

## C RITICAL DROUGHT— IS IT O VER?

Wonderful rains have been coming through our area over the last couple of months. While we are all feeling a little less stress over our water, does this mean the drought is over? Not necessarily.

Between June and September, our office received 43 dry wells reports from across the area and our monitoring wells throughout the District experienced declines from 50 to 80 feet. While the generally accepted rule is that it takes 30 days to get into a drought, and 60 days to get out, the rule is not definitive.

Using this guideline, for each stage of a drought our primary regional rivers should experience water flows above that stage's "trigger" amount for 60 days straight. By December 1<sup>st</sup>, both the Pedernales and the Blanco had recorded flows above their Critical and Alarm stage triggers.

So according to the rule above, the drought is over. Nevertheless, cautious optimism is what we advise because while everything on the surface looks healthy and revived, the District's monitoring wells have yet to fully recover.

Our "Thanks!" goes out to everyone who applied conservation guidelines during the drought. Your efforts truly make a difference to the aquifer, and thus to every member of this community.

Hays Trinity GCD Board members will be passing a drought declaration by the end of the year, but in the meantime, voluntary conservation measures should continue.

For more: [www.haysgroundwater.com](http://www.haysgroundwater.com) and select Drought Management.

## D ESIRED FUTURE C ONDITIONS

In September, 2005, the 79<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature incorporated Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code. At that time, groundwater planning was regionalized into *Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs)* which consist of *Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs)* as well as areas not included in a GCD.

These designated GMAs must establish a Desired Future Conditions for each aquifer in the GMA for the period 2010 through 2060 by September 2010. To accomplish this, the Texas Water Development Board (TWBD), using primarily availability models, determines how much water can be pumped from the aquifer to achieve the DFC. This volume of water is known as the *Managed Available Groundwater, or MAG*. Along with public input, individual GCDs must develop management strategies and rules to permit groundwater withdrawal up to the MAG.

This may all seem a bit confusing, but here are a few points to remember.

- MAG is water that will be available to all end users.
- MAG values are de facto "caps" and the mandatory basis for Regional and State water plans.
- Rules adopting and enforcing MAGs and supporting DFCs are mandatory upon all GCDs in a GMA.
- DFCs are set for all aquifers in a GMA.

Hays Trinity GCD is working through this process along with 8 other GCDs within GMA #9. Right now we need stakeholder feedback

on the DFC for critical areas within our district such as Cypress Creek. Meanwhile, we continue working to complete this project in early 2010.

For a full presentation on the DFC Process: [www.haysgroundwater.com/Regulatory](http://www.haysgroundwater.com/Regulatory)

## SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT FOR ON-LINE REPORTING

Public Water Suppliers and Commercial users have been hearing about a new system change we are implementing to make their reporting effort much simpler. In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2009 we will be releasing the first version of a new online data entry solution. Both district staff and our constituents are looking forward to the change.

November 17<sup>th</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting a screening of the system to users. The developer and staff will be looking for feedback from participants. The information we receive can help us make this a much smoother rollout for everyone. It is our hope that everyone will have a chance to "touch" the new system well before it goes live in January, 2010.

## NEW STAFF AND BOARD AT HTGCD

Good news for the District and constituents alike. In early 2009 the Board of Directors at Hays Trinity GCD began searching for replacement personnel for several outgoing management positions. Rick Broun, Co-General Manager and Cathy Balch, Assistant Manager were hired in June 2009 and join existing Co-General Manager, Dana Carmean. More administrative staff will mean more time

for employees to increase educational efforts and automate processes.

Also, newly elected Board Members, David Baker, District 4 and Greg Nesbitt, District 2, join continuing members Doug Wierman, Andrew Backus, and Jack Hollon representing Districts 1, 3, and 5 respectively.

## WELL REGISTRATION FOR AN EXISTING WELL... IT'S EASIER THAN YOU THINK

One of the most important things we do is track and manage the information associated with pumping our groundwater. Usage and projected draw down data is vital to understanding growth and development plans for the area. Since the District was formed, well data has proven essential for so many existing or prospective property owners, but many older wells were never registered. Even state regulatory documents that may have existed are difficult or impossible to find.

The original builder or else a prior owner may not have had copies or may have simply failed to include these with your purchase closing documents. Either way, you may find yourself wanting to know about the specifics for your well. Overall depth, casing and, pump placement information can be very helpful. Well registration puts you "in the system" and provides a lasting record for such data. It is simple and there is no charge for registering an existing well. Once done, these records should always be kept with your property files.

For more on well registration visit us online at: [www.haysgroundwater.com/forms](http://www.haysgroundwater.com/forms)

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