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Thursday, Sept. 21, 2017



Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District

Celebrating 30 Years

This year, the District is proud to be celebrating 30 years of providing the local voice to management of the aquifers that our so important to our communities. The occasion of our 30th Anniversary has provided a perfect opportunity to reflect on how the District has evolved over these past few decades. When looking back, it's humbling to recognize all that's been accomplished and all of those that have contributed. Here's a quick lookback at some of the metrics of the District's success. The District:



- manages groundwater production from and annually renews over 200 groundwater production permits which provide water supply to over 60,000 people.
- has awarded \$1.15 million in conservation credits to reward conservation resulting in reduced groundwater production.
- has provided hands on training through the Groundwater to the Gulf program to about 500 teachers who educate about 30,000 students annually.
- has awarded 21 college scholarships since 2001 for a total of \$36,500.
- has awarded 94 science camp scholarships since 2008 for a total of \$33,160 funded by District and conservation credits donated by permittees
- has published over 100 scientific papers and abstracts documenting the research of our aquifers.
- has collected > 800 water chemistry samples since 2001 including sites in all the major and minor aquifers of central Texas, wells, springs, and surface waters.
- completed approximately \$4 million of grant projects to advance aquifer science.

The District owes its successes to the people who have participated in setting policy, researching aquifer dynamics, and educating our community over the years.

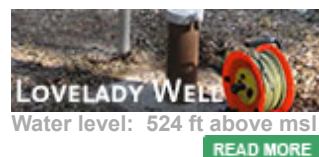
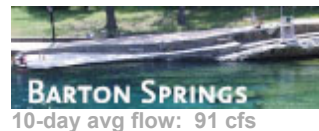
The timeline below shows landmark events, scientific research, policy decisions, the water level in the Lovelady Monitor well over time, and the Directors who served on the Board throughout our 30 years. It is a great visual to show how groundwater levels correlate

IN THIS ISSUE

- [Celebrating 30 Years](#)
- [Meter Readings](#)
- [Well Construction](#)
- [Management Plan](#)
- [Groundwater Stewardship Awards](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)

Current Drought Stage: NO DROUGHT

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



STAY IN TOUCH



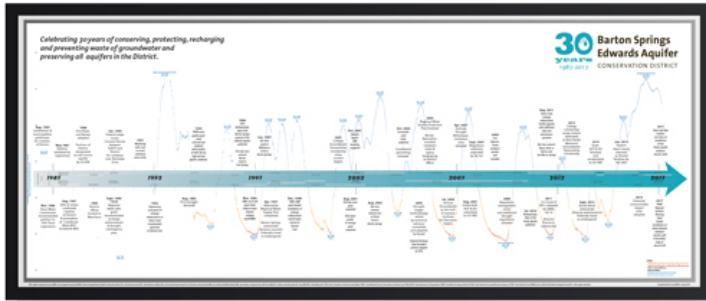
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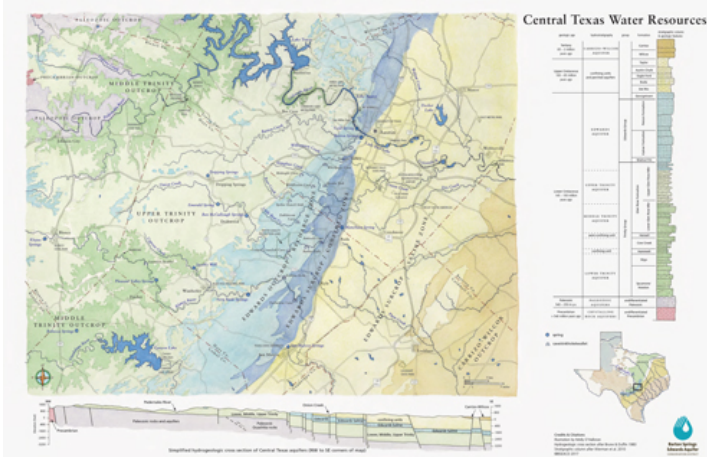
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For more discussion about how scientific research has developed and helped inform policy, download the [30 Years of Aquifer Science fact sheet](#). It recaps major studies, research, and projects that have influenced the understanding of District aquifers, water supply, and recharge.



To better inform conversations and policy making, the District collaborated with accomplished cartographer and artist, Molly O'Halloran, to create the [Central Texas Water Resources Map \(tabloid, poster\)](#).

Visit our [YouTube channel](#) and [like us on Facebook](#) to keep informed about groundwater in the District.

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Meter Readings

The District has about 120 wells with Limited Production Permits. These are domestic wells that do not qualify as exempt wells most often because they're on lots that are smaller than 10 acres. But because there is no other water supply (like a water utility), they rely on groundwater to serve their home.



As part of the Limited Production Permit, these wells have meters and the District collects meter readings once a year to verify that water use is within the limited production volume. Well owners can submit meter readings online, in person, or by email, and they should receive reminders and tips throughout the year. Oftentimes, the biggest challenge with these Limited Production Permit wells is that owner registration records are not updated when the property is sold and the new owner is not aware of the meter reading timeframe.

To reduce confusion, over the past few years staff have placed well tags on new wells. They specify whether the well is a registered, a permitted, or a monitor well and are stamped with the well's official state well number. Another clue is that permitted wells have meters, though some exempt wells have voluntarily added a meter to help track water use. If you have a question about your well or would like to see if there are records about your well, you're welcome to contact staff at bseacd@bseacd.org or 512-282-8441.

For additional info about permitted wells and how to submit a meter reading, visit the [Limited Production Permit Meter Reading spotlight](#).

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Why Does Well Construction Matter?

Do you wonder what the inside of your well looks like?

Well. The District has a downhole video camera that we use to inspect wells when the pump has been removed. The downhole camera helps document well completion, inspect the various rock layers supplying the well, and look for obstructions or cave-ins. We compiled a video of examples of good and bad well construction. Check it out on our YouTube channel! Here's [Well Construction 101!](#)

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Draft Management Plan Available

Every five years, groundwater conservation districts must update and have their management plan approved through the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The current District Management Plan approved by the TWDB in 2013 is due to be updated by January of 2018. Staff has updated the draft Management Plan is available at the [Management Plan Update spotlight](#) on the home page for public review.

A Public Hearing is scheduled during the Board Meeting on September 28, 2017 to accept public comments and input on the plan. The Board will also consider possible action to adopt the plan after the hearing has concluded.

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Groundwater Stewardship Awards

Groundwater Stewardship Awards to honor individuals, programs, and companies that have invested exemplary effort towards the protection and conservation of water resources in the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District.

The District will accept nominations in these categories:

Aquifer Advocate – Honors efforts to inform and improve policy, collaborate and coordinate community-scale solutions to water resource challenges, and/or involve and educate individuals, neighborhoods, school groups, and professional contacts about water-related issues.

Water Quality Protection – Honors efforts that focus on water quality issues such as water monitoring, sampling and testing, pollution prevention (such as creek cleanups), and land use practices to reduce non-point source pollution.

Research and Education – Honors efforts that lead to improved understanding or advanced practices in areas such as groundwater, hydrogeology, water treatment, alternative water supplies, well drilling, or structural and non-structural best management practices to reduce non-point source pollution.


Innovation – Honors efforts that incorporate new and creative practices or represent outstanding efforts in communication and partnership toward the betterment of the aquifer and related environmental issues.

An individual, group, company or agency may be nominated in any one category, and anyone can nominate a deserving entity. The District's Board of Directors will select the recipients. Awards may not be given every year in every category, and categories may be added if needed. Download the nomination form and submit it online today!

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Upcoming Events, Meetings, & Deadlines

Thurs., Sept. 28: **BSEACD Board Meeting**
 Sun., Oct. 1: **Permittee Meter Readings Due** ([details](#))
 Thurs., Oct. 12: **BSEACD Board Meeting**
 Thurs., Oct. 26: **BSEACD Board Meeting**
 Wed., Nov. 1: **Permittee Meter Readings Due** ([details](#))
 Thurs., Nov. 9: **BSEACD Board Meeting**
 Tues., Nov. 23-24: **Office Closed for Thanksgiving**



2017 GROUNDWATER STEWARDSHIP AWARDS
NOMINATION FORM

Nominator (person filling out this form)
 Name: _____
 Organization (optional): _____
 Address (include City and Zip): _____
 Email and Phone Number: _____

Nominee (individual or group being nominated for award)
 Name: _____
 Organization (optional): _____
 Address (include City and Zip): _____
 Email and Phone Number: _____

Award Category (please select the one that best applies)
☐ Aquifer Advocate ☐ Research/Education
☐ Innovation ☐ Water Quality Protection

Reason for nomination (please feel free to include additional pages, materials, or CDs with photos and/or Powerpoint presentations)

Please submit this form and additional materials by **September 26, 2017** to:
 Mail: BSEACD, 1124 Regal Row, Austin, TX 78748
 Fax: (512) 282-7916
 E-mail: nominations@bseacd.org

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