



# **Town Hall Meeting on New Groundwater Management Zone in Hays County**

**August 17, 2015**

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General Manager**

**Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer  
Conservation District**

# Outline

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**GCD/BSEACD Overview**

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**HB 3405**

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**Next Steps**

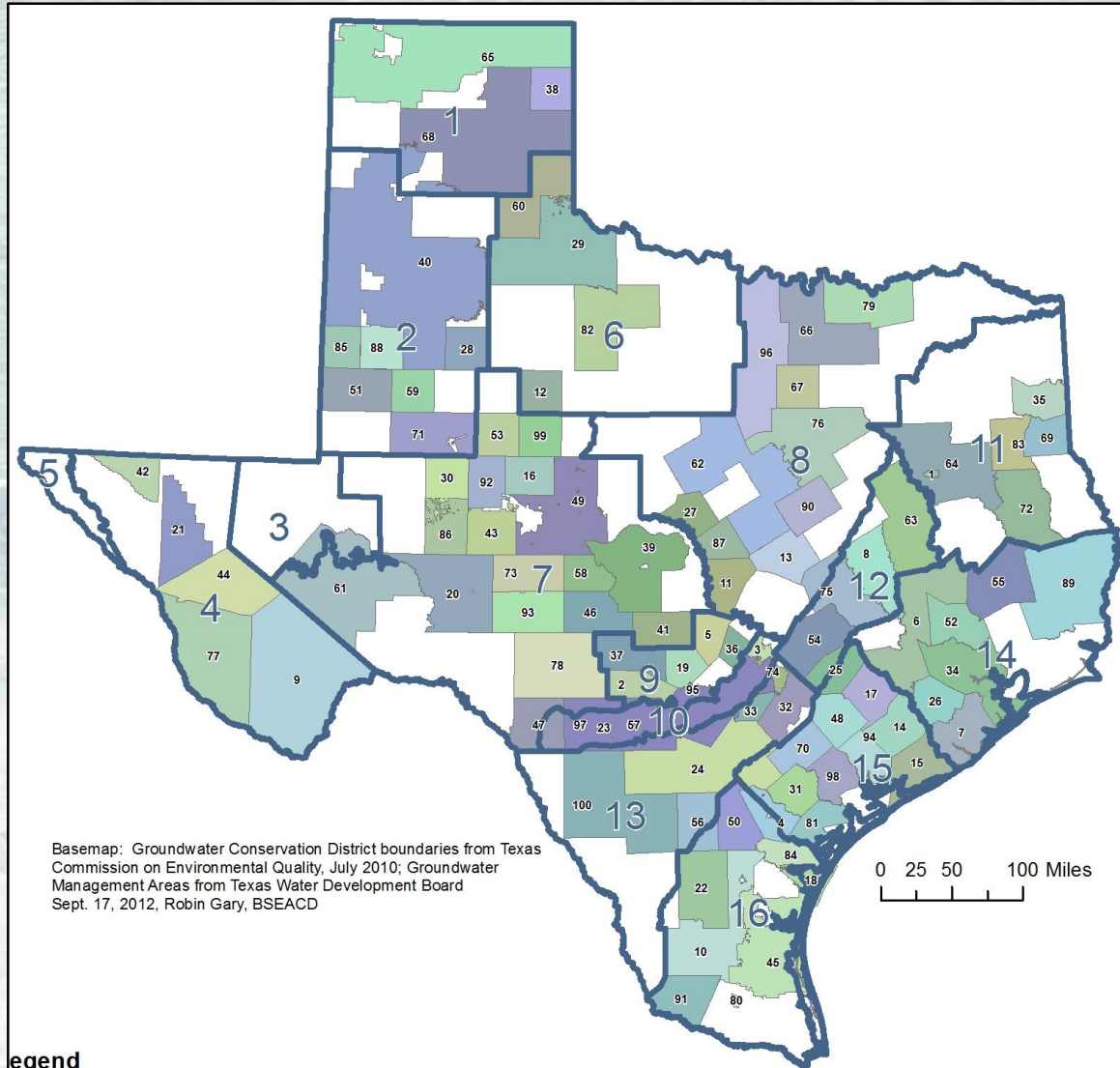
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**Additional Resources**



# GCD Overview

- Decentralized Management – Local Control
- Preferred method of GW management
- >100 created to date
- Authority (Ch. 36)
  - Register Wells/Permit Pumping
  - Well Spacing/Construction
  - Aquifer Studies
  - Funding
- Purpose: Preserve, conserve, and protect groundwater
- Modify the Rule of Capture



# The BSEACD

**Established:** 1987

**Funding:** Production Fees

**Board of Directors**

💧 5 Precincts

💧 2 Austin

💧 3 Non-Austin

**Applied Aquifer Science**

**Science-based Policies**

**Education and Outreach**

**Aquifers:**

💧 Fresh Edwards

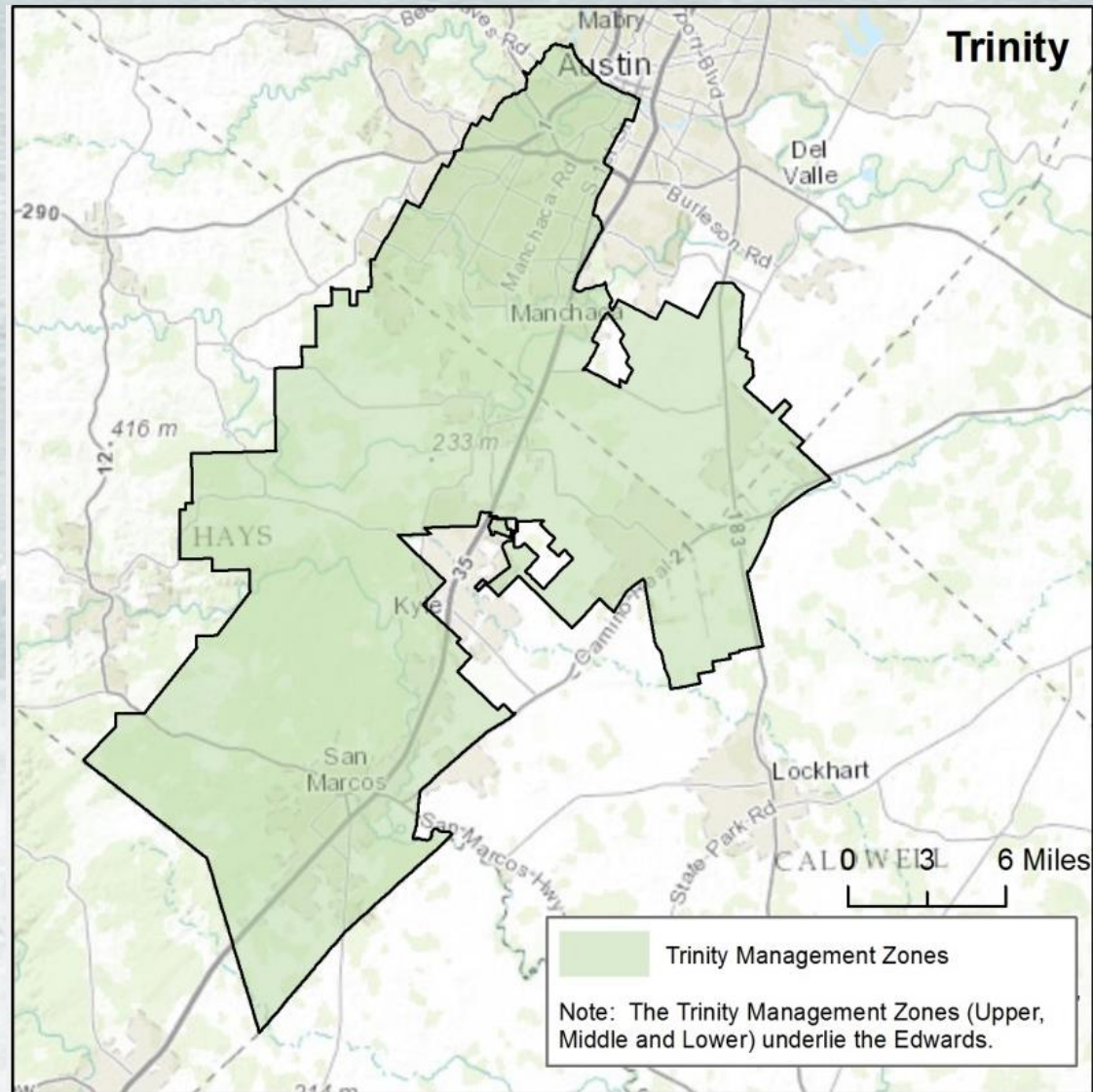
💧 Saline Edwards

💧 Upper Trinity

💧 Middle Trinity

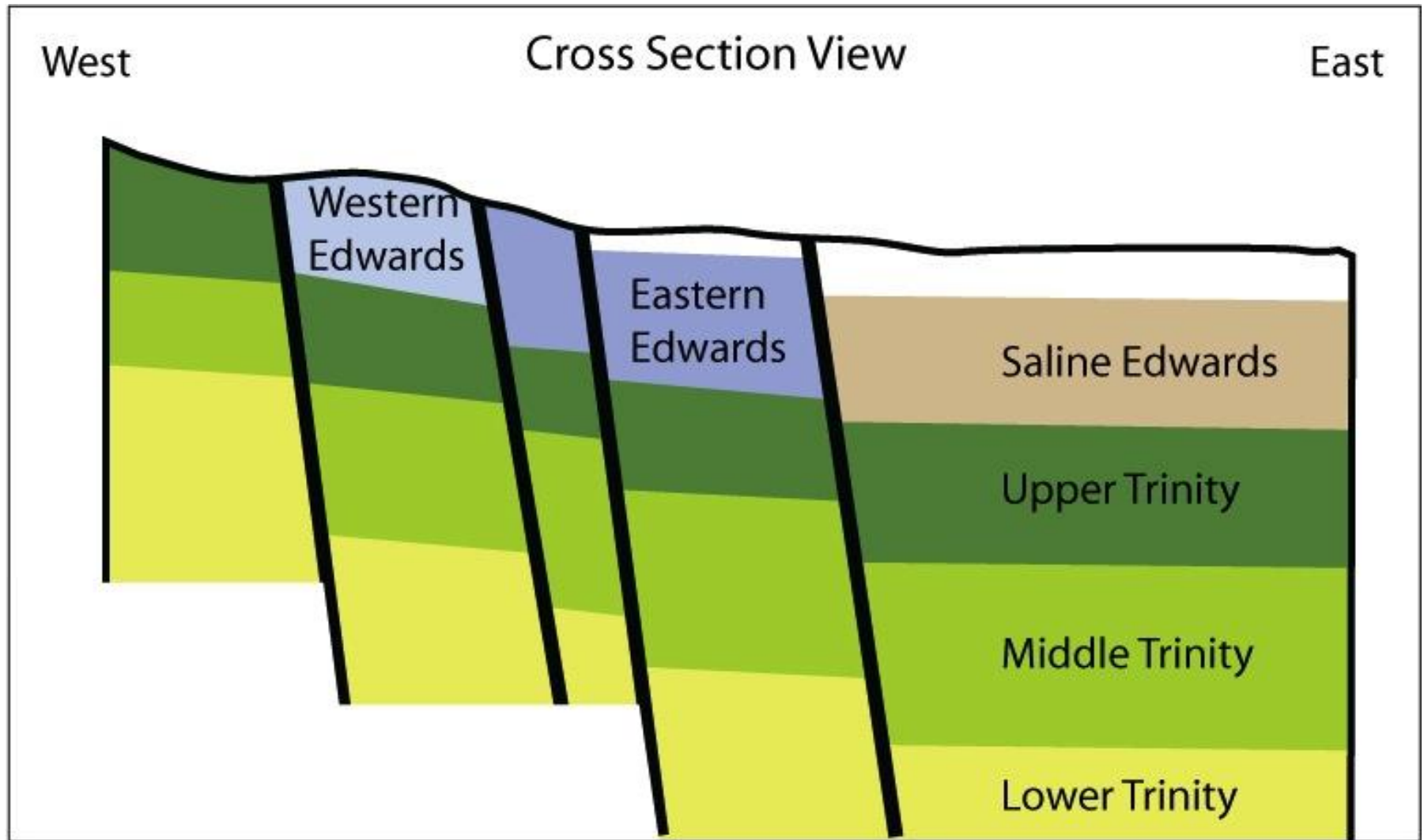
💧 Lower Trinity

💧 Other Aquifers





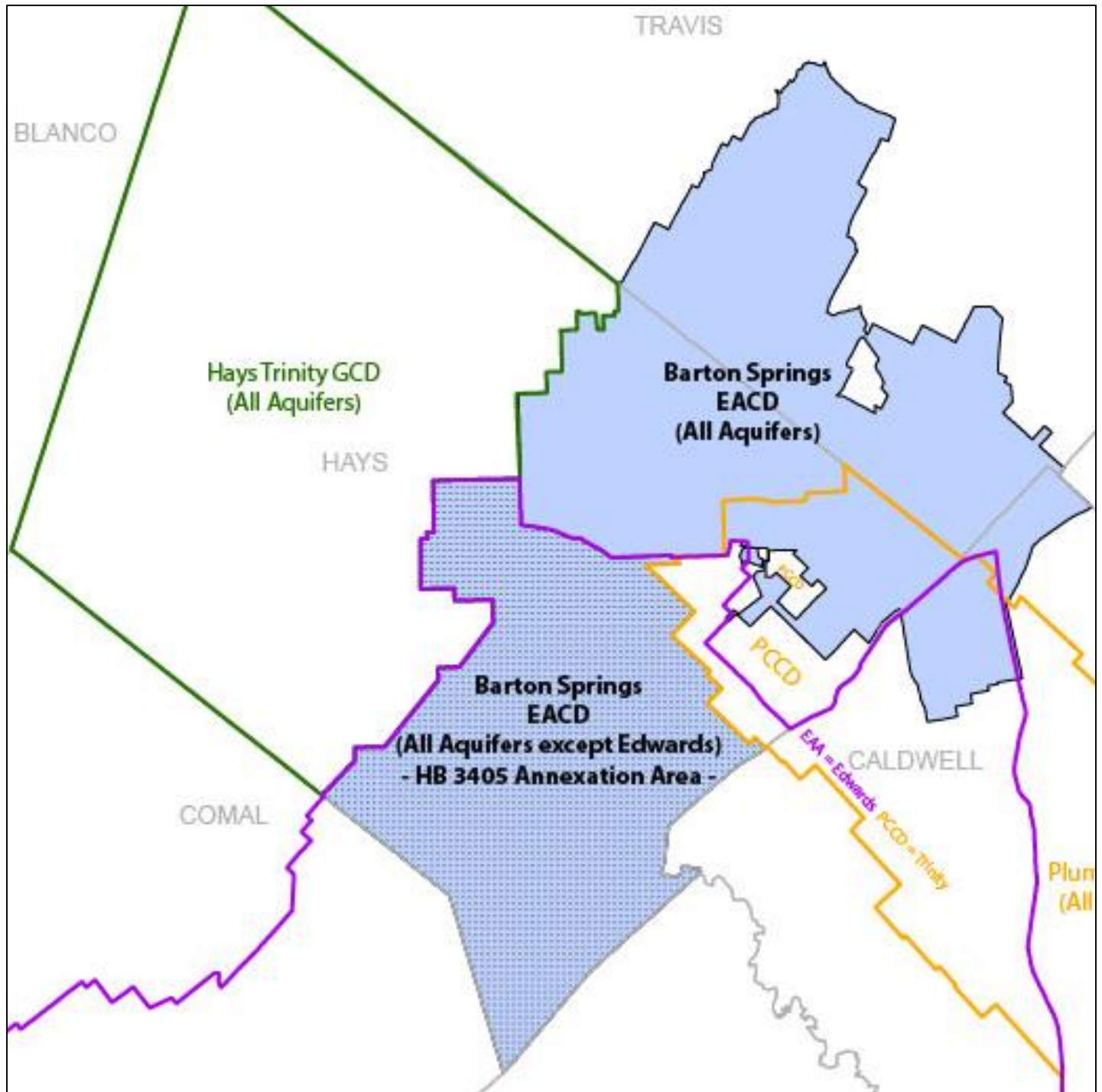
# Management Zones



not to  
scale

# HB 3405- What does it do?

- 💧 **Provides Aquifer Mgmt. in White Zone**
- 💧 **Expands BSEACD territory:**
  - 💧 Validates authority over the Trinity Aquifer
  - 💧 No other GCD with Trinity authority
  - 💧 Defines “Shared Territory”
    - Inside the EAA
    - Inside Hays County
    - Not within Plum Creek CD





# HB 3405- What does it do?

## Permitting (2-stage process)

### 1. Temporary Permits

- 3-month grace period
- Existing wells and wells “under contract”
- Authorizes “Maximum Production Capacity”
- Issued in 30 days

### 2. Regular Permits: can be reduced if will cause:

1. Failure to achieve DFC
2. Unreasonable impacts to existing wells

**Deadline to apply: September 19, 2015**



# Redistricting

## Board of Directors

5 Precincts

2 Austin

3 Non-Austin

**Begin:**

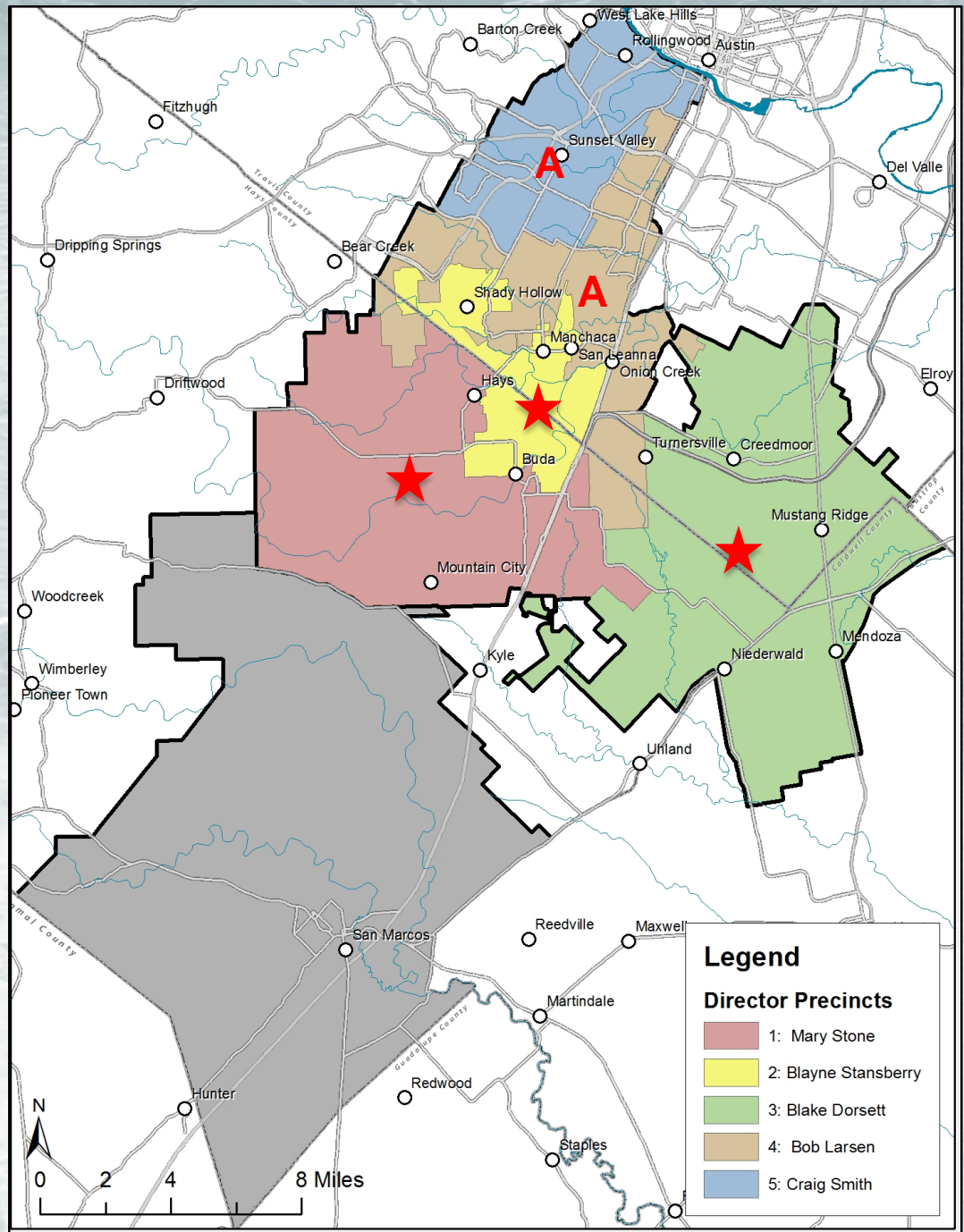
September 2015

**Deadline:**

June 2016

**Elections:**

November 2016



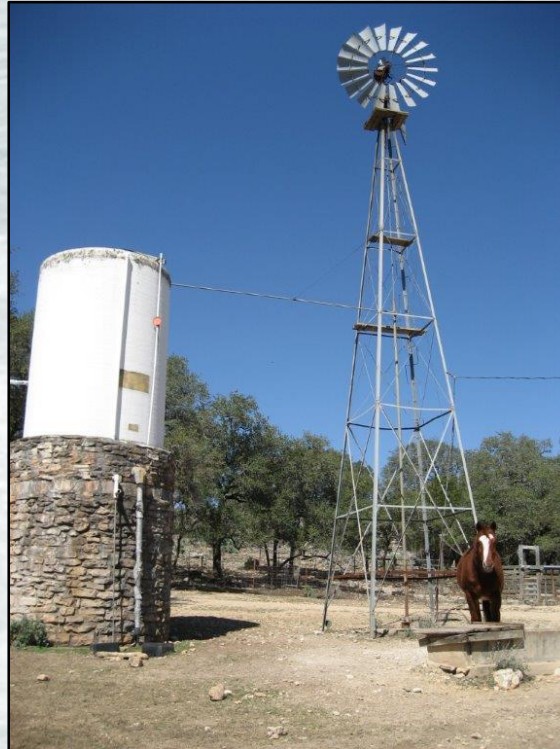
# Who's affected by the bill?

## Existing Exempt Trinity wells

- 💧 domestic/livestock wells
- 💧 <25,000 gal/day capacity (17 gpm)

## Why register?

- 💧 No fee, no meter
- 💧 Protect your well
- 💧 Receive notices
- 💧 District Programs





# Who's affected by the bill?

## Existing Nonexempt Trinity Wells

- Commercial businesses
- Non-profits (schools, churches, camps)
- Irrigation (ponds, landscaping, crops)
- Agricultural
- Industrial
- Public water supply

## Permit Requirements

- Meter and report pumpage
- Annual Production Fees (\$0.17/1k gal)
- Drought curtailments

## Why a Temporary Permit?

- Grace Period to continue operation
- No application fee ~~(\$500)~~
- Maximum Production Capacity



# Additional Resources

- Website
  - Guidance docs
  - Info sessions
- Next: 8/19/15*
- Info stations

*Call or email:*

**512-282-8441**

**Info@bseacd.org**



Home

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District

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1124 Regal  
Phone: (512)  
bseacd@bs

## HAYS COUNTY TRINITY AQUIFER MANAGEMENT ZONE

BSEACD Fact Sheet 0715



**Barton Springs  
Edwards Aquifer**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

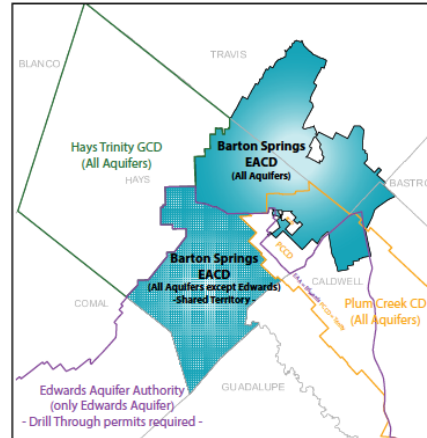


Figure 1: The District's territory including the expanded annexation area created by HB3405 and the adjacent groundwater conservation districts and their respective jurisdiction over aquifers.

### WHY ANNEXATION?

June 19, 2015 marked the effective date of HB3405, which brings the previously unregulated Trinity Aquifer portion of Hays County under management of a groundwater conservation district—the preferred method of groundwater management in Texas.

Representative Jason Isaac and Senator Donna Campbell responded to requests from residents of the unregulated portion of Hays County to pass legislation to protect groundwater resources, manage pumping, and coordinate conservation in this developing area.

The new legislation tasks the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (District) with managing all non-Edwards groundwater withdrawals (primarily Trinity Aquifer wells) in central, southern, and eastern Hays County. The Edwards Aquifer Authority shares jurisdiction in the same area, however, their authority is limited by statute only to Edwards Aquifer wells and requests for drill-through permits for wells that penetrate the overlying Edwards Aquifer.

### WHAT IS THE DISTRICT?

The District was established by the Texas Legislature in 1987 (similarly motivated by stakeholder input) to conserve, protect, and enhance all groundwater resources in its jurisdictional area. After the recent annexation, this area encompasses approximately 417 square miles in Caldwell, Hays, and Travis Counties. Portions of the area adjoin and overlap the Edwards Aquifer Authority and the Plum Creek Conservation District; overlapping jurisdictions and which district has primary authority are clarified in HB3405 (Fig. 1).

A five-member board of directors, elected for staggered four-year terms, is the governing body of the District and ensures the District's work is consistent with the statutory mission, District rules, and management plan. Current Directors will finish their terms and a redistricting process, beginning at the end of this year, will determine new boundaries for the precincts at the next election.

### WHAT NEXT?

Through HB3405, all Trinity wells in the annexed area will need to be registered, and a subset of those wells (other than domestic or livestock) will need to apply for permits. Once wells are registered and permitted (if applicable), the District will be able to notify well owners in the event of a spill, provide guidance on maintenance, coordinate conservation during drought, and manage pumping.

Well owners that need permits have a three month grace period (expires Sept. 19, 2015) to file for a temporary permit and initiate the standard permitting process. [See Registration and Permitting sections on p. 3].

### REGISTRATION QUICK LINK

- WELL REGISTRATION IS EASY** (and requires):
- 1) Fill out online form (~5 minutes)
  - 2) Receive registration confirmation in the mail in a few weeks
  - 3) Help protect groundwater resources by using water wisely



[www.bseacd.org](http://www.bseacd.org)



# Next Steps

- ✓ Adopted new rules
- ✓ Outreach events (townhall, info sessions)
- ☐ Process Temporary Permits (deadline: 9/19/15)
- ☐ Register exempt wells
- ☐ Continue technical evaluation
- ☐ Develop technical permitting standards
- ☐ Redistricting
- ☐ Joint-regional development of GAM



**Thank You**