

THE CLEARWATER SOURCE

2006 Annual Newsletter

CLEARWATER WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Bell County Water Symposium on 11/08/06 featuring Keynote Speaker Senator Kip Averitt.** Check our website for more details as the event gets closer.
- **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day at the Copperas Cove Transfer Station on 9/16/2006.** For more info, call Jennifer at 254-933-7075.
- **GMA 8 Meeting in Burnet County on 9/20/2006.**

Well Log Deposit

A \$100 well log deposit was established to ensure the District receives the State of Texas Well Report (Driller's log) upon completion of new exempt wells. If the log is submitted within 6 months of registration, the deposit will be returned. After 6 months, the deposit will become property of the District.

The May 2006 election cycle saw incumbent directors Horace Grace (precinct 2) and Judy Parker (precinct 4) unopposed and reelected to a 2nd four year term to the Clearwater Board. The at-large seat formerly occupied by Ricky Preston (who did not seek reelection) was filled by unopposed candidate John Mayer. Although new to the position of Director, Mayer is certainly not new to Clearwater as he was a member of the Public Advisory Committee since August 2003. Since all seats were unopposed, the District was able to cancel the election, saving tax payers about \$10,000.

There are two additional members on the Board: Leland Gersbach, precinct 1; and Wallace Biskup, precinct 3. Both seats will be up for election in 2008. Precinct boundaries follow the same geographic areas as the Bell County Commissioners. The primary duties of the Board are to set policies and rules by

which the District operates and to consider permits for non-exempt wells, which are generally capable of producing over 25,000 gallons of water a day or for water used for purposes other than domestic, livestock or poultry.

In addition to the Board of Directors, Clearwater benefits from the perspectives of other local citizens who serve on the

Public Advisory Committee (PAC). Members to this committee are appointed by each director. The PAC provides input and recommendations to the Board and acts as a liaison to the public on water-related issues. Currently, the Board is reappointing and filling vacant spots on the PAC.

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2006-2008 Board Members



Front Row: Leland Gersbach, Judy Parker, Wallace Biskup
Back Row: Horace Grace, John Mayer

JOINT GROUNDWATER PLANNING UNDERWAY

Groundwater Management in Texas got a little bit more complicated as a result of legislation passed during the 79th regular legislative session. Although there is more work to be done at the groundwater district level, the joint groundwater planning process should afford better protection for the state's aquifers because a 2/3 majority of all groundwater conservation districts (GCD) in a region must agree on the "desired future conditions" (DFC) of shared aquifers and pumping in areas without a GCD will now be considered.

The state has been divided into 16 groundwater management areas (GMA) that roughly follow the boundaries of

the major and minor aquifers. A committee made up of one representative from each confirmed groundwater district must set the DFC for aquifers within the same GMA by 2010. Ultimately, these DFC statements will be used by the Texas Water Development Board to calculate "managed available groundwater" figures. Once calculated, these numbers must be included in future Regional and State Water Plans and be used by groundwater districts for their permitting process.

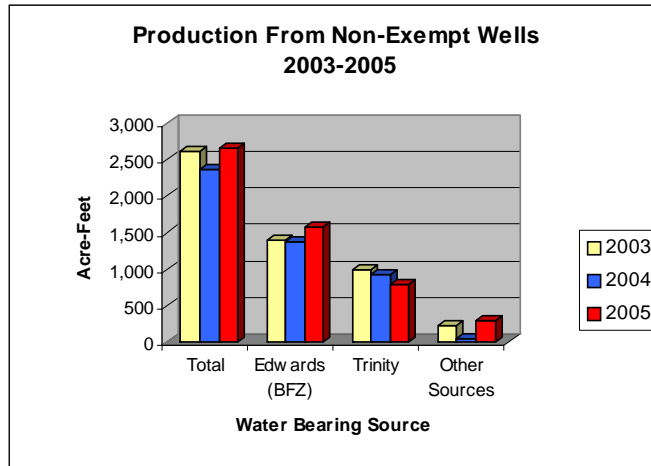
In the Central Texas area, Clearwater is a member of GMA 8 along with five other GCDs (see map on next page). The management area includes all or part of 45 counties and includes two major aquifers (Trinity and Edwards (BFZ)) and seven minor aquifers. Having held four meetings so far, GMA 8 has made progress towards setting the DFCs. At the last meeting held on June 20, 2006, the

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WELL PRODUCTION/REGISTRATION REPORT

The District has issued operating or historic use permits for 65 non-exempt wells and requires monthly production reports from these wells. Non-exempt wells are capable of producing a large volume of groundwater (over 17 gallons per minute), located on less than 10 acres, or are used for purposes other than Domestic, Livestock or Poultry. Of these wells, 30 are producing from the Edwards (BFZ), 26 from the Trinity aquifer, and nine from other groundwater sources.

Permitted wells produced 1,337 acre-feet of water during the first six months of 2006. This is only about nine ac-ft less than the amount of water produced at this time last year. Total production increased by about 300 ac-ft in 2005 over the amount in 2004. Production from non-exempt wells in the



Edwards (BFZ) was 198 ac-ft more, while production from the Trinity was 139 ac-ft less than 2004. Other sources accounted for the rest of the increase. (See chart and table for comparison of production).

Since the District's opening in 2002, a total of 4,408 wells have been registered. In 2005, 130 wells were registered, 17 of which were non-exempt and 113 exempt. Annual production from exempt wells has been esti-

Production from Permitted Wells January through June

Edwards (BFZ):

2005:	707 ac-ft
2006:	796 ac-ft

Trinity:

2005:	345 ac-ft
2006:	427 ac-ft

Other:

2005:	294 ac-ft
2006:	115 ac-ft

Notes: One acre-foot of water will cover one acre of land to a depth of one foot (325,851 gallons). That is roughly the amount of water used by 5 people in one year.

mated based on registrations received through 2005. Estimates are as follows: Edwards (BFZ), 301 ac-ft; Trinity, 838 ac-ft; and Other Sources, 909 ac-ft. Well registration for 2006 through June is reported at 49.

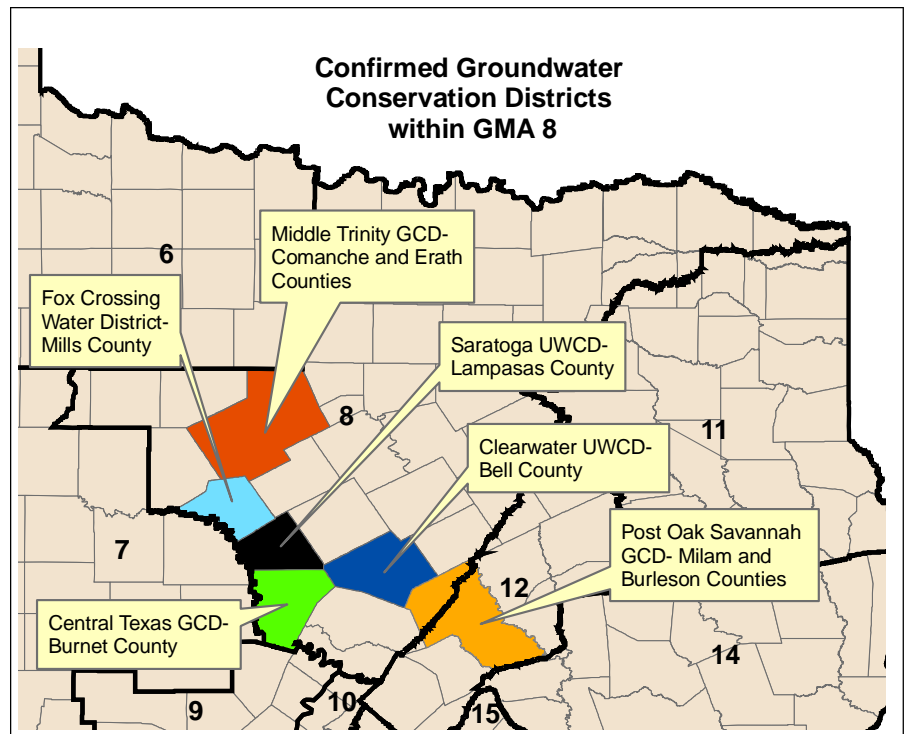
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GMA 8 Committee Meets

committee heard a cost estimate and scope of work from engineering firm, Turner, Collie, and Braden, Inc. (TCB) who was selected to give the GMA the necessary hydrogeological information to complete the task.

Because there are so few groundwater districts in this region, the scope of work was designed to rely heavily on work that had previously been completed by the regional water planning groups for the 2006 Regional Water Plans. Each regional water plan included groundwater availability figures for each county. The GMA board will consider approving the contract with TCB to create a desired future condition (DFC) that replicates, where feasible, the figures in the regional water plan for counties without GCD representation. For those counties with a GCD, the GCD will bring to the table their own management strategy that for some districts (like Clearwater) includes a calculated groundwater availability figure.

Clearwater's management goal for the Edwards (BFZ) was to maintain a preferred spring flow of 200 ac-ft/month, during a repeat of the 1950s drought of record. For confined portions of the Trinity aquifer, the goal is to maintain 50% of the available drawdown (artesian head) after 50 years, while the objective for unconfined portions is to leave 95% of the saturated thickness of the aquifer after 50 years.



In short, the GMA process will allow for local GCDs to coordinate management of shared aquifers and to consider pumping in areas without GCD regulation. The resulting product will be groundwater availability figures in State Water Plans that are created by the entities managing the resources. The next meeting of GMA 8 will

be held in Burnet County, hosted by the Central Texas GCD on September 20, 2006. Meeting information will continue to be posted on Clearwater's website (www.clearwaterdistrict.org) until a GMA 8 "common space" can be developed on the web. Public participation is always welcome at meetings.

DISTRICT ADDRESSES DROUGHT PLANNING; NEW DATA ONLINE

Drought contingency planning is a very important part of managing the water resources of Texas. During a drought, rivers stop flowing and the water level of the major reservoirs drop. As surface water slowly dries, the reaction may be to pump more from the ground. As demand on the aquifers increases and as recharge from rainfall events becomes limited, the water level in the aquifers decline.

The Clearwater District has begun to address this type of scenario. The District is working on measures that will help identify when drought plans need to be implemented.

First, rainfall data is being collected from the National Weather Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The data is generated from a combination of

radar and rain gauges. Rainfall through July varied from 13.09 to 21.07 inches, depending on the location in the County with Temple/Belton area receiving the highest totals. Each month the data will be posted on our website under "District Data."

The second technique the District is using to indicate drought is through monitoring water levels in the aquifers. A total of seven Trinity wells are being measured twice a year with plans to install at least one continuously monitored well. Six Edwards (BFZ) wells are measured twice a year and one is being monitored continuously. Water levels will also be on our website under "District Data."

Recent water levels collected during mid-July indicate that the water in the aquifers has declined slightly over previous

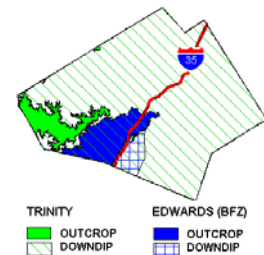
measurements. For the Edwards (BFZ), three wells dropped 8.08, 9.67, and 5.84 feet from the measurement last summer. The static level for these wells were the lowest measurement since the District began monitoring in 2003. Reliable data in the Trinity aquifer has been harder to obtain; however, the general trend over time shows a decline in water level. Contact the District, if you would like to participate in the monitoring program.

Third, plans to install stream flow gauges in Salado Creek have been approved. The equipment will be installed as soon as access has been secured. These gauges measure changes in the stream flow as a result of Edwards (BFZ) discharge from the Salado Springs. The equipment will trigger drought measures if the management goal of

keeping the Salado Springs flowing is threatened.

In the upcoming year, a Drought Management Plan will be developed with various stages of contingency measures that would include reductions in operating permits for non-exempt wells, if the drought triggers are reached. Water is a precious resource. It is important to always use water wisely, but during times of drought we should be even more mindful.

Bell County Major Aquifers



MONITOR WELLS NEEDED

Monitoring the water level in the Trinity and Edwards (BFZ) aquifers is important for the District to fulfill its responsibility of managing groundwater, but the data from this program can also be useful information for a private well owner who relies on the aquifers for their water source.

The District monitors the "static" water level from wells. This measurement refers to the level of water inside a well after it has recovered from drawdown associated with pumping water. As the well recovers, the water returns near to the level before pumping. Overtime the static water level will rise or fall depending on the amount of water withdrawn compared to the amount of recharge (water entering the aquifer).

The aquifers in our county can be compared to a bank account. The Trinity is like a very large account with very few deposits and more withdrawals. The Edwards (BFZ), on the other hand, is not as large of an account, but it has more frequent deposits. At the end of the day, it's good to check the balance.

To do this, the District plans to set up "index" wells in the Edwards (BFZ) and in each of the three layers of the Trinity aquifer. The index wells cannot be pumped and may or may not be monitored constantly. The District needs help locating suitable index wells. The well should be in good condition, penetrating a major aquifer, and should have no pumping equipment. Monetary consideration would be given for use of the well for this purpose.

In addition to the index wells, the District monitors water levels in several wells throughout the county. For a well owner to participate in the program, the well must have a small entry port that allows passage of the electronic line into the space between the casing and column pipe. Measuring the water level usually takes between 1/2 to 1 hour with measurements done biannually. District staff would notify the well owner prior to a visit to the well site. If you would like to participate in either of these programs, contact our office at 254-933-0120.

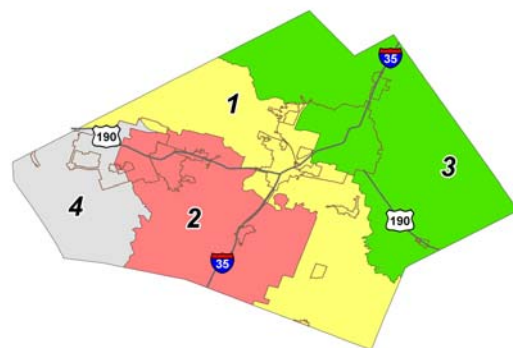
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Election Results

The District operates with the mission of implementing an efficient, economical, and environmentally sound groundwater management program to protect and enhance the water resources of the

District. The District registers all water wells, considers applications for drilling and operating permits, and regulates production from non-exempt wells. Clearwater also monitors aquifer levels, offers educational outreach to Bell County schools, and provides water quality screening.

CUWCD Precincts



"On behalf of Clearwater, I would like to wish Ricky Preston good luck in the future and to thank him for the several years of service he gave to the District as a Director. Mr. Preston's vast knowledge of the groundwater resources in the County will certainly be missed by the current Board."

—Board President Horace Grace

Clearwater
Underground Water
Conservation District

CUWCD Directors & Terms:

Leland Gersbach—Precinct 1
2004-2008 (Secretary)

Horace Grace—Precinct 2
2006-2010 (President)

Wallace Biskup—Precinct 3
2004-2008 (Vice President)

Judy Parker—Precinct 4
2006-2010 (Director)

John Mayer—At large
2006-2010 (Director)

**CUWCD Public Advisory
Committee:**

Vince Cortese—Precinct 1

Vacant—Precinct 2

Marvin Green—Precinct 3
(Committee chair)

Vacant—Precinct 4

David Cole—At Large

Water Quality Testing

The District has a program to provide in-house screening of some common constituents and bacteria.

Contact the District to participate.

Wells Not in Use

Remember wells not in use should be capped or plugged to help protect water quality.

Clearwater District
550 East 2nd Avenue, Building A
P.O. Box 729
Belton TX 76513

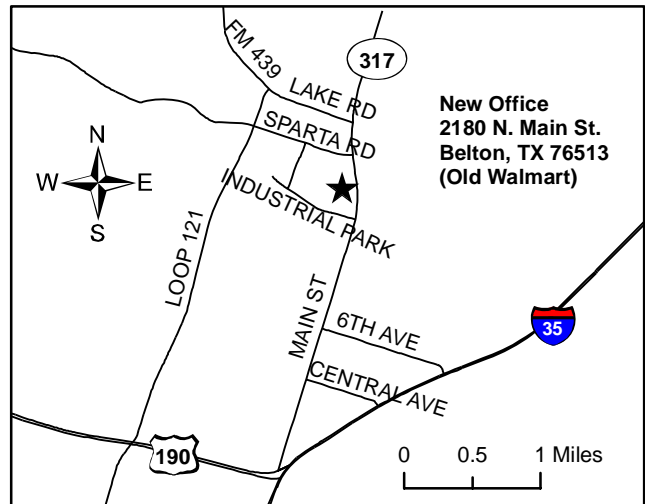
Phone: 254-933-0120
Fax: 254-939-0885
E-mail: cmaxwell@ctcogmpo.org
www.clearwaterdistrict.org



DISTRICT'S OFFICE SET TO MOVE

The Clearwater District plans to move its offices on September 14 upon completion of renovations to the "old Walmart" building in Belton. Our Office will be closed on Sep. 14th and 15th. Offices will continue to be held with the Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG), which is contracted with Clearwater to provide administrative and planning services for District operation. The renovated building allows CTCOG to consolidate all employees of its four divisions under one roof instead of three separate buildings located throughout Belton.

Clearwater employees will be located in the Planning and Regional Services section of the building. The District will have use of any one of the six fully furnished conference rooms for monthly Board meetings and other events. Additional amenities in the new office will include



a specialized area for the District's water quality screening lab, which is offered as a free service to registered well owners.

Although the District is moving, our phone number will

continue to be 254-933-0120 and the fax number will remain 254-939-0885. The mailing address will also stay as PO Box 729, Belton, TX 76513, while the new physical address is 2180 N. Main.

A CONSERVATION MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



President Horace Grace

One of the most valuable natural resources we have in Bell County is our groundwater. It is important that each one of us realizes that fact.

The mission of Clearwater is to manage this resource for the

benefit of all citizens. The District is accomplishing its mission of managing groundwater by regulating water well drilling, spacing, and pumping. Regardless of what we do at Clearwater, each well owner can have a major impact on managing water by following the conservation tips I am outlining below:

- Harvest rainwater.
- Reduce lawn watering frequency.
- Water early in the morning or evening hours and not during windy days.
- Use native plants.

- Mulch trees and plants to retain moisture.
- Install water efficient showerheads and aerators.
- Take shorter showers.
- Adjust water level/load size on washing machines.

Learn more water conservation tips and why it is an important goal for our State by visiting the statewide program, "Water IQ: Know Your Water," found on the web at www.wateriq.org.

Thank you for your trust and support,

Horace Grace

(POSTAGE STAMP)

(NAME)
(STREET)
(CITY)