintaining the functionality of the Antioch system will be the principal method for enhancing recharge to the freshwater Edwards Aquifer. Additional activities may be excavating sinkholes and caves within the District. A summary of all recharge improvement activities will be provided in the Annual Report.

Antioch Cave is a recharge feature on District property that is capable of contributing a significant amount of water to the Edwards Aquifer when Onion Creek is flowing. A vault constructed over the cave entrance, and automated valves allow for clean creek water to enter the cave, and contaminated stormwater to be kept out. This system was maintained by Staff in FY 2025 so that the amount of clean creek water entering the cave was maximized. A regular reporting item has been added to the GM Report special topics list to provide a monthly oral update on these and other Aquifer Science activities and satisfies this reporting requirement.

The operational equipment and hardware at Antioch Cave to improve the operation and performance of the BMP are fully functional and in good working order. In-situ equipment is collecting water-quality readings every 15 minutes and reporting to an organized database via telemetry.

**Objective 7-2.** Conduct technical investigations and, as feasible, assist water-supply providers in implementing engineered enhancements to regional supply strategies, including desalination, aquifer storage and recovery (ASR), effluent reclamation and re-use, and recharge enhancement of surface water (including floodwater) to increase the options for water-supply substitution and reduce dependence on the Aquifer.

Performance Standard

Assess progress toward enhancing regional water supplies.

In FY 2025, the District worked with other entities in the area, such as the City of Buda and RRWSC, to evaluate the potential for the Trinity Aquifers as reservoirs for ASR facilities.

Preliminary discussions were held between City of Kyle consultants and then-General Manager Tim Loftus regarding a prospective ASR program. See above section: Objective 3-2 for a summary of Staff's work with Buda WSC and RRWSC on their ASR projects.

# GOAL 8
# ADDRESSING THE DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS OF THE GROUNDWATER RESOURCES

31TAC (A)(1)(H)/TWC §36.1071(A)(8)

**Objective 8-1. Freshwater Edwards Aquifer All-Conditions DFC**: Adopt rules that restrict, to the greatest extent practicable, the total amount of groundwater authorized to be withdrawn annually from the Aquifer to an amount that will not substantially accelerate the onset of drought conditions in the Aquifer; this is established as a running seven-year average springflow at Barton Springs of no less than 49.7 cfs during average recharge conditions.

Performance Standards

A summary of the volume of aggregate groundwater withdrawals permitted and actually produced from permitted wells for each Management Zone (MZ) and permit type will be provided in the Annual Report.
A summary of the actual versus permitted production volumes for each MZ is provided in Objective 1-2.

A. Upon Incidental Take Permit (ITP) issuance, the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) annual report documenting the District's activities and compliance with ITP permit requirements will be incorporated into the Annual Report by reference.

   The USFWS issued the District's ITP in September 2018. The District submitted its sixth annual report to USFWS on February 27, 2025.

B. Upon ITP issuance, compile a summary of aquifer data including: 1) the frequency and duration of District-declared drought, 2) levels of the Aquifer as measured by springflow and indicator wells (including temporal and spatial variations), and 3) total annual and daily discharge from Barton Springs will be provided in the Annual Report.

   FY 2025 began with the District in Alarm Stage II drought and remained that way until October 3, 2024, when General Manager Dr. Tim Loftus, after being granted the authority from the Board, declared Stage III Critical drought, effective November 1, 2024. The District remained in Critical Stage III through the remainder of the fiscal year that ended August 31, 2025.

   Discharge at Barton Springs was 21.8 cfs on September 1, 2024, and 20.3 cfs on August 31, 2025, an decrease in flow of 1.5 cfs. The depth to water level (feet below land surface) at the Lovelady monitoring well began the fiscal year at 188.88 feet and ended the fiscal year at 196.20, a decrease of 7.32 feet.

**Objective 8-2. Freshwater Edwards Aquifer Extreme Drought DFC:** Adopt rules that restrict, to the greatest extent practicable and as legally possible, the total amount of groundwater withdrawn monthly from the aquifer during Extreme Drought conditions in order to minimize take and avoid jeopardy of the Covered Species as a result of the Covered Activities, as established by the best science available. This is established as a limitation on actual withdrawals from the aquifer to a total of no more than 5.2 cfs on an average annual (curtailed) basis during Extreme Drought, which will produce a minimum springflow of not less than 6.5 cfs during a recurrence of the drought of record (DOR).

Performance Standards

A. A summary of the volume of aggregate groundwater withdrawals permitted and actually produced from permitted wells for each MZ and permit type will be provided in the Annual Report.

   A summary of the actual versus permitted production volumes for each MZ is provided above in Objective 1-2.

B. Upon ITP issuance, the HCP annual report documenting the District's activities and compliance with ITP permit requirements, will be incorporated into the Annual Report by reference.

   The USFWS issued the District's ITP in September 2018. The District submitted its sixth annual report to USFWS on February 27, 2025.

C. Upon ITP issuance, compile a summary of aquifer data including: 1) the frequency and duration of District-declared drought, 2) levels of the Aquifer as measured by springflow and indicator wells (including temporal and spatial variations), and 3) total annual and daily discharge from Barton Springs will be provided in the Annual Report.

   Please see Objective 8-1 above.

**Objective 8-3.** Implement appropriate rules and measures to ensure compliance with District-adopted DFCs for each relevant aquifer or aquifer subdivision in the District.

Performance Standard

Develop and implement a cost-effective method for evaluating and demonstrating compliance with the DFCs of the relevant aquifers in the District, in collaboration with other GCDs in the GMAs. Prior to method implementation, provide a summary of activities related to method development in the Annual Report. Once developed, provide a summary of data for each

District-adopted DFC for each relevant aquifer indicating aquifer conditions relative to the DFC, and provide in the Annual Report.

For the Trinity Aquifer in GMA 10, to determine compliance with the Trinity Aquifer DFC, the data must show that the average regional well drawdown does not exceed 25 feet during average recharge conditions including exempt and nonexempt use. GMA 10 is without a means to monitor "average regional drawdown across the planning area. The District made progress in FY 2023 with an in-house numerical model that will help to inform drawdown (within the District) under a variety of conditions.

Phase 2 of the modeling effort got underway in FY 2024. The work is ongoing with the aim of developing a more useful (to the District) DFC for the Middle Trinity Aquifer. Any change from the status quo will, of course, require agreement among the participating GCDs in GMA 10 and approval by the Texas Water Development Board.

The DFC expression is:

> "Springflow at Barton Springs during average recharge conditions shall be no less than 49.7 cfs averaged over an 84-month (7-year) period; and during extreme drought conditions including those as severe as a recurrence of the 1950's drought of record, springflow at Barton Springs shall be no less than 6.5 cfs average on a monthly basis."

For the Saline Edwards, Northern Subdivision, the DFC expression is no more than 75 feet of regional average potentiometric surface drawdown due to pumping when compared to pre-development conditions. Currently, there are no approved permits in the Saline Edwards.

For a summary of aquifer conditions, see Objective 8-1 above.

**Performance Standards and Objectives**

| General Management (9 objectives) | Administration (3 objectives) | Education & Outreach (6 objectives) | Aquifer Science (8 objectives) | Regulatory Compliance (7 objectives) |
|---|---|---|---|---|

# GOAL 1 - Providing the Most Efficient Use of Groundwater

31 TAC 356.52(a)(1)(A)/TWC §36.1071(a)(1)

| | Management Plan Objectives | Performance Standards |
|---|---|---|
| 1-1 | Provide and maintain on an ongoing basis a sound statutory, regulatory, financial, and policy framework for continued District operations and programmatic needs. | A. Develop, implement, and revise as necessary, the District Management Plan in accordance with state law and requirements. Each year, the Board will evaluate progress towards satisfying the District goals. A summary of the Board evaluation and any updates or revisions to the management plan will be provided in the annual report.<br>B. Review and modify District Rules as warranted to provide and maintain a sound statutory basis for continued District operations and to ensure consistency with both District authority and programmatic needs. A summary of any rule amendments adopted in the previous fiscal year will be included in the annual report. |
| 1-2 | Monitor aggregated use of various types of water wells in the District, as feasible and appropriate, to assess overall groundwater use and trends on a continuing basis. | Monitor annual withdrawals from all nonexempt wells through required monthly or annual meter reports to ensure that groundwater is used as efficiently as possible for beneficial use. A summary of the volume of aggregate groundwater withdrawals permitted and actually produced from permitted wells for each Management Zone and permit type will be provided in the annual report. |
| 1-3 | Evaluate quantitatively at least every five years the amount of groundwater withdrawn by exempt wells in the District to ensure an accurate accounting of total withdrawals in a water budget that includes both regulated and non-regulated withdrawals, so that appropriate groundwater management actions are taken. | A. Provide an estimate of groundwater withdrawn by exempt wells in the District using TDLR and TWDB databases and District well records, and update the estimate every five years with the District's management plan updates.<br>B. In the interim years between management plan updates, the most current estimates of exempt well withdrawals will be included in a summary of the volume of aggregate groundwater withdrawals permitted and actually produced from permitted wells for each Management Zone and permit type that will be provided in the annual report. |
| 1-4 | Develop and maintain programs that inform and educate citizens of all ages about groundwater and springflow-related matters, which affect both water supplies and salamander ecology. | A. Publicize District drought trigger status (Barton Springs 10-day average discharge and Lovelady monitor ell water level) in monthly eNews bulletins and continuously on the District website.<br>B. Provide summaries of associated outreach and education programs, events, workshops, and meetings in the monthly team activity reports in the publicly-available Board backup.<br>C. A summary of outreach activities and estimated reach will be provided in the annual report. |
| 1-5 | Ensure responsible and effective management of District finances such that the District has the near-term and long-term financial means to support its mission. | A. Receive a clean financial audit each year. A copy of the auditor's report will be included in the annual report.<br>B. Timely develop and approve fiscal-year budgets and amendments. The dates for public hearings and Board approval of the budget and any amendments will be provided in the annual report. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1-6 | Provide efficient administrative support and infrastructure, such that District operations are executed reliably and accurately, meet staff and local stakeholder needs, and conform to District policies and with federal and state requirements. | A. Maintain, retain, and control all District records in accordance with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission-approved District Records Retention Schedule to allow for safekeeping and efficient retrieval of any and all records, and annually audit records for effective management of use, maintenance, retention, preservation and disposal of the records' life cycle as required by the Local Government Code. A summary of records requests received under the PIA, any training provided to staff or directors, or any claims of violation of the Public Information Act will be provided in the annual report.<br>B. Develop, post, and distribute District Board agendas, meeting materials, and backup documentation in a timely and required manner; post select documents on the District website, and maintain official records, files, and minutes of Board meetings appropriately. A summary of training provided to staff or directors or any claims of violation of the Open Meetings Act will be provided in the annual report. |
| 1-7 | Manage and coordinate electoral process for Board members. | Ensure elections process is conducted and documented in accordance with applicable requirements and timelines. Elections documents will be maintained on file and a summary of elections-related dates and activities will be provided in the annual report for years when elections occur. |

# GOAL 2 - Controlling and Preventing Waste of Groundwater

31 TAC 356.52(a)(1)(B)/TWC §36.1071(a)(2))

| | Management Plan Objectives | Performance Standards |
|---|---|---|
| 2-1 | Require all newly drilled exempt and nonexempt wells, and all plugged wells to be registered and to comply with applicable District Rules, including Well Construction Standards. | A summary of the number and type of applications processed and approved for authorizations, permits, and permit amendments including approved use types and commensurate permit volumes for production permits and amendments will be provided in the annual report. |
| 2-2 | Ensure permitted wells and well systems are operated as intended by requiring reporting of periodic meter readings, making periodic inspections of wells, and reviewing pumpage compliance at regular intervals that are meaningful with respect to the existing aquifer conditions. | A. Inspect all new wells for compliance with the Rules, and Well Construction Standards, and provide a summary of the number and type of inspections or investigations in the annual report.<br>B. Provide a summary of the volume of aggregate groundwater withdrawals permitted and actually produced from permitted wells for each Management Zone and permit type in the annual report. |
| 2-3 | Provide leadership and technical assistance to government entities, organizations, and individuals affected by groundwater-utilizing land use activities, including support of or opposition to legislative initiatives or projects that are inconsistent with this objective. | A. In even-numbered fiscal years, provide a summary of interim legislative activity and related District efforts in the annual report. In odd-numbered fiscal years, provide a legislative debrief to the Board on bills of interest to the District and provide a summary in the annual report.<br>B. Provide a summary of District activity related to other land use activities affecting groundwater in the annual report. |
| 2-4 | Ensure all firm-yield production permits are evaluated with consideration given to the demand-based permitting standards including verification of beneficial use that is commensurate with reasonable non-speculative demand. | A summary of the number and type of applications processed and approved for authorizations, permits, and permit amendments including approved use types and commensurate permit volumes for production permits and amendments will be provided in the annual report. |

# GOAL 3 - Addressing Conjunctive Surface Water Management Issues

31 TAC 356.52(a)(1)(D)/TWC §36.1071(a)(4)

| | Management Plan Objectives | Performance Standards |
|---|---|---|
| 3-1 | Assess the physical and institutional availability of existing regional surface water and alternative groundwater supplies and the feasibility of those sources as viable supplemental or substitute supplies for District groundwater users. | Identify available alternative water resources and supplies that may facilitate source substitution and reduce demand on the Edwards Aquifer, while increasing regional water supplies, and evaluate feasibility by considering:<br>1. available/proposed infrastructure,<br>2. financial factors,<br>3. logistical/engineering factors, and<br>4. potential secondary impacts (development density/intensity or recharge water quality).<br>A summary of District activity related to this objective will be provided in the annual report. |
| 3-2 | Encourage and assist District permittees to diversify their water supplies by assessing the feasibility of alternative water supplies and fostering arrangements with currently available alternative water suppliers. | Identify available alternative water resources and supplies that may facilitate source substitution and reduce demand on the Edwards Aquifer, while increasing regional water supplies, and evaluate feasibility by considering:<br>1. available/proposed infrastructure,<br>2. financial factors,<br>3. logistical/engineering factors, and<br>4. potential secondary impacts (development density/intensity or recharge water quality).<br>A summary of District activity related to this objective will be provided in the annual report. |
| 3-3 | Demonstrate the importance of the relationship between surface water and groundwater, and the need for implementing prudent conjunctive use through educational programs with permittees and public outreach programs. | A. Provide summaries of associated outreach and education programs, events, workshops, and meetings in the monthly team activity reports in the publicly-available Board backup.<br>B. Summarize outreach activities and estimate reach in the annual report. |
| 3-4 | Actively participate in the regional water planning process to provide input into policies, planning elements, and activities that affect the aquifers managed by the District. | Regularly attend regional water planning group meetings and annually report on meetings attended. |

# GOAL 4 - Addressing Natural Resource Issues which Impact the Use and Availability of Groundwater, and which are Impacted by the Use of Groundwater

31 TAC 356.52 (a)(1)(E)/TWC §36.1071(a)(5)

| | Management Plan Objectives | Performance Standards |
|---|---|---|
| 4-1 | Assess ambient conditions in District aquifers on a recurring basis by:<br>1. sampling and collecting groundwater data from selected wells and springs monthly;<br>2. conducting scientific investigations as indicated by new data and models to better determine groundwater availability for the District aquifers; and<br>3. conducting studies as warranted to help increase understanding of the aquifers and, to the extent feasible, detect possible threats to water quality and evaluate their consequences. | A. Review water-level and water-quality data that are maintained by the District and/or TWDB, or other agencies, on a regular basis.<br>B. Improve existing analytical or numerical models or work with other organizations on analytical or numerical models that can be applied to the aquifers in the District.<br>C. A review of the data mentioned above will be assessed for significant changes and reported in the annual report. |
| 4-2 | Evaluate site-specific hydrogeologic data from applicable production permits to assess potential impact of withdrawals to groundwater quantity and quality, public health and welfare, contribution to waste, and unreasonable well interference. | This involves evaluations of certain production permit applications for the potential to cause unreasonable impacts as defined by District rule. To evaluate the potential for unreasonable impacts, Staff will:<br>A. Perform a technical evaluation of the application, aquifer test, and hydrogeological report;<br>B. Use best available science and analytical tools to estimate amount of drawdown from pumping and influence on other water resources; and<br>C. Recommend proposed permit conditions to the Board for avoiding unreasonable impacts if warranted.<br>A list of permit applications that are determined to have potential for unreasonable impacts will be provided in the annual report. |
| 4-3 | Implement separate management zones and, as warranted, different management strategies to address more effectively the groundwater management needs for the various aquifers in the District. | A. Increase the understanding of District aquifers by assessing aquifer conditions, logging wells, and collecting water quality data. A summary of the number of water quality samples performed will be provided in the annual report.<br>B. A summary of the volume of aggregate groundwater withdrawals permitted and actually produced from permitted wells for each Management Zone and permit type will be provided in the annual report. |
| 4-4 | Actively participate in the joint planning processes for the relevant aquifers in the District to establish and refine Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) that protect the aquifers and the Covered Species of the District HCP. | Attend at least 75% of the GMA meetings and annually report on meetings attended, GMA decisions on DFCs, and other relevant GMA business. |

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| 4-5 | Implement the measures of the District Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the covered species and covered activity to support the biological goals and objectives of the HCP. | Prior to ITP permit issuance, a progress report summarizing activities related to the USFWS review of the ITP application will be provided in the annual report. Upon ITP issuance, the HCP annual report documenting the District's activities and compliance with ITP permit requirements will be incorporated into the annual report by reference. |

# GOAL 5 - Addressing Drought Conditions

31 TAC 356.52 (a)(1)(F)/TWC §36.1071(a)(6)

| | Management Plan Objectives | Performance Standards |
|---|---|---|
| 5-1 | Adopt and keep updated a science-based drought trigger methodology, and frequently monitor drought stages on the basis of actual aquifer conditions, and declare drought conditions as determined by analyzing data from the District's defined drought triggers and from existing and such other new drought-declaration factors, especially the prevailing DO concentration trends at the spring outlets, as warranted. | A. During periods of District-declared drought, prepare a drought chart at least monthly to report the stage of drought and the conditions that indicate that stage of drought. During periods of non-drought, prepare the drought charts at least once every three months.<br>B. A summary of the drought indicator conditions and any declared drought stages and duration will be provided in the annual report. |
| 5-2 | Implement a drought management program that step-wise curtails freshwater Edwards Aquifer use to at least 50% by volume of 2014 authorized aggregate monthly use during Extreme Drought, and that designs/uses other programs that provide an incentive for additional curtailments where possible. For all other aquifers, implement a drought management program that requires mandatory monthly pumpage curtailments during District-declared drought stages. | During District-declared drought, enforce compliance with drought management rules to achieve overall monthly pumpage curtailments within 10% of the aggregate curtailment goal of the prevailing drought stage. A monthly drought compliance report for all individual permittees will be provided to the Board during District-declared drought, and a summary will be included in the annual report. |
| 5-3 | Inform and educate permittees and other well owners about the significance of declared drought stages and the severity of drought, and encourage practices and behaviors that reduce water use by a stage-appropriate amount. | A. During District-declared drought, publicize declared drought stages and associated demand reduction targets in monthly eNews bulletins and continuously on the District website.<br>B. A summary of drought and water conservation related newsletter articles, press releases, and drought updates sent to Press, Permittees, Well Owners and eNews subscribers will be provided in the annual report. |

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| 5-4 | Assist and, where feasible, incentivize individual freshwater Edwards Aquifer historic-production permittees in developing drought planning strategies to comply with drought rules, including:<br>1. pumping curtailments by drought stage to at least 50% of the 2014 authorized use during Extreme Drought,<br>2. "right-sizing" authorized use over the long term to reconcile actual water demands and permitted levels, and<br>3. as necessary and with appropriate conditions, the source substitution with alternative supplies. | A. Require an updated UCP/UDCP from Permittees within one year of each five-year Management Plan Adoption.<br>B. Provide a summary of any activity related to permit right sizing or source substitution with alternative supplies that may reduce demand on the freshwater Edwards Aquifer in the annual report. |
| 5-5 | Implement a Conservation Permit that is held by the District and accumulates and preserves withdrawals from the freshwater Edwards Aquifer that were previously authorized with historic-use status and that is retired or otherwise additionally curtailed during severe drought, for use as ecological flow at Barton Springs during Extreme Drought and thereby increase springflow for a given set of hydrologic conditions. | A summary of the volume of aggregate groundwater withdrawals permitted and actually produced from permitted wells for each Management Zone and permit type including the volume reserved in the freshwater Edwards Conservation Permit for ecological flows will be provided in the annual report. |

# GOAL 6 - Addressing Conservation and Rainwater Harvesting where Appropriate and Cost-Effective

31TAC 356.52 (a)(1)(G)/TWC §36.1071(a)(7)

| | Management Plan Objectives | Performance Standards |
|---|---|---|
| 6-1 | Develop and maintain programs that inform, educate, and support District permittees in their efforts to educate their end-user customers about water conservation and its benefits, and about drought-period temporary demand reduction measures. | A. A summary of efforts to assist permittees in developing drought and conservation messaging strategies will be provided in annual report.<br>B. Publicize declared drought stages and associated demand reduction targets monthly in eNews bulletins and continuously on the District website. |
| 6-2 | Encourage use of conservation-oriented rate structures by water utility permittees to discourage egregious water demand by individual end-users during declared drought. | On an annual basis, the District will provide an informational resource or reference document to all Public Water Supply permittees to serve as resources related to conservation best management strategies and conservation-oriented rate structures. |
| 6-3 | Develop and maintain programs that educate and inform District groundwater users and constituents of all ages about water conservation practices and the use of alternate water sources such as rainwater harvesting, gray water, and condensate reuse. | Summarize water conservation related newsletter articles, press releases, and events in the annual report. Summary will describe the preparation and dissemination of materials shared with District groundwater users and area residents that inform them about water conservation and alternate water sources. |

# GOAL 7 - Addressing Recharge Enhancement where Appropriate and Cost-Effective

31TAC 356.52 (a)(1)(G)/TWC
§36.1071(a)(7)

| | Management Plan Objectives | Performance Standards |
|---|---|---|
| 7-1 | Improve recharge to the freshwater Edwards Aquifer by conducting studies and, as feasible and allowed by law, physically altering (cleaning, enlarging, protecting, diverting surface water to) discrete recharge features that will lead to an increase in recharge and water in storage beyond what otherwise would exist naturally. | Maintaining the functionality of the Antioch system will be the principal method for enhancing recharge to the freshwater Edwards Aquifer. Additional activities may be excavating sinkholes and caves within the District. A summary of all recharge improvement activities will be provided in the annual report. |
| 7-2 | Conduct technical investigations and, as feasible, assist water-supply providers in implementing engineered enhancements to regional supply strategies, including desalination, aquifer storage and recovery, effluent reclamation and re-use, and recharge enhancement of surface water (including floodwater) to increase the options for water-supply substitution and reduce dependence on the Aquifer. | Assess progress toward enhancing regional water supplies in the annual report. |

# GOAL 8 - Addressing the Desired Future Conditions of the Groundwater Resources

31TAC (a)(1)(H)/TWC §36.1071(a)(8)

| | Management Plan Objectives | Performance Standards |
|---|---|---|
| 8-1 | **Freshwater Edwards Aquifer All-Conditions DFC**: Adopt rules that restrict, to the greatest extent practicable, the total amount of groundwater authorized to be withdrawn annually from the Aquifer to an amount that will not substantially accelerate the onset of drought conditions in the Aquifer; this is established as a running seven-year average springflow at Barton Springs of no less than 49.7 cfs during average recharge conditions. | A. A summary of the volume of aggregate groundwater withdrawals permitted and actually produced from permitted wells for each Management Zone and permit type will be provided in the annual report.<br>B. Upon ITP issuance, the HCP annual report documenting the District's activities and compliance with ITP permit requirements will be incorporated into the annual report by reference.<br>C. Upon ITP issuance, compile a summary of aquifer data including: 1) the frequency and duration of District-declared drought, 2) levels of the Aquifer as measured by springflow and indicator wells (including temporal and spatial variations), and 3) total annual and daily discharge from Barton Springs will be provided in the annual report. |
| 8-2 | **Freshwater Edwards Aquifer Extreme Drought DFC:** Adopt rules that restrict, to the greatest extent practicable and as legally possible, the total amount of groundwater withdrawn monthly from the Aquifer during Extreme Drought conditions in order to minimize take and avoid jeopardy of the Covered Species as a result of the Covered Activities, as established by the best science available. This is established as a limitation on actual withdrawals from the Aquifer to a total of no more than 5.2 cfs on an average annual (curtailed) basis during Extreme Drought, which will produce a minimum springflow of not less than 6.5 cfs during a recurrence of the drought of record (DOR). | A. A summary of the volume of aggregate groundwater withdrawals permitted and actually produced from permitted wells for each Management Zone and permit type will be provided in the annual report.<br>B. Upon ITP issuance, the HCP annual report documenting the District's activities and compliance with ITP permit requirements will be incorporated into the annual report by reference.<br>C. Upon ITP issuance, compile a summary of aquifer data including: 1) the frequency and duration of District-declared drought, 2) levels of the Aquifer as measured by springflow and indicator wells (including temporal and spatial variations), and 3) total annual and daily discharge from Barton Springs will be provided in the annual report. |
| 8-3 | Implement appropriate rules and measures to ensure compliance with District-adopted DFCs for each relevant aquifer or aquifer subdivision in the District. | D. Develop and implement a cost-effective method for evaluating and demonstrating compliance with the DFCs of the relevant aquifers in the District, in collaboration with other GCDs in the GMAs. Prior to method implementation, provide a summary of activities related to method development in the annual report. Once developed, provide a summary of data for each District-adopted DFC for each relevant aquifer indicating aquifer conditions relative to the DFC and provide in the annual report. |