



**Barton Springs
Edwards Aquifer**
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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First Town Hall Meeting Set to Discuss New Groundwater Management Area in Hays County

The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (District) will hold a series of Town Hall meetings in Hays County to help well owners better understand what it means to be part of a groundwater conservation district. The first Town Hall Meeting is set for Thursday, July 23, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the Dunbar Recreation Center in San Marcos, Texas. Joining the District as hosts are Senator Donna Campbell, Representative Jason Isaac, and Commissioner Will Conley. The meeting will consist of a short, informal presentation followed by a Q&A session to address questions from Hays County residents.

Town Hall meetings are one of several ways the District plans to reach out to Hays County well owners in the expanded groundwater management area as a result of HB 3405, passed June 19, 2015. Representative Isaac introduced the bill in the recent legislative session, and Senator Campbell carried the companion bill in the Senate.

HB 3405 nearly doubled the District's jurisdiction over the Trinity aquifer where no other conservation district has had authority, mostly in the southeastern part of Hays County. HB 3405 is a response to residents' concerns over unregulated wells in the area that could significantly deplete groundwater resources on nearby properties. Groundwater conservation district's are the state's preferred method way to manage and protect ground water in Texas.

In order for the District to best monitor its groundwater resources all Hays County well owners in the expanded district must register their well with the District in a free and easy online process. Well owners who pump more than 10,000 gallons of water per day are required to obtain a permit for their well(s). Registering a well gives the District valuable information such as the number of wells, where they are, and how much water they pump, so the District can more effectively use groundwater resources and protect landowners using hard science and data..

Town hall meetings will provide well owners with information about the benefits and responsibilities of being part of a groundwater conservation district. The District will address any concerns Hays County well owners, businesses, or residents might have about how the District manages and protects aquifers.

For more information, an interactive map, and further information regarding meetings, please visit www.bseacd.org.

BSEACD is a groundwater conservation district charged by the Texas Legislature to preserve, conserve, and protect the aquifers and groundwater resources within its jurisdiction, which includes parts of three central Texas counties. It is governed by a Board of five elected directors and staffed with hydrogeologists, groundwater regulatory compliance specialists, environmental educators, geospatial systems specialists, and administrative support personnel.

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