



# **Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer**

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## **ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2015**

**Board-approved December 17, 2015**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS (August 31, 2015)**

Mary Stone, President	Precinct 1	February 2008 - November 2016
Craig Smith, Vice President	Precinct 5	May 1998 - November 2018
Blayne Stansberry, Secretary	Precinct 2	November 2014 – November 2018
Robert D. Larsen, Ph.D., Director	Precinct 4	May 2003 - November 2016
Blake Dorsett, Director	Precinct 3	November 2012 - November 2016

## **DISTRICT STAFF**

**August 31, 2015**

John Dupnik	General Manager
Dana Wilson	Senior Administrative Manager Administrative Team Leader
Tammy Raymond	Administrative Assistant – Personnel
Shannon DeLong	Administrative Assistant – Accounting
Brian Smith	Principal Hydrogeologist Aquifer Science Team Leader
Brian Hunt	Senior Hydrogeologist
Justin Camp	Hydrogeologist Technician
Robin Gary	Senior Environmental Educator Education and Community Outreach Team Leader
Vanessa Escobar	Regulatory Compliance Team Leader
Kendall Bell-Enders	Regulatory Compliance Coordinator

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## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (“District”) Bylaws require the District Board President or General Manager to report on the status of the District and its programs annually to the Board and to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). This document is the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2015, covering the period from September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015.

According to District Bylaw 4-6, this report shall include:

1. The status of the aquifer and the District's programs;
2. A financial report to include the report of the annual audit and the security of any District investments;
3. A review and evaluation of professional services rendered to the District;
4. A status report of any capital projects of the District; and
5. The evaluation of the District's long-range plans pursuant to §36.107 (now §36.1071) of the Texas Water Code (TWC).

This introductory section provides an overview of the District, and summarizes the mission and vision of the District, and its Board-established critical success factors. Other major report sections that follow include a summary of the active programs in FY 2015; a recap of other specific information required by statute, including an assessment of performance in terms of objectives and performance standards identified in the prevailing Management Plan; and a financial summary. The annual audit report conducted by an independent audit firm is included in its entirety as Appendix A. The Board’s assessment of progress toward the Management Plan’s objectives by performance standards and the basis for that assessment are included as Appendix B.

### **1.1 General Information about the District**

The District was created in 1987 by the 70<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, under Senate Bill 988. Its statutory authorities include Chapter 52 (later revised to Chapter 36) of the Texas Water Code (TWC), applicable to all groundwater conservation districts (GCDs) in the state, and the District’s enabling legislation, now codified as Chapter 8802, Special District Local Laws Code (SDLLC). The District's legislative mandate is to conserve, protect, and enhance the groundwater resources located within the District boundaries. The District has the power and authority to undertake various studies, assess fees on groundwater pumpage and transport, and to implement structural facilities and non-structural programs to achieve its statutory mandate. The District has rulemaking authority to implement its policies and procedures and to help ensure the management of groundwater resources. The District is not a taxing authority. Its only sources of income are groundwater production fees, including water use fee supplement paid by the City of Austin; administrative processing fees; and occasional grants from various local, state, and federal programs for special projects.

Upon creation in 1987, the District’s jurisdictional area encompassed approximately 255 square miles and was generally defined to include all the area within the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer with an extended area to the east to incorporate the service areas of the Creedmoor-Maha Water Supply Corporation, Goforth Special Utility District, and Monarch

Utilities. In this area, designated as the “Exclusive Territory”, the District has authority over all groundwater resources. In 2015, the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature (House Bill 3405) expanded the District’s jurisdictional area to include the portion of Hays County located within the boundaries of the Edwards Aquifer Authority excluding the overlapping area in the Plum Creek Conservation District (see Figure 1). The newly annexed area, designated as “Shared Territory,” excludes the Edwards Aquifer and includes all other aquifers, including the underlying Trinity. The District serves southern Travis County, central and eastern Hays County, and portions of northwestern Caldwell County. The District’s jurisdictional area including the Shared Territory encompasses approximately 420 square miles and includes both urban and rural areas.

Water from the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer serves as the primary water source for public water supply, industrial, and commercial purposes in the District and is a major source of high quality base flow to the Colorado River via discharge through the Barton Springs complex. The Barton Springs complex provides the only known habitat for the listed endangered Barton springs and Austin blind salamanders under the federal Endangered Species Act, requiring all activities that would or could adversely affect the species to represent optimal conservation efforts. The Trinity Aquifer, underlying the Edwards, is an important primary water resource in some parts of the District and is increasingly being developed as an alternative water supply to the oversubscribed Edwards Aquifer in both the Exclusive and Shared Territory. Some wells in the District also produce water from the Taylor and Austin Chalk formations as well as various alluvial deposits along river and stream banks.

A five-member Board of Directors (“Board”) governs the District. The Directors are elected in even-numbered years to staggered four-year terms from the five single-member precincts that comprise the District. As a result of legislation in 2011 and subsequent Board action in late FY 2011, director elections were moved from the May local elections date to the November general elections date. There was not a full Board of five members from September until November 4, 2014 (Election Day) in FY 2015 as Gary Franklin resigned from his Precinct 2 position in April 2014. After considering the interested candidates to fill the vacancy by appointment, the Board opted not to make an appointment in favor of letting the process of the next election determine who would replace the vacated position. That general election took place on November 4, 2014 where Blayne Stansberry was elected in a contested election Director of Precinct 2 to fill the vacancy.

In accordance with District Bylaws, the Board elects its officers for one-year terms in December of each year. The elected officers in December 2015 were Mary Stone, President; Craig Smith, Vice President; and Blayne Stansberry, Secretary. As a local political subdivision of the State of Texas, all meetings of the Board are conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, and the District’s business is subject to the Texas Public Information Act.

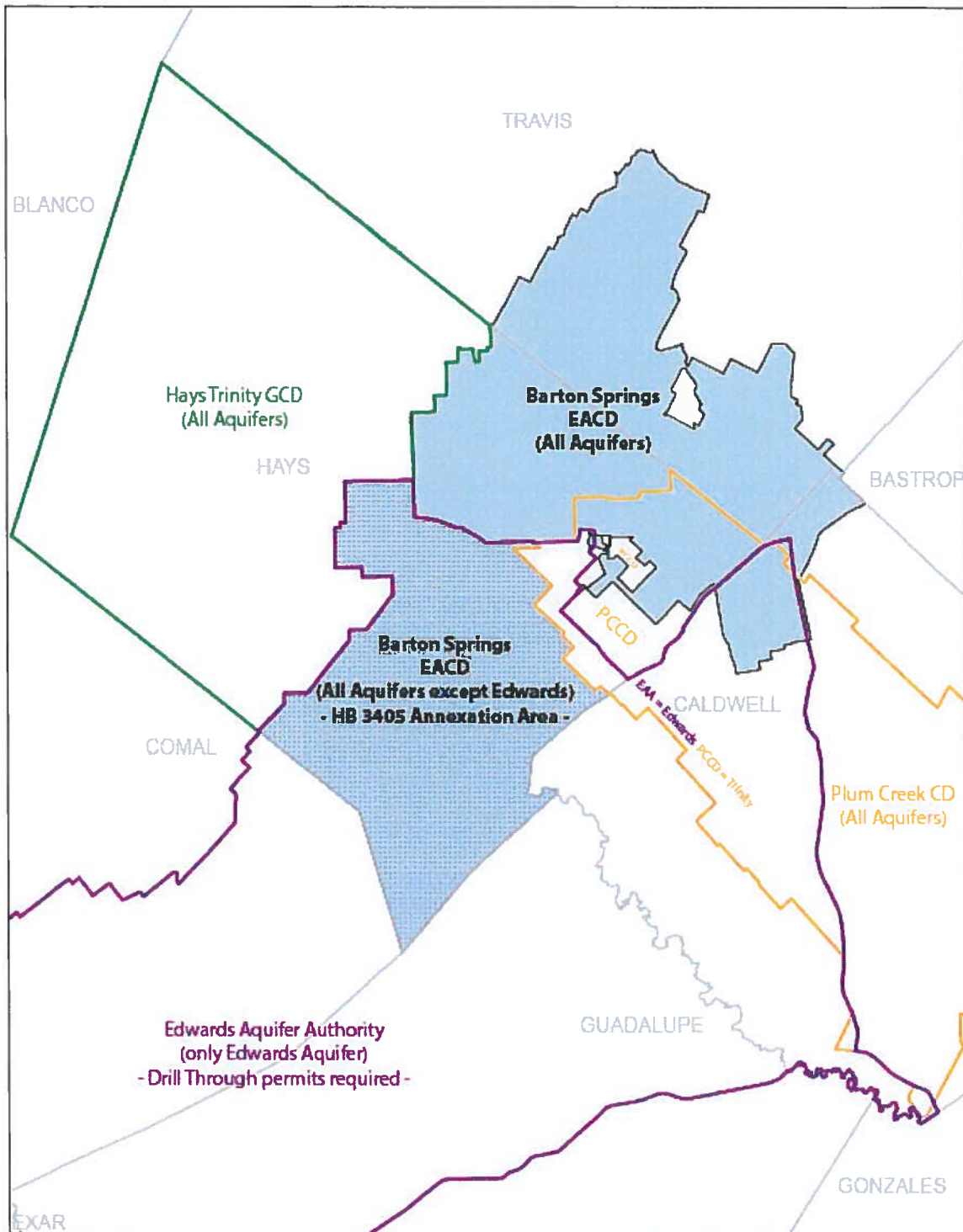


Figure 1 - The District's territory including the expanded Shared Territory and the adjacent Groundwater Conservation Districts and their respective jurisdiction over aquifers.

## 1.2 District Mission and Vision Statements

The Board of Directors of the District has assessed and articulated not only the mission of the District but also its vision and overarching strategic purpose.

The mission of the District is largely mandated by and adapted from its enabling legislation and statutes:

*“The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, as the responsible public agency and authority, is committed to conserving, protecting, recharging, and preventing waste of groundwater and to preserving all aquifers within the District.”*

The vision of the District provides a succinct statement of the ultimate, continuing goal of the District, describing the standard by which it will execute its mission:

*“The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District will excel in its operations and administration so that it is considered the model and standard for other groundwater districts.”*

The overarching strategic purpose articulates more action-oriented direction consistent with the mission and vision:

*“We will manage the District aquifers to optimize the sustainable uses of groundwater in satisfying community interests.”*

## 1.3 District Critical Success Factors

The District has established a set of continuing “critical success factors” that flow from and are generally consistent with the goals and objectives that are in the Management Plan. These critical success factors include:

- Providing sound science to support and form the basis of policy and tactical decisions made by the District that affect water supply users and endangered species habitat;
- Being highly efficient, accurate, and fair in administering staff activities related to all District programs;
- Developing and instituting an equitable and consistently administered regulatory program that is required to serve our mission;
- Becoming a respected and effective part of the state and local political landscape for water resource management and its stakeholder communities;
- Serving our permittees, stakeholders, and the public at large as a readily accessible source of first resort for reliable information about local water, groundwater, aquifer science, water use and conservation; and
- Providing the programmatic and resource basis for innovative, cost-effective solutions to augment the sustainable quantity of water in the District and to protect the quality of District waters required for various existing uses.

## **2.0 DISTRICT PROGRAM AREAS AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015**

The District continues to use successfully a team-oriented organizational structure, in which all staff members are assigned to a primary team but also support other teams as needs arise. Each staff member works under the direct supervision and direct reports to their respective team leaders who are responsible for executing team-specific responsibilities and duties. Each team leader works under the supervision and direct reports to the General Manager. All staff members ultimately report to the General Manager for administrative supervisory purposes.

This section of the report summarizes the operational teams that existed throughout FY 2015 and provides some highlights and notable achievements for each. Appendix B contains more information and details on the work undertaken by these teams in support of the various goals, objectives, and performance standards identified in the applicable 2014 District Management Plan.

### **2.1 General Management**

Mr. John Dupnik served as the District's General Manager (GM). The GM is responsible for the day-to-day business of the District, and is an *ex-officio* member of all the other teams. The GM:

- Ensures the policies and direction of the Board of Directors are implemented effectively, appropriately, and efficiently;
- Provides leadership, both inside and outside the District organization, in accomplishing the mission, vision, and goals of the District; and
- Serves as an advocate for the staff with the Board and an advocate for the Board with the staff.
- The key areas of functional responsibilities for the GM include staff management and development, programmatic planning and execution, stakeholder relationship development and cultivation, and financial administration of the District.

In FY 2015, some highlights for the Office of the GM included:

- Coordinated the conduct of all of the District's FY 2015 business within FY 2015 budget constraints with relatively few budget amendments to adjust with the evolving work load and objectives.
- Maintained a productive, efficient, and motivated staff, and providing interns to assist the regular staff in continuing scientific investigations.
- Successfully advocated during the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session in support of the District's legislative agenda and legislation that benefitted the District's mission and in opposition to legislation that harmed those objectives by providing testimony to both the House and Senate committees and coordinating with the District's legislative consultant, Sledge Law. Most notably, an extraordinary level of effort was applied to tracking and influencing HB 3405 which affected the District's jurisdictional area, funding, and regulatory powers.



- Managed an extraordinary workload involving tasks largely related to the unanticipated events leading up to annexation of the Shared Territory in Hays County and the implementation of HB 3405 passed during the 84<sup>th</sup> legislative session. Implementation of HB 3405 created additional workload through processing of the temporary permits, outreach efforts in the new area, and technical work associated with establishing a monitoring well network in certain areas of projected increases in Trinity Aquifer pumping.
- Coordinated the completion and submittal of the Habitat Conservation Plan and Incidental Take Permit application to cover permitted pumping as the covered activity under the Endangered Species Act and protect the endangered salamanders at the Barton Springs complex as the covered species. The application submittal was the culmination of more than 10 years of effort to develop a draft HCP.
- Actively participated with the Board subcommittee on negotiation of a draft agreement with TxDOT on application of the Consent Decree to the SH45 Southwest roadway project.
- After transfer of the SH45 project to the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA), coordinated with CTRMA's on roadway and stormwater BMP design through monthly meetings and initiated the technical review of the design plans.
- Participated actively in the joint groundwater planning processes of Groundwater Management Area (GMA) 9 and serving as the District Representative to GMA 10, including related interfaces with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), other GCDs in the two GMAs, and stakeholder meetings (see Appendix B, page B-51 for more detail).
- Participated actively in regional water planning group activities, including serving as the GMA 10's voting Representative to Region K, and monitoring Region L groundwater-related planning activities (see Appendix B, page B-51 for more detail). Efforts were successful in getting District-supported water supply strategies including: brackish Edwards's desalination and Edwards/Trinity ASR into the Region K Initially Prepared Plan (IPP).

## **2.2 Administrative and General Services Team**

Ms. Dana Wilson serves as the Leader of the Administrative and General Services Team, with Ms. Tammy Raymond and Ms. Shannon DeLong as team members for administrative programs support. Ms. DeLong continued to work on a three-quarter time basis throughout 2015, including telecommuting one day per week.

The Administrative Programs Team is responsible for banking, accounting, timekeeping and payroll administration, records retention and management, facilities and vehicle fleet management, personnel and human resources administration, contracts administration, director compensation and reimbursement administration, and state/federal grant administration.

In FY 2015, some highlights for the Administrative and General Services Team included:

- Maintaining the financial records to receive a clean financial audit (see Appendix A);
- Administering the director election;

- Supporting the District’s biennium legislative process; which included supporting the legislatively-mandated Hays County Annexation process that added Shared Territory, required new rules, and acquired new permittees.
- Continuing the process of electronically scanning historical hard-copy records for archival purposes;
- Supporting the revisions of various parts of the Employee Policy Manual and subpolicies;
- Supporting the continuing phases of annual office updating/remodeling; and
- Assisting the District’s information technology (IT) consultant in making improvements to the IT infrastructure and resolving various staff IT issues.

### **2.3 Aquifer Science Team**

Dr. Brian Smith, P.G., serves as the Leader of the Aquifer Science Team, which is involved in various internally- and externally-funded groundwater research and assessment programs. The team is supported by Senior Hydrogeologist Brian Hunt, P.G., Hydrogeologic Technician Justin Camp, and from time to time other staff members, including interns.

To protect and manage the groundwater resources of the District’s aquifers, the District continued an active research program that is designed to better understand the hydrogeology and hydrodynamics of aquifers in the District, and to advise the Board on policy-related decisions.

In FY 2015, some highlights for the Aquifer Science Team included:

- Developing new technical reports, giving numerous technical talks with published abstracts, publishing technical papers, and attending technical conferences including:
  - Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts Groundwater Summit
  - 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Karst (Malaga, Spain, October 2014)
  - South Central Texas Water Research Interest Group (Fredericksburg, 12/4/2014)
  - South Central Texas Water Research Interest Group (USGS Austin, 6/4/15)
  - Austin Geological Society Field Trip Guidebook (Recharge in the Edwards, 4/11/15)
  - SEPM talk (Midland, 4/14/15)
  - International Association of Hydrogeologists (Birmingham, UK, June 2015)
- Collecting hourly water-level data from about 32 wells in the Edwards and Trinity Aquifers and water-level data from the District’s two multiport monitor wells.
- Establishing about seven Trinity monitor wells and collected data regarding wells and geology in the newly annexed area of Hays County.
- Worked on developing revised aquifer test guidelines and evaluating well testing conducted in the newly annexed area of Hays County.
- Determining and documenting when the District reached drought thresholds going into drought, including keeping the District’s drought monitor blog up to date.

- Participating with Hays-Trinity GCD, Edwards Aquifer Authority, and Blanco-Pedernales GCD staff to continue to collect hydrogeologic data regarding the Trinity Aquifer (a continuation of the Hydrogeologic Atlas project).
- Performing studies with the Edwards Aquifer Authority to characterize the groundwater flow in the Blanco Watershed.
- Published a paper on the results of studies on the “Hydrologic Influences of the Blanco River on the Trinity and Edwards Aquifers, Central Texas, USA, *in* Hydrogeological and Environmental Investigations in Karst Systems, (Eds) B. Andreo, F. Carrasco, J. Duran, P. Jimenez, and J. LaMoreaux, Environmental Earth Sciences, Springer Berlin Heidelberg, Volume 1, pp 153-161.
- Participating with GMA 9 in technical discussions regarding the Trinity Hill Country DFC and the explanatory report.
- Performing studies with the Hays Trinity GCD and the City of Austin to characterize the surface and groundwater interaction in the Onion Creek watershed.
- Continuing development and data collection of a geologic database of the Edwards and Trinity Aquifers in central Texas.
- Maintaining the Antioch Cave Recharge Enhancement Project as an ongoing part of the 319(h) grant from EPA and TCEQ, and maintaining a CWQMN site on behalf of TCEQ.
- Investigating, designing and promoting a saline-zone feasibility study and pursuing funding for projects to better understand the opportunities and issues associated with utilizing brackish groundwater as an alternative new water supply for the area.
- Published a District report titled “Refining the Freshwater/Saline-Water Interface, Edwards Aquifer, Hays and Travis Counties, Texas.”
- Implementing, in cooperation with Magellan Pipeline Company, an annual sampling program related to the operation of the Longhorn Pipeline that transports crude oil. In July 2015, staff sampled about seven springs and well sites for hydrocarbon contaminants as a screening test for BTEX and TPH. Staff also worked on locations for the installation of two new monitor wells anticipated in FY 2016.
- Staff worked on the Habitat Conservation Plan and were integral to the development of the simple numerical (spreadsheet) model for the evaluation and estimation of take and jeopardy.
- Assisting Drs. Thomas Grimshaw and Mark Helper with the geologic mapping of the Mountain City Quadrangle and the scanning and geo-referencing of central Texas geologic maps.
- In cooperation with the Texas Water Development Board Aquifer Science staff sampled 30 wells and springs for major ions and isotope analyses.
- Brian Smith was reappointed by Mayor Adler to the City of Austin Environmental Commission (previously Environmental Board).

## **2.4 Education and Community Outreach Team**

Ms. Robin Havens Gary serves as the leader of the Education and Community Outreach Team. Ms. Gary, who is the District's Environmental Educator, GIS Specialist, and Public Information Coordinator, and is the primary member and team lead for the Education and Community Outreach Team in FY 2015. Ms. Gary collaborates regularly with other members of the staff, including interns, to maintain a diverse and effective Education and Outreach program.

The District continues its active, multi-dimensional educational program that emphasizes awareness of the finite and fragile aspects of the groundwater resources in the District. The District was in drought for about five months during FY 2015. The fiscal year started out in Stage II Alarm Drought. A wetter than normal winter saturated soils and allowed runoff to generate stream flow in the recharge zone creeks and replenish the aquifer. The District lifted the drought declaration in late January. In early February, the District learned about a well field just outside the District's boundary that proposed withdrawing a large amount of water for wholesale supply. Given the lack of groundwater management in the area and potential impacts to nearby District well owners, Education and Outreach efforts focused on increasing awareness of the importance coordinated management, helped establish a network of monitoring sites, and helped perform a number of water level synoptic measurements, and conveyed the scientific information to concerned parties near the well field.

The Education and Community Outreach Team constantly seeks to maintain and create new partnerships with like-minded local entities to more efficiently and effectively carry out the District's mission. Through these partnerships, staff members augment their knowledge base and are able to make a contribution to efforts that reach larger and more diverse audiences. This year staff continued partnerships with the Austin Youth River Watch, Central Texas Water Efficiency Network (CTWEN), Capital Area Master Naturalists (CAMN), COA, City of Sunset Valley, Colorado River Alliance, EAA, Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, Hill Country Alliance, Keep Austin Beautiful, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, LCRA, Save Barton Creek Association (SBCA), San Antonio River Authority, San Antonio Water System, Splash! Exhibit, Camp Fire, Texas Cave Management Association, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), TWDB, University of Texas's Bureau of Economic Geology, and University of Texas Jackson School of Geosciences.

In FY 2015, some highlights of the Education and Community Outreach Team included:

- Participating in approximately 36 outreach events (including field trips, presentations, and events) that reached approximately 3,121 adults and 35 children,
- Hosting the fourth annual Water Conservation Symposium: "Dive Deep Into Water Conservation " in collaboration with the water providers and non-profits participating in the CTWEN,
- Hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Groundwater to the Gulf Summer Institute for Educators in collaboration with other state, local, and non-profit water educators, which trained 43 teachers who in turn reach over 4,500 students annually, and

- Providing support for the 2015 Rainwater Revival event that brings rainwater harvesting system installers, suppliers, water haulers and other experts together to serve as a resource for homeowners and business owners that are interested in using rainwater as an alternate supply.

## 2.5 REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

The Regulatory Compliance Team consists of two Regulatory Compliance Coordinators who are responsible for a wide range of the District’s responsibilities including: drought management, pumpage tracking/compliance assessment, rulemaking, rule and well construction standard interpretation, permitting, enforcement, well inspections, well plugging, and drilling oversight. Regulatory Compliance Team members have also actively attended and participated in community outreach and regional development and planning groups, and served as District liaisons to local municipalities, political subdivisions, permittees, and licensed drillers and pump installers in the area.

### Highlights of the Regulatory Compliance Team in FY 2015:

- **Annexation: During the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session** state and local officials responded to requests from Hays County citizens to pass legislation to manage, conserve, preserve, and protect groundwater resources in unregulated portions of Hays County. As a result, HB 3405 became law on June 19, 2015. The new law gave the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (BSEACD) the responsibility of managing groundwater production of the Trinity Aquifer and other non-Edwards aquifers (Example: Austin Chalk Aquifer, Alluvium) in central, southern and eastern Hays County. HB 3405 established a Temporary Permit grace period (expires Sept. 19, 2015) to facilitate the permitting process for non-Edwards well owners in the new area with nonexempt wells. The District went through an immediate and very focused rulemaking process to implement a rule procedure for addressing temporary permits. Rules were adopted in July 2015.
- **Inspections & Investigations:** Staff completed 7 special investigations, 11 on site permittee visits, and 22 inspections related to well permit applications.

<b>TOTAL Inspections/ Investigations/ Onsite Visits</b>	<b>40</b>
Exempt Well Inspections	2
Limited Production Permit Inspections	7
Individual Production Permit Inspections	1
Test Well Inspections	1
Plugging Inspections	11
Special Investigation Inspections	7
Onsite Permittee Visits	11

- **Conservation Credits:** The District issued a total of \$38,190.11 in credits in FY 2015 with \$23,868.82 being issued to 26 permittees, and \$14,321.29 being issued to the City of Austin.  
  
Permittees donating credits back to the District's camp scholarship fund included Creedmoor-Maha Water Supply Corporation (\$ 416.60), Texas Lehigh Cement Company (\$ 471.97), and Centex Materials (\$ 2,951.04).
- **Enforcement:** There were no formal enforcement actions initiated in FY 2015.
- **Rulemaking:** Rulemaking was initiated in June 2015 and the Board adopted the proposed rules in July 2015. Staff is planning on initiating rulemaking in FY 2016 in response to any changes that came out of the 84<sup>th</sup> legislative session, prospective measures of the District's HCP, and areas of the rules that need more clarification. The rules focused on modifying the requirements related to Limited Production Permits (nonexempt domestic wells) and implementing Temporary Permitting procedures.
- **External Reviews, Coordination, and Outreach.** Work groups and projects involving staff participation included:
  - Regular meetings of the Regional Water Quality Protection Plan workgroup,
  - RWQPP committee on wastewater management study,
  - SH 45 SW Technical Workgroups,
  - Sunset Valley water planning, and
  - Well registration and permitting in shared territory.
- **Drought Management:** The District entered into Stage II Alarm Drought in September 2014 and downgraded from the Stage II Alarm Drought in January 2015. The District did not reenter into drought during FY 2015.

**Permitting Summary:**

Permit activity during FY 2015 included the approval of one Historic Middle Trinity well drilling authorizations (Onion Creek Golf Course) and one Historic Middle Trinity well modification (Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center). In addition, a well drilling authorization that was previously approved in FY 2014 was eventually drilled in FY 2015 (Roy Seiders). There was one Historic Middle Trinity amendment (Cornerstone HTJ), and one Freshwater Edwards Class C Conditional permit (Ladybird Montessori LLC). These are all active and are included in summary tables below.

- Onion Creek Golf Course has not yet received a production permit;
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center was issued a permit for 6,700,000 gallons/year;
- Roy Seiders was issued a Production Permit for 436,117 gallons/year;
- Cornerstone HTJ's production permit was amended to include pumpage for an additional property and the permit was increased from 490,000 gallons/year to 980,000 gallons/year and is deemed a multi-user well;
- Ladybird Montessori LCC was issued a permit for 150,000 gallon/year.

Firm-yield Historic Edwards pumpage was reduced by 12,000,000 gallons with the retirement of the Soccerfield Development (Lonestar Soccer Club) Historic Edward production permit. The retired portion was re-permitted under the General Conservation Permit which is preserved for the Ecological Flow Reserve. Nonexempt Domestic Use (NDU) permits were reclassified as Limited Production Permits (LPPs) during 2015 rulemaking; all but seven LPPs (which maintain Historic Edwards permits) are considered Edwards Class A Conditional permits and are permitted up to 500,000 gallons/year. A summary of permitting, new well, drilling and plugging is provided in the following tables:

<b>TOTAL Permit Applications in FY 2015</b>	<b>40</b>
Minor Amendment	8
Exempt Well	3
Limited Production Permit	12
Individual Production Permit	3
New Individual Well Drilling Authorizations/Modification	2
Test Well	1
Well Plugging	11

<b>Individual Permits</b>	
Total Permits Issued to Date	90
Total Individual Permitted Wells to Date	166
<b>LPP General Permits</b>	
Total Permits Issued	92
Total LPP Permitted Wells	92

<b>Well Drilling</b>	
New Nonexempt Wells	2
New LPP Wells	12
New Exempt Wells	3
<b>Total Wells Drilled</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Total Wells Modified</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Well Plugging</b>	
<b>Total Wells Plugged</b>	<b>11</b>

<b>Permitted Pumpage</b>			
<b>Edwards MZs</b>	<b>gallons</b>	<b>cfs</b>	<b>acre-feet</b>
Historical (Ind.)	2,358,987,721	10.00	7,239
Historical (LPP)	1,930,104	0.008	6
<b>Total Historical</b>	<b>2,360,917,825</b>	<b>10.01</b>	<b>7,245</b>
Conditional (Ind.)	348,834,948	1.48	1,071
Conditional (LPP)	43,000,000	0.18	132
<b>Total Conditional</b>	<b>391,834,948</b>	<b>1.66</b>	<b>1,202</b>
<b>Total Edwards</b>	<b>2,752,752,773</b>	<b>11.67</b>	<b>8,448</b>
<b>Trinity MZs</b>	<b>gallons</b>	<b>cfs</b>	<b>acre-feet</b>
Historical (Ind.)	136,641,117	0.58	419
<b>Total Permitted</b>	<b>2,889,393,890</b>	<b>12.25</b>	<b>8,867</b>

	<b>Permitted Transport</b>		
	<b>gallons</b>	<b>cfs</b>	<b>acre-feet</b>
FY 2015	0	0	0
<b>Total Permitted</b>	<b>400,000,000</b>	<b>1.70</b>	<b>1,227.55</b>

### 3.0 REQUIRED DATA AND INFORMATION

The District Bylaws and Management Plan require a number of specific items to be included in the Annual Report. This information is included in the following subsections of the Annual Report.

#### 3.1 Aquifer Status

FY 2015 started with a Stage II Alarm Drought in place following a relatively dry 2014 summer. Water levels began to rise in September of 2014 after above-average rainfall. Drought conditions were ended due to consistent fall rains. This steady recharge increased aquifer water levels as well as Barton Springs flow. The Board removed Stage II Alarm Drought, and declared No-Drought conditions on January 29, 2015.

The water level in the Lovelady monitor well has been on an upward trend continuing from mid-November 2014 to late August 2015. Extremely heavy rainfall on May 25 gave the Edwards a



boost as 5.20 inches fell on Camp Mabry providing Austin its wettest May on record. The May rain tally was 17.59 inches, topping the previous 1895 record of 14.10. Lovelady finally peaked at its maximum elevation of 522.7 ft.-msl, 5 ft. higher than the previous record peak level seen in July of 2010. The water level in Lovelady eventually turned downward on August 20, 2015, and continued a steady decline due to a lack of rain in July and August.

### **3.2 Grant Programs**

The District continued its ongoing initiatives associated with development of alternative water supplies for the District and its region throughout FY 2015. The District submitted an application to the TWDB Board for a Regional Facility Planning Grant on January 28, 2015 to assess the Saline Edwards Aquifer as a potential water supply. The District was awarded grant funding in the amount of \$240,000 to support the District's grant project. The contract with TWDB for the grant project was approved by the Board and executed on August 27, 2015.

The District has also been positioned to make application for grant funding from Rider 25 approved in the appropriations bill in the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative session (HB1) for feasibility and demonstration project for alternative water supplies available only through GCDs. This grant application and award will occur in FY 2016.

### **3.3 Professional Services**

The District expended \$131,074 for professional services in FY 2015. This amount included legal fees of \$86,021 for general counsel support provided by Bickerstaff, Heath, Delgado & Acosta LLP of Austin. These fees included involvement of the District and its attorneys in defending the District in a lawsuit brought by the City of Kyle, including negotiation of a settlement, and participation in discussions related to an appeal of the District court's decision by a putative intervener, as well as SH 45 SW, Hays County Annexation costs, and Willie Family Partnership issues.

There were no legal services associated uniquely with grant projects as grant-billable costs, as no such projects existed in FY 2015.

Additional professional services for FY 2015 also reported in the above amount include the District's third party retirement plan administrator, The Standard, for \$14,761.

The District continued to retain Mike Figer and Company, CPA, to perform its annual financial audit for FY 2014. The fees for those professional services (that were expended in FY 2015) for the FY 2014 audit was \$12,000 and are also included in the professional services total above. FY 2015 audit expenses, the fiscal year that this report covers, will not be expended until FY 2016 due to the timing of the audit. The District will be retaining a new auditor going forward.

Not included in the professional services total above, the District expended \$40,000 for the lobbying services of Sledge Fanher for the 84th Legislative Session.

These professional services do not include the contracted labor that comprises programmatic support to various team initiatives and that is budgeted as part of the individual team budgets.

### **3.4 Capital Projects**

The District completed one capital remodeling project in FY 2015 that created an interior lab for \$11,750.

### **3.5 Financial Report**

As authorized in the District Bylaws, the Board utilizes the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company (commonly referred to as “TexPool”) as a depository for its funds not required by its current operations. There are several built-in controls and safeguards in the TexPool account mechanisms. The District has established and maintains funds in several TexPool accounts to further minimize risk and to partition funds designated for certain potential uses. To facilitate payments and timely deposits, the District also maintains both checking and payroll accounts with Citibank (now transitioned to BB&T), which are FDIC-insured. Monies are moved electronically between these accounts and the TexPool accounts, generally keeping funds not required by current operations in TexPool, and therefore the cash balances in the operating bank accounts as small as prudently feasible. The District has no additional monetary investments other than its cash fund accounts.

End-of-the-year cash and account balances and an independent assessment of financial controls will be found in the Annual Audit Report, to be included here as Appendix A, upon completion of the financial audit.

### **3.6 Evaluation of District’s Long-Range Plan Pursuant To §36.1071**

#### **3.6.1 Background**

Texas Water Code §36.1071 requires all GCDs to establish and maintain a long-range comprehensive plan for groundwater management in the District. This long-range plan is a ten-year plan called the District Management Plan. The Management Plan must be reviewed, revised as necessary, readopted, and reapproved at least once each five years. Under the code provisions, all GCDs are required to assess progress quantitatively toward the objectives in their prevailing Management Plan at least annually; this assessment is summarized in the following Section 3.6.2 and elaborated in Appendix B of this Annual Report.

#### **3.6.2 Board Evaluation of Objectives and Progress Assessment**

Section 2 of this report highlighted some activities for each of the operational teams. A more comprehensive and detailed listing of the activities of the District is included in Appendix B, which was prepared by the staff to assist the Board’s evaluation of the progress made in FY 2015 toward the goals, objectives, and performance standards identified in the prevailing District Management Plan.

On November 19, 2015, the Board reviewed the information in Appendix B, discussed its conformance with the plan objectives and their subsidiary performance standards, and then took action to evaluate progress made by the District toward these strategic objectives, as specified in the metrics for each of the objectives. Following a proper motion and second, and discussion in a properly noticed Open Meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the progress

toward each and all objectives in FY 2015 as being satisfactory, and directed the staff to include a record of these actions and their basis in this Annual Report. That record and the basis for that decision-making are included as Appendix B.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Independent Annual Financial Audit Report**

(Board-approved March 24, 2016)



# Montemayor Britton Bender PC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

## **BARTON SPRINGS/ EDWARDS AQUIFER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
AND  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**AUGUST 31, 2015**

**BARTON SPRINGS/EDWARDS AQUIFER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

<b>Independent Auditor's Report</b>	<b>1-2</b>
<b>Management's Discussion and Analysis</b>	<b>3-8</b>
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<b>Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position</b>	<b>10</b>
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# Montemayor Britton Bender PC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Board of Directors  
Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservative District (District) as of and for the year ended August 31, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risk of material misstatements of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

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### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the District as of August 31, 2015, and the changes in financial position and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 3 through 8 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiring of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Montgomery Britton Bender PC

21 March 2016  
Austin, Texas



# **Barton Springs / Edwards Aquifer Conservation District**

## **Management Discussion and Analysis**

**Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 2015**

The following **Management Discussion and Analysis** narrative provides an overview and summary-level analysis of the significant activities and situations that have financial reporting consequence for the fiscal year. This information is provided in conjunction with our financial statements that follow. The percentages shown in the Management Discussion & Analysis narrative are based on the comparisons of the Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position **before** any adjusting journal entries in the current year.

### **OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Since the activities of the District are financed primarily by fees charged to external parties, such activities are reported as an enterprise fund and are considered a "business-type activity." The financial statements required for an enterprise fund are the Statement of Net Position; the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position; and the Statement of Cash Flows.

The Statement of Net Position presents the District's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net position, as of the end of the fiscal year. Over time, increases or decreases in net position are one indicator of whether the financial position of the District is improving or deteriorating.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position presents information showing the operating revenues and expenses of the District for the fiscal year, using the accrual basis of accounting. Therefore, revenues are recognized when earned, and expenses are recognized when incurred, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The Statement of Cash Flows provides information about the cash receipts and cash payments of the District during the fiscal year, summarized by operating, capital and related financing, and investing activities.

Notes to the Financial Statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the financial statements.

## CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following table presents comparative condensed financial information on assets, liabilities and net position.

### Condensed Statement of Net Position August 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Current assets	\$ 1,253,929	\$ 1,201,374	\$ 1,187,957
Capital assets	<u>357,337</u>	<u>379,273</u>	<u>407,776</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,611,266</u>	<u>\$ 1,580,647</u>	<u>\$ 1,595,733</u>
Total liabilities	<u>\$ 238,378</u>	<u>\$ 69,397</u>	<u>\$ 86,806</u>
Net position:			
Net investment in capital assets	357,337	379,273	407,776
Unrestricted	<u>1,051,551</u>	<u>1,131,977</u>	<u>1,101,151</u>
Total net position	<u>1,372,888</u>	<u>1,511,250</u>	<u>1,508,927</u>
Total liabilities and net position	<u>\$ 1,611,266</u>	<u>\$ 1,580,647</u>	<u>\$ 1,595,733</u>

The following table presents comparative condensed financial information on revenues, expenses, and changes in net position.

### Condensed Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position Years Ended August 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Operating revenues	\$ 1,395,059	\$ 1,446,465	\$ 1,413,444
Operating expenses	<u>1,483,752</u>	<u>1,444,631</u>	<u>1,405,976</u>
Operating income	<u>(88,693)</u>	<u>1,834</u>	<u>7,468</u>
Non-operating revenues (expenses)			
Interest income	594	489	1,351
Interest expense	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total non-operating rev/(exp)	<u>594</u>	<u>489</u>	<u>1,351</u>
Change in net position	<u>(88,099)</u>	<u>2,323</u>	<u>8,819</u>
Beginning net position (restated 2015)	<u>\$ 1,460,987</u>	<u>\$ 1,508,927</u>	<u>1,500,108</u>
Net position end of year	<u>\$ 1,372,888</u>	<u>\$ 1,511,250</u>	<u>\$ 1,508,927</u>

## **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS OF CHANGES IN OPERATING REVENUES**

The discussion that follows is based on FY 2015 preliminary financial reports before adjustments and reclassifications in the audit process.

Permittees' Production Fees and Annual Permit fees, Transport (export) fees, and City of Austin Water Use fees, decreased by \$26,139 in FY 2015 from the prior year to \$1,383,960 from \$1,410,100 (a small 1.9% decrease). This revenue was close to what was budgeted for FY 2015 (\$1,402,217), with the shortfall primarily reflecting conservation credits awarded for FY 2015 (\$38,188). Included in these revenues are transport permit fees. There continue to be two District transport permits that generate \$124,000 in transport fees revenue in both FY 2015 and FY 2014.

There was no revenue associated with Grants in FY 2015 or in FY 2014.

All "Other Fees" revenue (derived from variable sources such as well development fees, well application and inspection fees, and drought management fees) was initially projected and budgeted to be \$4,000 but was actually \$10,114 for FY 2015. Of that actual FY 2015 revenue (\$10,114), well development applications and inspection fees generated \$7,950 as compared to \$5,475 in FY 2014; meter reading and plugging application fees generated \$875 as compared to \$1,050 in FY 2014; late fees generated \$289 as compared to \$82 in FY 2014; and Drought Management Fees generated \$1,000 in FY 2015 as compared to \$0 for FY 2014.

Drought management fees are assessed for permittee noncompliance only during a District-declared drought of three months or longer. The District was in declared drought starting in September 2014 and lasting through January 2015, when the District declared a no-drought condition. This period of time was of sufficient duration to assess drought management fees, however, there was no occurrence of compliance triggering fees so none were assessed.

There was no fee income from Enforcement Fines and Penalties in FY 2015 or FY 2014.

Interest income in FY 2015 as expected continues to be minimal. Actual interest income received for FY 2015 is \$594 as compared to \$489 in FY 2014.

## **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS OF CHANGES IN OPERATING EXPENSES**

The discussion that follows is based on FY 2015 preliminary financial reports before adjustments and reclassifications in the audit process.

Expenses for personnel salaries and wages for FY 2015 is \$723,396, which is \$26,917 more than the previous year's expense of \$696,479 (a 3.9% increase). The higher salaries in FY 2015 were a result of planned staffing and salary adjustments.

Actual expenses for staff payroll taxes and retirement benefit-related for FY 2015 are \$112,895, which is more than the previous year's expense of \$107,320 (a 5.2% increase). (This account includes an accrued vacation expense that fluctuates from month to month.) Actual expenses for group insurance benefits in FY 2015 is \$107,986, which is more than last year's expense of \$103,431 (a 4.4% increase).

Actual expense for directors' compensation for meetings in FY 2015 is \$39,515 which is less than the FY 2014 actual expenses of \$39,700 (a 0.5% decrease), and represents 87.8% of the

amount budgeted. This account was almost maximized even though the Board was down one director from April through August 2014. This is due to the statutory increase in the daily cap on director's compensation from \$200 per day maximum allowed to \$250 per day maximum allowed, and the subsequent increase in meeting rates approved by the Board on July, 25, 2014. The rates were increased from \$100 to \$200 for regular meetings and from \$75 to \$100 for other meetings. In this category, the statutory maximum annual amount, which was not increased, of \$9,000 per director per fiscal year, is always budgeted at the full amount of \$45,000 for the five directors.

Direct expenses associated with the ongoing work of the various programmatic teams (Aquifer Science, Education and Outreach, and Regulatory Compliance) are not meaningfully comparable on a year-on-year basis, because the work programs of each vary and also cross over fiscal years. These teams' efforts were judged by the Board to have made sufficient progress towards achieving the District's 2015 Management Plan objectives (Appendix B of the draft Annual Report) and within their budget and schedule constraints, which are the more important management measures.

Since the District holds elections no more often than every two years (in odd-numbered fiscal years, if and when election contests warrant), the Elections account typically shows large percentage differences from year to year. Similarly, expenses for legislative services tend to be biennial with the Texas Legislative Regular Sessions in odd-numbered fiscal years. So year-on-year expense can vary as much as 100%.

The majority of election expenses are incurred in the odd-numbered fiscal years building up to November elections in even-numbered calendar years. In FY 2013, election expenses totaled \$26,492. Similar to FY 2013, the majority of the 2014 election expenses were incurred in FY 2015. The total election expenses incurred in FY 2015 were \$15,277 which was \$14,481 more than the previous election fiscal year's expense in FY 2014 of \$796.

In FY 2015, there were expenses related to legislative lobbying in the amount of \$40,000, which was 100% of the budgeted amount. In FY 2014, there were \$0 legislative-related expenses, as the Legislature was not in session that year.

In FY 2015, Actual Professional Services expenses (excluding legal expense characterized below) barely increased to \$29,776 as compared to \$29,047 in FY 2014. Other professional services are team-specific and are included in team budgets as contracted support expenses.

Legal Services expense In FY 2015 is \$86,021 which was more than the previous year's expense of \$49,453 (a 74% increase). This increase was due to addressing State Highway 45 Southwest, Attorney General Opinions, and an extraordinary level of additional legal services required for new legislation and annexation related issues. This expense account only includes continuing or planned legal representation and does not include more variable legislative services, which are characterized above.

Several expense accounts or sub-accounts showing large percentage changes reflect small dollar amounts in one or both years leading to relatively large proportional changes.

## **KEY FACTORS INFLUENCING CAPITAL ASSETS**

Capital assets subject to depreciation include building, vehicles, and equipment with an original cost that is greater than \$5,000 and with a life exceeding one year. Land is not depreciated.

In FY 2015, there was one capital improvement project initiated and completed for \$11,750. This was an interior remodeling project to reconfigure and modernize part of the office into a laboratory. This project will account for the change in capital assets, net of their depreciation.

## **KEY FACTORS INFLUENCING CHANGES IN CASH FUNDS**

The available cash funds (two BB&T accounts and one TexPool General account, excluding the contingency, and reserve funds) at the end of FY 2015 totaled \$475,477, which is \$54,270 more than the prior year's total of \$421,207. Differences in these funds are mostly attributable to the timing of receipts of water use fee payments from permittees and the City of Austin and their resulting deposits.

In FY 2015, the District transferred \$295,000 from its TexPool accounts in order to balance the budget for four separate issues: 1) \$160,000 for a Westbay monitoring well installation; 2) \$31,600 to cover expense adjustments associated with Budget Revision 1; and 3) \$63,450 to cover expense adjustments associated with Budget Revision 2. The Westbay well was not installed in FY 2014 so the \$160,000 budgeted and not expended remained in the TexPool General account and was rebudgeted in the FY 2016 initial annual budget to be available for anticipated project start up in FY 2016. The District also transferred \$5,000 from its General operating account back into the TexPool Contingency account in response to the annual Board directive to contribute this amount to the Contingency account. The Contingency account transfer was made at the outset of the fiscal year as routinely scheduled each year. This practice serves no practical budgeting purpose therefore it has been discontinued.

## **ANTICIPATED CHANGES**

The following events affecting the revenue, cost, and financial management have not occurred yet or have not yet substantially impacted the financial performance of the District, but are expected to occur and be potentially significant to financial performance and/or condition in FY 2016:

- A transfer of \$160,000 from the TexPool General account will be made at the beginning of FY 2016 not into the Aquifer Science Team budget as was in FY 2015 but in a separate budget category "Grant Expenses and Special Projects Expenses" in anticipation of installing a third Westbay well which is part of a TWDB grant that was awarded and under contract in FY 2015.
- The District submitted an application to the TWDB Board for a Regional Facility Planning Grant on January 28, 2015 to assess the Saline Edwards Aquifer as a potential water supply. The District was awarded grant funding in the amount of \$240,000 to support the District's grant project. The contract with TWDB for the grant project was approved by the Board and executed on August 27, 2015.
- An application was made in early FY 2016 to the TWDB for additional matching grant funding to support studies to assess the feasibility of Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) as a water supply strategy (Rider 25 grant), however, the grant funds were not awarded.
- The onset of Drought conditions in the beginning of FY 2016 may generate additional revenues from the assessment of drought management fees or drought enforcement penalties; however, such revenues are not budgeted sources of income and elevated

aquifer conditions at the end of FY 2015 make the prospect of a drought declaration in FY 2016 unlikely.

- Additional remodeling and upgrades to accommodate additional staff and enhance the functionality of the existing District office and facilities.
- **Annexation:** During the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session in 2015, state and local officials responded to requests from Hays County citizens to pass legislation to manage, conserve, preserve, and protect groundwater resources in unregulated portions of Hays County adjacent to and south of the District's jurisdictional area. As a result, HB 3405 became law on June 19, 2015. The new law gave the District the authority and responsibility for managing groundwater production of the Trinity Aquifer and other non-Edwards aquifers (example: Austin Chalk Aquifer, Alluvium) in new annexed area. HB 3405 established a Temporary Permit process to allow existing wells to be transitioned into a permit without interruption. Anticipated expenses associated with the annexation include:
  - additional staff and technical contracted support to accommodate the extraordinary workload associated with implementation of HB 3405;
  - legal expenses associated with redistricting to redraw and expand the three non-Austin precincts into the new annexed area;
  - legal expenses associated with a contested election in the redrawn Director precincts;
  - legal expenses associated with contested cases on new permits in the recently annexed shared territory; and
  - legal expenses associated with legal challenges arising from implementation of HB 3405.
- Larger amounts of contractual funding associated with various technical and legal professional services, including:
  - technical and consulting services to be responsive to comments received by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and during the public review process on the District's submitted draft HCP and ITP application and to support completion of the draft EIS;
  - technical services on prospective special projects including: regional wastewater management; desal or ASR pilot projects; continued aquifer characterization; or development of an extension of Groundwater Availability Model for the Hill Country Trinity Aquifer;
  - technical service associated with prospective HCP mitigation measures;
  - engineering services associated with monitoring and review of major roadway projects including SH45 SW; and
  - engineering and technical services associated with modeling and assessment of prospective Trinity Aquifer pumping in the recently annexed area (the "shared territory").

**BARTON SPRINGS/EDWARDS AQUIFER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION PROPRIETARY FUND**

**AUGUST 31, 2015**

**ASSETS**

**Current assets**

Cash	\$135,419
Short-term investments	1,116,394
Other	<u>2,116</u>
	<u>1,253,929</u>

**Noncurrent Assets**

Land	165,415
Depreciable capital assets, net	<u>191,922</u>
	<u>357,337</u>
	<u>\$1,611,266</u>

**LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION**

**LIABILITIES**

**Current liabilities**

Accounts payable	\$17,782
Conservation credits	38,190
Accrued payroll	93,961
Deferred revenue	<u>88,445</u>
	<u>238,378</u>

**NET POSITION**

Net investment in capital assets	357,337
Unrestricted	<u>1,015,551</u>
	<u>1,372,888</u>
	<u>\$1,611,266</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement presentation.

# BARTON SPRINGS/EDWARDS AQUIFER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN FUND NET POSITION

YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2015

	<u>Proprietary Fund</u>
OPERATING REVENUE	
Water permits and fees	\$1,394,074
Other	<u>1,579</u>
	<u>1,395,653</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Personnel and related	983,792
Legal	86,021
Habitat Conservation Plan projects	50,018
Legislation	40,000
Aquifer science	35,043
Depreciation	33,037
Professional services	29,776
General management contracted support	27,799
Utilities	23,285
Maintenance	22,185
Groundwater Management Areas joint planning	20,056
Computer expenses	19,295
Election expense	15,277
Education and outreach	15,316
Office	15,192
Other	<u>67,660</u>
	<u>1,483,752</u>
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	<u>(88,099)</u>
BEGINNING NET POSITION, as previously reported	1,511,250
Prior period adjustment	<u>(50,263)</u>
BEGINNING NET POSITION, as restated	<u>1,460,987</u>
ENDING NET POSITION	<u>\$1,372,888</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement presentation.



**BARTON SPRINGS/EDWARDS AQUIFER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**PROPRIETARY FUND STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

**YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2015**

**CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

Receipts from water permit and other use fees	\$1,491,409
Other cash receipts	1,579
Payments to employees for services	(978,100)
Payments to suppliers for goods and services	<u>(444,149)</u>
	<u>70,739</u>

**CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES**

Purchase of investments	(74,004)
Purchase of fixed assets	<u>(11,101)</u>
	<u>(85,105)</u>

**NET CHANGE IN CASH**

(14,366)

**BEGINNING CASH**

149,785

**ENDING CASH**

\$135,419

**Reconciliation of operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:**

Operating income	(\$88,099)
Depreciation	33,037
Change in prepaid expense	7,083
Change in accrued payroll liabilities	6,274
Change in accounts payable	15,109
Change in deferred revenue	88,215
Change in conservation credits	<u>9,120</u>
	<u>\$70,739</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement presentation.

# **BARTON SPRINGS/EDWARDS AQUIFER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

## **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **NOTE 1: ORGANIZATION**

The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (District) is a Groundwater Conservation District created in 1986 by the Texas Water Commission, validated in 1987 by the 70th Legislature of the State of Texas (Senate Bill 988), and confirmed by the voters on August 8, 1987. As a Groundwater Conservation District, the District's statutory purpose and adopted mission is to conserve, preserve, protect, enhance recharge, and prevent waste of groundwater and preserving all aquifers within the District.

Upon creation, the District's jurisdictional area encompassed approximately 255 square miles and was generally defined to include all the area within the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer with an extended utility service area to the east. In 2015, the 84th Texas Legislature (House Bill 3405) expanded the District's jurisdictional area to include the portion of Hays County located within the boundaries of the Edwards Aquifer Authority excluding the overlapping area in the Plum Creek Conservation District. The newly annexed area, designated as "Shared Territory," excludes the Edwards Aquifer and includes all other aquifers, including the underlying Trinity. The District's jurisdictional area now encompasses approximately 420 square miles and includes both urban and rural areas in southern Travis County, central and eastern Hays County, and portions of northwestern Caldwell County.

The District's statutory authority is derived primarily from the enabling legislation creating the District, Senate Bill 988, 70th RS, now codified at Special District Local Laws Code Chapter 8802, and Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code. The enabling legislation creating the District provides that the District may assess fees "on an annual basis, based on the size of column pipe used in the wells, the production capacity of the well, or actual, authorized, or anticipated pumpage." The House Bill 2294 in the 74th Legislative Session further provided that the City of Austin can be required to pay a water use fee not exceeding 60% of the sum of (1) the total production fees received from all permitted users, and (2) the water use fee of the City of Austin. House Bill 3405 further amended the District's enabling legislation by setting limits on the total annual water use fee assessed to the City of Austin.

The financial statements of the District are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (Statements and Interpretations). Governments are also required to follow the pronouncements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued through November 30, 1989 (when applicable) that do not conflict or contradict GASB pronouncements. Although the District has the option to apply FASB pronouncements issued after that date, the District has chosen not to do so. The more significant accounting policies established in GAAP and used by the District are discussed below.

# BARTON SPRINGS/EDWARDS AQUIFER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### REPORTING ENTITY

These financial statements present the operations of the District alone, and include no component units. As defined by GASB Statement No. 14 the *Financial Reporting Entity*, and GASB Statement No. 39, *an Amendment to Statement No. 14*, component units are legally separate entities that would be included in the Districts reporting entity because of the significance of their operating or financial relationships with the District. Based on the specific criteria in the Statement, the District has no component units and is not a component unit of any other reporting entity as defined by the Statement.

#### GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Basic financial statements of a governmental entity normally include both government-wide and fund financial statements. However, because the District only has one fund, only fund financial statements are presented.

The District's operations are accounted for in the proprietary fund type called an enterprise fund. Enterprise funds are required to be used to account for business-type operations for which a fee is charged to external users for goods or services. The focus of proprietary fund measurement is upon determination of operating income, changes in net position, financial position, and cash flows.

#### MEASUREMENT FOCUS AND BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The District's business-type activities are presented on the accrual basis of accounting. Fees and charges and other exchange revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

#### CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets purchased or acquired with an original cost of \$5,000 or more are reported at historical cost or estimated historical cost. Additions, improvements and other capital outlays that significantly extend the useful life of an asset are capitalized. Other costs incurred for repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred. Depreciation on all assets is provided on the straight-line basis over the following estimated useful lives:

Buildings and improvements	25-30 years
Office furniture and equipment	3-10 years
Field equipment	5-7 years
Vehicles	5 years

# **BARTON SPRINGS/EDWARDS AQUIFER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

## **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### **COMPENSATED ABSENCES**

The District accrues accumulated unpaid vacation leave and associated employee-related costs when earned by the employee.

#### **DEFERRED REVENUE**

Deferred revenue consists of water permit fees received in the current fiscal year which are applicable to the succeeding fiscal year. These fees will be recognized as revenue in the fiscal year to which they apply.

#### **OPERATING REVENUE AND EXPENSES**

The District proprietary fund type distinguishes between operating and nonoperating revenues and expenses. Operating revenues and expenses consist of charges for services (consisting of fees assessed for permittees' permitted pumpage) and the costs of providing those services, including depreciation. All other revenues and expenses are reported as nonoperating. There were no significant nonoperating revenues or expenses during the year.

#### **NET POSITION**

Net position represents the difference between assets and liabilities. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used for the acquisition, construction or improvements of those assets.

#### **ESTIMATES**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### **NOTE 3: DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS**

At August 31, 2015, the carrying amount of the District's cash deposits was \$135,419, and the bank balance was \$59,807. Short-term investments of \$1,116,394 are invested with TexPool. The carrying value of these deposits and investments approximates fair value.

# BARTON SPRINGS/EDWARDS AQUIFER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### **NOTE 3: DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS**

Chapter 2256 of the Texas Government Code (the Public Funds Investment Act) authorizes the District to invest its funds in a manner that primarily emphasizes safety of principal and liquidity, addresses investment diversification, yield, and maturity and addresses the quality and capability of investment personnel.

TexPool is a local government investment pool. These investments are carried at amortized cost, which approximates fair value. The State Comptroller oversees TexPool, with Federated Investors managing the daily operations of the pool under a contract with the State Comptroller. TexPool is a 2(a)7 like fund, which means that it is structured similar to a money market mutual fund. It allows shareholders the ability to deposit or withdraw funds on a daily basis. Such funds seek to maintain a constant net asset value of \$1.00, although this cannot be fully guaranteed. TexPool is rated AAAm (the highest rating a local government investment pool can achieve) and must maintain a dollar weighted average maturity not to exceed 60 days, which is the limit. At August 31, 2015, the TexPool portfolio had a weighted average maturity of 41 days. However, the District considers the holdings in this fund to have a one day weighted average maturity because the share position can usually be redeemed each day at the discretion of the shareholder, unless there has been a significant change in value.

The District has adopted an investment strategy to pursue limited investment risk, the objectives of which are safety of principal, maintenance of adequate liquidity, maximization of return on investments and maintain public trust from prudent investment activities. The District is authorized to invest in its depository accounts with banks or invest in TexPool. During the year, the District complied with its investment policy.

### **NOTE 4: RISK MANAGEMENT**

The District is exposed to various risks of loss including general liability, property damage, and worker's compensation. The District insures against risk through commercial insurance.

### **NOTE 5: CONSERVATION CREDITS**

The District supports and encourages a permittee's efforts to conserve water and to reduce annual pumpage as a result of conservation efforts by providing a credit to the permittee's account for the ensuing fiscal year. To be eligible for the credit, the permittee's reported pumpage volume must be less than the maximum amount pumped on an annual basis in the last three fiscal years, and the permittee must meet other requirements regarding submission of timely payments and meter readings. Conservation credits awarded for fiscal year ending August 31, 2015 amounted to \$38,190.

**BARTON SPRINGS/EDWARDS AQUIFER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 6: RETIREMENT PLAN**

Effective, September 1, 1991, the District's Board of Directors established a defined benefit contribution retirement plan, which is a money purchase pension plan and trust, known as the Barton Springs/ Edwards Aquifer Conservation District Retirement Plan and Trust (the Plan). The Plan is administered by Standard Retirement Services, Inc. and provides retirement benefits for all full-time employees who are at least twenty-one years of age and have twelve months of service.

The administrator separately accounts for each employee participant's interest in individual accounts, and investments are participant directed. The required employee contribution rate is 7.5% and is matched by the District in the same amount. Upon entry to the Plan, employee's are 50% vested in the District's contributions. After two years of service, eligible employees become 100% vested. Forfeitures are allocated first to pay Plan administrative expenses, then used to reduce employer contributions. For fiscal year ended August 31, 2015 the District's contribution to the Plan were \$52,929.

**NOTE 7: CAPITAL ASSETS**

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Increases</u>	<u>Decreases</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Capital assets not depreciated:				
Land	\$165,415	\$0	\$0	\$165,415
Depreciable assets:				
Building and improvements	257,488	11,100	0	268,588
Office furniture and equipment	33,253	0	0	33,253
Field equipment	376,488	0	0	376,488
Vehicles	78,339	0	0	78,339
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(531,709)</u>	<u>(33,037)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(564,746)</u>
	<u>\$379,274</u>	<u>(\$21,937)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$357,337</u>

**NOTE 8: PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT**

Accrued payroll in the statement of activities was understated by \$50,263 as of August 31, 2014, which resulted in net position being overstated by the same amount. A prior period adjustment has been recorded to correct the beginning unrestricted net position. The effect of this adjustment on the change in net position for the year ended August 31, 2014 was not material.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Assessment of Progress toward Management Plan Objectives**

(Board-approved November 19, 2015)

## Record of Board Assessment of District Objectives (November 19, 2015)

Objective	Board Motion (Vote)	Mover	Second
<b>Objective 1.</b> Assure the long-term sustainability of the District to carry out its mission as a GCD with excellence.	<b>Progress was satisfactory 5-0</b>	<b>Craig Smith</b>	<b>Bob Larsen</b>
<b>Objective 2.</b> Promulgate a fair and efficient regulatory program.	<b>Progress was satisfactory 5-0</b>	<b>Craig Smith</b>	<b>Bob Larsen</b>
<b>Objective 3.</b> Develop and implement an effective drought management program that achieves the adopted Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) of each relevant aquifer in the District.	<b>Progress was satisfactory 5-0</b>	<b>Craig Smith</b>	<b>Bob Larsen</b>
<b>Objective 4.</b> Demonstrate leadership in external communication, collaboration, coordination and joint planning with respect to groundwater and related resources.	<b>Progress was satisfactory 5-0</b>	<b>Craig Smith</b>	<b>Bob Larsen</b>
<b>Objective 5.</b> Extend current groundwater supplies by encouraging supply-side and demand-side improvements.	<b>Progress was satisfactory 5-0</b>	<b>Craig Smith</b>	<b>Bob Larsen</b>
<b>Objective 6.</b> Increase understanding of all District aquifers so that appropriate policy and regulatory decisions are made.	<b>Progress was satisfactory 5-0</b>	<b>Craig Smith</b>	<b>Bob Larsen</b>



## Staff Assessment of Performance Standards and Metrics

Met	Partially Met	Not Met
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Performance Standards	Metrics Met*	Staff Score
<b>Objective 1</b>		
PS 1-1: Hire, equip, train, evaluate, and motivate appropriate staff to achieve the District’s mission within budgetary constraints.	<b>3 of 3</b>	
PS 1-2: Align District plans, policies and programs with the District’s mission and vision, and regularly review and revise them, as warranted, to respond to changing circumstances that affect their need, effectiveness or implementation.	<b>3 of 3</b>	
PS 1-3: Ensure the District has the near-term and long-term financial basis and contractual wherewithal to support its mission.	<b>4 of 4</b>	
PS 1-4: Provide efficient administrative support and infrastructure, such that District operations are executed reliably and accurately, meet staff and local stakeholder needs, and conform to District policies and with federal and state requirements.	<b>2 of 2</b>	
PS 1-5: Provide mechanisms to align District <i>Rules</i> , policies, and programs with the will of its collective and precinct-level constituencies, within the constraints of statutes governing the District.	<b>3 of 3</b>	
PS 1-6: Provide leadership in promoting legislation and regulations that benefit the protection of the District’s groundwater resources and opposing legislation and regulations that harm those resources.	<b>2 of 2</b>	
<b>Objective 2</b>		
PS 2-1: Review and modify the <i>Rules</i> as warranted to provide and maintain a sound statutory basis for continued District operations and to ensure consistency with both District authority and programmatic needs.	<b>1 of 1</b>	
PS 2-2: Process and review all well registrations, permit renewals, and applications for permits, permit amendments, and authorizations in accordance with the <i>Rules, Well Construction Standards</i> , and other District	<b>1 of 1</b>	

guidelines in accordance within specified procedural timeframes.		
PS 2-3: Monitor existing District wells for compliance with the <i>Rules</i> , and <i>Well Construction Standards</i> .	<b>3 of 3</b>	
P-S 2-4: Efficiently process permittee meter readings, water use fee invoices and payments, conservation credits, permit renewals and related communications.	<b>1 of 1</b>	
<b>Objective 3</b>		
PS 3-1: Assist permittees in developing drought and conservation planning strategies, permit conversion strategies, pricing strategies, and enforce compliance with drought management rules during District-declared drought to achieve DFCs during extreme drought.	<b>1 of 1</b>	
PS 3-2: Monitor and declare drought stages on the basis of the analysis of data from the District's defined drought triggers and in accordance with the adopted drought trigger methodology.	<b>1 of 1</b>	
PS 3-3: Inform and educate permittees and the public about declared drought stages and the severity of drought, and encourage practices and behaviors to reduce water use.	<b>2 of 2</b>	
<b>Objective 4</b>		
PS 4-1: Cultivate and communicate effectively and routinely with stakeholders of all types that affect and are affected by the District's programs and policies.	<b>1 of 1</b>	
PS 4-2: Collaborate with joint Groundwater Management Area (GMA) and regional water planning efforts on policies, regulations, and activities affecting water quality or desired future conditions of the aquifers managed by the District.	<b>1 of 1</b>	
PS 4-3: Provide technical assistance as warranted to federal, state and local entities; organizations; and individuals on the geology, hydrogeology, and karst features impacted by groundwater-utilizing land use activities.	<b>1 of 1</b>	
PS 4-4: Through education and public outreach, inform groundwater users and the general public of the connectivity of recharge and discharge, importance of water quality protection, and the relationship between surface water and groundwater.	<b>4 of 4</b>	
PS 4-5: Prepare, submit, and maintain a draft and final Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and provide support of related National Environmental Policy Act documentation and processes for obtaining an Incidental Take Permit from	<b>3 of 3</b>	

the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) for the endangered species at Barton Springs.		
<b>Objective 5</b>		
PS 5-1: On at least a bi-annual basis, assess the availability and feasibility of regional alternative water supplies and encourage District permittees to diversify their water supplies by fostering arrangements with available water suppliers.	<b>1 of 1</b>	
PS 5-2: Conduct investigations and, as warranted and feasible, physically alter discrete recharge features that will lead to an increase in recharge to the Edwards Aquifer.	<b>3 of 3</b>	
PS 5-3: Conduct investigations, as warranted and feasible, to evaluate the potential for the saline zone of the Edwards Aquifer to provide water for a desalination facility, and to evaluate the potential for the Edwards saline zone and the Trinity aquifers beneath the freshwater Edwards as reservoirs for an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) system.	<b>2 of 2</b>	
PS 5-4: Maintain and develop programs that inform and educate District groundwater users and area residents of all ages about water conservation practices and resources and use of alternate water sources including gray water/condensate reuse and rainwater harvesting.	<b>1 of 1</b>	
<b>Objective 6</b>		
PS 6-1: Assess aquifer conditions by sampling and collecting groundwater data from selected wells.	<b>1 of 1</b>	
PS 6-2: Conduct scientific studies to better determine groundwater availability, to understand and prevent threats to water quality, to minimize impacts to water-supply wells and springs, and to provide sound science on which to base District policy.	<b>2 of 2</b>	

\* refers to the number of metrics completely satisfied relative to the number of currently applicable metrics for each performance standard.

# Objectives with Performance Standards, Metrics Scoring, and Example Activities

Teams	General Management	General Services	Education & Outreach	Aquifer Science	Reg. Compliance
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## Objective 1 – Assure the long-term sustainability of the District to carry out its mission as a GCD with excellence.

Note: The ‘example activities’ for directors and staff listed below are intended by the Management Plan and therefore in this annual assessment to be only illustrative ones for this Objective and Performance Standard, and should not be construed as restrictive or mandatory in each or any one year. In addition, all are subject to the Board’s actions indicating the District’s current intent as to their scope and their priority with respect to other activities.

General Management					
<b>Performance Standard 1-1:</b>	Hire, equip, train, evaluate, and motivate appropriate staff to achieve the District’s mission within budgetary constraints.				
Metric	Frequency	Score	Documentation		
1. Overall score of General Manager’s annual performance review for fiscal year	Annual	Met satisfactory review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GM annual performance review on file</li> <li>Reports of unresolved issues referenced to Board on file, if applicable.</li> </ul>		
2. Number of instances of unresolved issues referred to the Board	Annual	Met 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calculated annual turnover rate on file</li> <li>Annual FY Budgets on website and file</li> <li>Staff performance evaluations and salary adjustments on file</li> </ul>		
3. Staff turnover rate net of reductions-in-force	Annual	Met 10% Reduction			
Example Board-Level Activities			Example Staff-Level Activities		
a. Hire, evaluate, and fairly compensate an effective General Manager.	a. Assign and supervise staff in roles that utilize their strengths and promote teamwork.				
b. Address appropriately unresolved personnel issues between the General Manager and staff members, or upon request by the General Manager.	b. Evaluate staff performance regularly and constructively.				
c. Budget sufficient funds for salaries, wages, and benefits that will attract and maintain a staff that is sufficient to carry out the District’s mission according to the prevailing <i>Management Plan</i> .	c. Develop and administer a staff compensation program that equitably rewards individual and team performance that advances the mission of the District.				
d. Communicate perceived concerns about staff performance issues and other personnel matters to the General Manager.	d. Provide opportunities for staff training and professional development.				
	e. Maintain and improve staff morale and commitment to their job and the District.				

**General Management**

**Performance Standard 1-2:**

Align District plans, policies and programs with the District’s mission and vision, and regularly review and revise them, as warranted, to respond to changing circumstances that affect their need, effectiveness or implementation.

Metric	Frequency	Score	Documentation
1. Satisfactory progress toward or timely completion of revisions to the District’s <i>Management Plan</i> that are approved by TWDB	Every 5-years or as needed	Met MP completed in 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director job descriptions on file</li> <li>• District strategic plan on file</li> <li>• Approved Management Plan on file</li> <li>• Current Rules and Bylaws on website and file</li> <li>• Roster of PAC</li> <li>• Agendas of PAC Meetings</li> <li>• Minutes approving annual budget</li> <li>• Resolution approving annual Fee Schedule</li> <li>• Contingency &amp; Risk Management Plan on file</li> </ul>
2. Establish a Contingency and Risk Management Plan and update it within one year of each <i>Management Plan’s</i> approval, at least once every two years thereafter	Biannual (Due: Jan, 2014)	Met Through HCP contingency response commitments	
3. Timely budgeting and amendments	Annual	Met	

**Example Board-Level Activities**

- a. Develop and be guided by a “Director Job Description” that sets forth the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of a District Director.
- b. Participate in development and updating of District strategic planning initiatives between approved revisions of management plans, including risk management and contingency planning.
- c. Participate in developing and updating and then approve District *Management Plan*, and *Rules & Bylaws*.
- d. Provide liaison to staff concerning policy-level guidance and requests of individual staff through the General Manager.
- e. Establish and effectively utilize standing and *ad hoc* public advisory groups.

**Example Staff-Level Activities**

- a. Participate in development and updating of District strategic planning initiatives between approved revisions of management plans, at Board’s discretion and direction.
- b. Participate in developing recommendations as to approaches and content of the District’s *Management Plan* and *Rules & Bylaws*, and their revisions and amendments.
- c. Provide liaison between Board policy-level guidance/requests and staff direction.
- d. Help identify and recruit members of standing and *ad hoc* public advisory groups and administer their use.
- e. Provide quality assurance of District work product and deliverables.
- f. Establish and maintain a continuous improvement ethos and program.



**General Services**

**Performance Standard 1-3:** Ensure the District has the near-term and long-term financial basis and contractual wherewithal to support its mission.

**Lead Team:** General Services

Metric	Frequency	Score	Documentation
1. A clean financial audit report each year; and	Annual	<b>Met</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of Final Audit Report that is presented to the Board.</li> </ul>
2. Absence of vendor problems and contractual disputes	Annual, if applicable	<b>Met</b> <b>None</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes of the meeting where the audit was presented (audio also being available).</li> <li>• Copies of grant submissions; grant invoicing and quarterly reports if there is a current grant in progress.</li> </ul>
3. Amount of activity concerning grant proposals and projects	Annual, if applicable	<b>Met</b> <b>1 grant application</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of PFIA certificate.</li> <li>• Proof of audit submission (transmittal letters) to TPRB and TCEQ annually (they send receipt letters). TPRB within 210 days after end of FY, and TCEQ within 135 days after end of FY.</li> </ul>
4. Biannual receipt of official Public Funds Investment Act (PFIA) certificate for completing required training	Bi-Annual "Within each 2-year period after the first year"	<b>Met</b> <b>Completed 5-1-15</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budgets and financial reports published on web-site.</li> </ul>

**Example Board-Level Activities**

- Proactively develop and support legislative and other initiatives that attach a more realistic value to the groundwater resources within the District, especially in comparison to the costs of other local water resources.
- Participate in developing and then approve fiscal-year budgets, including use of reserve funds and approval of budget amendments.
- Specify various financial-impact scenarios that should be included in contingency planning.
- Authorize and receive results of annual financial audits, and institute accepted recommendations on financial controls or procedures.
- Help identify and approve appropriate use of grant funding and resource commitments that will substantially enable progress toward District objectives.

**Example Staff-Level Activities**

- Maintain finances in a manner that maximizes liquidity while maintaining the greatest return on District fund balances by investing in securities or investment pools that operate in low risk investments and are backed by the state and/or federal government.
- Provide effective and efficient accounting and financial records management and necessary investment training, in accordance with federal and state law, the *Rules*, and Board direction.
- Develop recommended elements and budgetary estimates for fiscal-year budgets and amendments.
- Contract for and participate in conducting an independent financial audit annually, including provision of financial records and preparation of management discussion and analysis, and

f. Establish purchasing policy and review and approve all contracts in accordance with the policy and upon legal review and approval as to form.

- submit year end reports to TCEQ and the Texas State Pension Review Board as required by law.
- e. Help identify appropriate grant funding and resource commitments and utilize grant resources to leverage existing resources substantially with minimum opportunity costs.
  - f. Publish budgets, current-period, year-to-date summary financial information and transaction-level information on the District website as part of the Open Government initiative.
  - g. Acquire and manage projects in accordance with good project accounting and management practice and in conformance with sponsoring agency requirements.
  - h. Obtain contracts for services in accordance with established District standards, and coordinate acquisition activities ensuring cost-effectiveness and quality by utilizing purchasing procedures that meet both District policy, state law, and the *Rules*.

**General Services**

**Performance Standard 1-4:**

Provide efficient administrative support and infrastructure, such that District operations are executed reliably and accurately, meet staff and local stakeholder needs, and conform to District policies and with federal and state requirements.

Metric	Frequency	Score	Documentation
1. Absence of claims of OMA and PIA violations by external parties	Annual, if applicable	<p><b>Met</b></p> <p><b>No violations or claims</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of current TSLAC –approved records retention schedule.</li> <li>• Copy of list of approved-destroyed records.</li> <li>• Copy of annual TML Rerate Exposure Summary.</li> </ul>
2. Lack of staff complaints about continuing problems with support services and infrastructure	Annual, if applicable	<p><b>Met</b></p> <p><b>No formal complaints</b></p>	
<b>Example Board-Level Activities</b>			
a. Receive training on and comply with Open Meetings Act (OMA) and Public Information Act (PIA) requirements.	Annual, if applicable		
b. Provide budget allocation for the required administrative activities on continuing basis.			<p><b>Example Staff-Level Activities</b></p> <p>a. Ensure that directors and appropriate staff receive training in and stay current with OMA and PIA requirements, and that daily District operations comply with those standards.</p> <p>b. As administrative liaison to Board, develop, post, and distribute District Board agendas, meeting materials, and backup documentation in a timely and required manner; post select documents on the District website, and maintain official records, files, and minutes of Board meetings appropriately.</p> <p>c. As Records Management Officer, maintain, retain, and control all District records in accordance with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission-approved District Records Retention Schedule to allow for safekeeping and efficient retrieval of any and all records, and annually audit records for effective management of use, maintenance, retention, preservation and disposal of the records’ life cycle as required by the Local Government Code.</p> <p>d. As needed, update retention schedule in accordance with the Texas Administrative Code requirements, and file any amended retention schedule with the Texas State Library.</p> <p>e. Maintain the office building and grounds, office equipment, and supplies to provide an efficient work environment that meets the needs of the staff and stakeholder community.</p>



- f. Perform cost-benefit analyses on all District insurance and employee-benefit policies before renewal, and acquire or renew all District policies in a timely fashion.
- g. Maintain District vehicles in good operational condition.
- h. Maintain and evaluate needed enhancements to the District computer system and network to facilitate District productivity and to support District programs and projects.

**General Services**

**Performance Standard 1-5:** Provide mechanisms to align District *Rules*, policies, and programs with the will of its collective and precinct-level constituencies, within the constraints of statutes governing the District.

Metric	Frequency	Score	Documentation
1. Maintaining a full Board; properly conducted director elections	Annual	<b>Met</b> Precinct 2 vacancy filled with Nov. election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board communications documentation required under PS 4-1</li> <li><b>Directors' Board meeting attendance reports</b></li> <li>Copy of election documents (only required to retain for 2 years)</li> </ul>
2. Effective participation in Board activities and representation of constituents by each of the five (5) Board members	Annual	<b>Met</b>	
3. Properly conducted director elections	Biennial, if at all	<b>Met</b> Election held for Precinct 2	

Example Board-Level Activities	Example Staff-Level Activities
<p>a. Regularly visit with a spectrum of stakeholder interests in the single-member precincts and with the legislative community being represented by the directors as to their needs and concerns.</p> <p>b. Solicit candidate(s) to campaign every four (4) years for each director precinct place on Board, authorize or cancel an election, and canvass election results, as warranted.</p> <p>c. Authorize and participate in decennial and other re-districting, ensuring Department of Justice (DOJ) pre-clearances and conformance with statutory requirements.</p> <p>d. Utilize advisory groups to calibrate stakeholder inputs and possible responses, as needed.</p>	<p>a. Support District's general counsel in re-districting director precincts the year after each decennial census, including timely submission of all DOJ-required data and documents for successful pre-clearance, as necessary.</p> <p>b. Make internal preparations for and conduct elections for the two or three directorships up for election biennially in even-numbered years in concert with county election offices, and in accordance with state and federal election laws, and as required by TWC Chapter 36.</p> <p>c. Prepare all election contracts with associated entities including election services contracts and joint election agreements, and all necessary orders and notices to conduct or to cancel an election.</p>

**General Management**

<b>Performance Standard 1-6:</b>	Provide leadership in promoting legislation and regulations that benefit the protection of the District's groundwater resources and opposing legislation and regulations that harm those resources.		
<b>Metric</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Documentation</b>
1. Preparation of a <i>Legislative Agenda</i> report before the end of each even-numbered fiscal year that reflects the consensus of the Board concerning the next session	Bi-Annual, even # years (Due: 2016)	N/A Due in 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Legislative Agenda Report</i> on file</li> <li>• <i>Legislative Debriefing Report</i> on file</li> <li>• Minutes of the Board meeting(s) where collective judgments were made on file</li> </ul>
2. Preparation of a <i>Legislative Session De-briefing</i> report before the end of each odd-numbered fiscal year that assesses specific legislation that affects the District, both individually and as a GCD political subdivision, that passed and did not pass, and generally why that occurred	Bi-Annual, odd # years	Met Report provided on 6-25-15	
3. Collective judgment of the Board as to appropriateness of what was pursued legislatively, what actions were taken, and what outcomes were achieved	Bi-Annual, odd # years	Met Approved by Board on 6-25-15	
4. Collective judgment of the Board as to appropriateness of what litigation or contested-cases were pursued, what actions were taken, and what outcomes were achieved	Annual	N/A No new litigation	
<b>Example Board-Level Activities</b>		<b>Example Staff-Level Activities</b>	
a. Propose and support legislation and regulatory initiatives that control and prevent point/nonpoint-sources of pollution and cross-formational contamination of the aquifers managed by the District.			a. Support District's general counsel in re-districting director precincts the year after each decennial census, including timely submission of all DOJ-required data and documents for successful pre-clearance, as necessary.
b. Oppose legislation or regulatory initiatives that don't ensure protection of groundwater quantity and quality, including non-compliance with DFCs.			b. Make internal preparations for and conduct elections for the two or three directorships up for election biennially in even-numbered years in concert with county election offices, and in accordance with state and federal election laws, and as required by TWC Chapter 36.
c. Meet with local legislators and relevant committee members to foster an effective working relationship.			
d. Seek legal remedies as warranted and feasible to minimize or avoid impacts on groundwater quantity and quality of aquifers in the District.			

	c. Prepare all election contracts with associated entities including election services contracts and joint election agreements, and all necessary orders and notices to conduct or to cancel an election.
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## Objective 2 – Promulgate a fair and efficient regulatory program.

Note: The 'example activities' for directors and staff listed below are intended by the Management Plan and therefore in this annual assessment to be only illustrative ones for this Objective and Performance Standard, and should not be construed as restrictive or mandatory in each or any one year. In addition, all are subject to the Board's actions indicating the District's current intent as to their scope and their priority with respect to other activities.

Regulatory Compliance			
Performance Standard 2-1:	Review and modify the <i>Rules</i> as warranted to provide and maintain a sound statutory basis for continued District operations and to ensure consistency with both District authority and programmatic needs.		
Metric	Frequency	Score	Documentation
1. Rulemaking process is initiated and conducted in accordance with all statutory requirements and required timeframes	Annual, if applicable	Met Rules adopted 7-16-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rule concepts and draft rule documents on file</li> <li>• Hearing notices (published, county, mailed/e-mailed, etc.) for rulemaking on file</li> <li>• Audio of hearing maintained on file</li> <li>• Minutes of meetings approving rules on file</li> <li>• Adopted rules on website</li> </ul>
2. Rules are in alignment with District policies and objectives as determined by the Board with PAC input in even-numbered years	Annual, if applicable	N/A Due in 2016	
Example Board-Level Activities		Example Staff-Level Activities	
a. Provide direction and input to staff to guide the development of proposed rule concepts and draft rules.	a. Periodically review and provide proposed rule concepts to the Board to address necessary updates and revisions.		
b. Appoint and convene <i>ad hoc</i> policy advisory committees to review and comment on District policies and proposed rules revisions as warranted.	b. Consider rule updates and revisions needed to address specific needs of separate management zones for the different areas and aquifers within the District.		
c. Conduct public hearings for proposed rule changes.	c. Upon direction by the Board, prepare draft rules based on vetted rule concepts and Board input.		
d. Adopt necessary rule updates and revisions as warranted.	d. Schedule and provide required notification of public hearings for proposed <i>Rule</i> changes.		
	e. Make the adopted revised <i>Rules</i> available to the public after adoption by the Board.		

Regulatory Compliance			
<b>Performance Standard 2-2:</b>	Process and review all well registrations, permit renewals, and applications for permits, permit amendments, and authorizations in accordance with the <i>Rules, Well Construction Standards</i> , and other District guidelines in accordance within specified procedural timeframes.		
Metric	Frequency	Score	Documentation
1. Requests for permits and authorizations are processed in accordance with all statutory requirements and required timeframes.	Annual	Met	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permit and registration applications and associated documents maintained on file</li> <li>• Hearing notices (published, county, mailed/e-mailed, etc.) for permits on file, if applicable</li> <li>• Audio of hearing maintained on file</li> <li>• Minutes of meetings approving permits on file, if applicable</li> <li>• Hydrogeological reports maintained on file, if applicable</li> <li>• Permit application fact sheets maintained on file, if applicable</li> <li>• Minutes from Board meetings approving permit renewals</li> </ul>
Example Board-Level Activities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Conduct public hearings for certain permits and authorizations.</li> <li>b. Take appropriate action on certain requested permits and authorizations presented to the Board considering application information, staff recommendations, and the District <i>Rules and Bylaws</i>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Register all new wells.</li> <li>b. Review and process well registration forms, plugging authorizations, and permit-by-rule authorizations.</li> <li>c. For all other applications, review and make determinations of administrative completeness.</li> <li>d. Require and receive results of aquifer tests for certain production permits and amendments.</li> <li>e. Assist applicants with planning and execution of all aquifer tests in accordance with the District's Aquifer Test Guidelines.</li> <li>f. Evaluate complete production and transport permit applications on the basis of: beneficial use, non-speculative needs, reasonable demand, the ability to comply with drought management requirements, and the ability to conform to management zone requirements.</li> <li>g. Evaluate all complete permit and authorization requests on the basis of potential for impact to sustainable groundwater</li> </ul>		
Example Staff-Level Activities			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Register all new wells.</li> <li>b. Review and process well registration forms, plugging authorizations, and permit-by-rule authorizations.</li> <li>c. For all other applications, review and make determinations of administrative completeness.</li> <li>d. Require and receive results of aquifer tests for certain production permits and amendments.</li> <li>e. Assist applicants with planning and execution of all aquifer tests in accordance with the District's Aquifer Test Guidelines.</li> <li>f. Evaluate complete production and transport permit applications on the basis of: beneficial use, non-speculative needs, reasonable demand, the ability to comply with drought management requirements, and the ability to conform to management zone requirements.</li> <li>g. Evaluate all complete permit and authorization requests on the basis of potential for impact to sustainable groundwater</li> </ul>		

- quantity and quality, public health and welfare, contribution to waste, unreasonable well interference.
- h. Provide recommendation formed on the basis of staff evaluation for Board or General Manager consideration of certain permits and authorizations.
  - i. Schedule and provide required notification of public hearings for certain requested permits and authorizations.
  - j. Perform well site inspections before and after the drilling of each new well.
  - k. Prior to permit renewal, review all permits for compliance with District Rules and Bylaws.



Regulatory Compliance			
Performance Standard 2-3:	Metric	Frequency	Score
Monitor existing District wells for compliance with the <i>Rules</i> , and <i>Well Construction Standards</i> .			<b>Documentation</b>
1. Specified minimum number of permittee inspections completed or exceeded each year;	Annual	<b>Met</b> 40 inspections/site visits conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Routine inspection documentation maintained on file</li> <li>Database report of reported and collected meters readings</li> <li>Enforcement plan on website</li> <li>Minutes of Board-approved enforcement actions on file</li> <li>Investigations reports on file</li> <li>NOAVs and enforcement orders on file</li> </ul>
2. The majority of all documented violations are brought into compliance or are addressed by a Board Order within six (6) months of the staff-established compliance deadlines;	Annual, if applicable	<b>Met</b>	
3. During drought, all required meter readings are submitted or collected each month.	Annual, if drought declared	<b>Met</b>	
Example Board-Level Activities			
a. Provide direction to staff for enforcement of unresolved violations of the <i>Rules</i> as warranted.			<b>Example Staff-Level Activities</b>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Register all newly identified unregistered wells.</li> <li>Conduct inspections of at least ten selected permittee systems (not including NDUs) each fiscal year for compliance with the <i>Rules</i>.</li> <li>Identify and notify individual permittees of any rule violations and take appropriate steps to ensure compliance.</li> <li>Notify abandoned well owners and monitor to ensure wells are properly plugged or brought into compliance.</li> <li>Perform well site inspections before each well plugging.</li> <li>Obtain meters readings by site inspections from individual permittees who fail to submit after late submittal notification has been provided.</li> <li>Monitor usage of individually permitted wells monthly and NDUs at least annually.</li> <li>Provide compliance updates and enforcement recommendations to the Board as warranted in accordance with the adopted enforcement plan.</li> </ul>



General Services			
Performance Standard 2-4:	Efficiently process permittee meter readings, water use fee invoices and payments, conservation credits, permit renewals and related communications.		
Metric	Frequency	Score	Documentation
1. Timely processing of permit renewals, conservation credits, and meter readings within timeframes specified in <i>Rules</i> or policies.	Annual	<b>Met</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual conservation credit spreadsheet and minutes from Board meeting where presented.</li> <li>• Database reports.</li> <li>• Copy of permittee mailing lists.</li> <li>• <b>Copy of underpumpage analysis spreadsheet and minutes from Board meeting where presented.</b></li> <li>• Copy of permittee billings spreadsheets and minutes from Board meeting where permits are conditionally renewed.</li> </ul>
Example Board-Level Activities			
a. Issue conservation credits annually based on the annual conservation credit audit and staff recommendations.			<p><b>Example Staff-Level Activities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Require timely-submitted monthly readings from individually permitted wells, enter all meter readings into the database, and file all monthly meter reading forms.</li> <li>b. Maintain permittee mailings lists and contact information in database.</li> <li>c. Annually renew compliant production and transport permits by September 1 of each year.</li> <li>d. Perform annual underpumpage analysis as warranted and provide recommendations for Board consideration.</li> <li>e. Perform annual conservation credit audit.</li> </ol>

## Objective 3 – Develop and implement an effective drought management program that achieves the adopted Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) of each relevant aquifer in the District.

Note: The ‘example activities’ for directors and staff listed below are intended by the Management Plan and therefore in this annual assessment to be only illustrative ones for this Objective and Performance Standard, and should not be construed as restrictive or mandatory in each or any one year. In addition, all are subject to the Board’s actions indicating the District’s current intent as to their scope and their priority with respect to other activities.

Regulatory Compliance			
Performance Standard 3-1:	Assist permittees in developing drought and conservation planning strategies, permit conversion strategies, pricing strategies, and enforce compliance with drought management rules during District-declared drought to achieve DFCs during extreme drought.		
Metric	Frequency	Score	Documentation
1. Achieve overall monthly pumpage reductions within 10% of the aggregate pumpage reduction (volumetric) goal of the prevailing drought stage.	Annual, during declared drought	<b>Met</b> Aggregate Reduction = 53%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Database drought analysis reports</li> <li>UDCP templates and/or guidance documents on website and file</li> <li>Drought notifications sent to permittees on file</li> <li>Overpumpage notices sent to permittees on file</li> <li>Enforcement plan on website</li> <li>Written correspondence, memos to Board, and other pertinent documentation related to pre-enforcement and enforcement activity on file</li> <li><b>Annual Drought Compliance Report</b>, with monthly “horseblankets” in appendix, on file</li> </ul>
Example Board-Level Activities			
a. Provide direction to staff for enforcement and fee assessment for permittee violations of the <i>Rules</i> and applicable provisions of permittee’s User Drought Contingency Plans (UDCPs).	<p>a. Assist and support permittees with the development, implementation, and interpretation of User Conservation Plans (UCPs) and UDCPs in accordance with the <i>Rules</i> and as warranted.</p> <p>b. Review and approve submitted UCPs and UDCPs in accordance with the <i>Rules</i>.</p> <p>c. Require that all outdated UCPs and UDCPs are updated prior to annual permit renewal in accordance with the <i>Rules</i>.</p> <p>d. Upon declaration of drought, send notification to all permittees of requirement to implement and comply with all applicable provisions of their prevailing UDCP.</p>		

- e. Perform monthly evaluation of individual permittee compliance with monthly pumpage limits in accordance with the adopted enforcement plan.
- f. Send notices of overpumpage to all noncompliant permittees each month.
- g. Evaluate, stipulate, and enforce conservation-tier pricing for water-provider permittees to reduce demand by end-users. ***Directors note that by rulemaking the Board has restricted the scope of this activity to providing information and incentives to help permittees develop and deploy conservation-oriented water pricing structures and not include enforcement of a particular pricing structure. This comprises a possible future correcting amendment of the Management Plan.***
- h. Identify occurrences of noncompliance that warrant possible enforcement action and are subject to assessment of drought management fees.
- i. Provide compliance updates and enforcement recommendations to the Board in accordance with the adopted enforcement plan.

**Aquifer Science**

<b>Performance Standard 3-2:</b>			
<b>Metric</b>	Monitor and declare drought stages on the basis of the analysis of data from the District's defined drought triggers and in accordance with the adopted drought trigger methodology.	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Documentation</b>
1. Acceptable-to-Board proportion of timely updates of all drought related information during drought.	Annual	<b>Score</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies of Drought Chart for periods of declared drought</li> </ul>
<b>Example Board-Level Activities</b>		<b>Example Staff-Level Activities</b>	
<p>a. Make drought declarations considering the current aquifer conditions relative to defined drought triggers, the adopted drought trigger methodology, and staff recommendations.</p>		<p>a. Review relevant aquifer data on a monthly basis when not in drought.</p> <p>b. Periodically provide updates to the Board on current aquifer conditions and provide recommendations of drought declarations as warranted.</p> <p>c. Confirm drought flows from Barton Springs that are indicated by monitoring well data with in-stream discharge (e.g., flow-meter) measurements sufficient to produce or verify a reliable stage-discharge relationship.</p> <p>d. When any drought trigger drops below average levels, monitoring will be done biweekly, and estimates will be made as to when either indicator will reach drought levels.</p> <p>e. Produce and update charts showing the status of the defined triggers on a biweekly basis during a District-declared drought.</p> <p>f. Produce and update charts showing the status of the defined triggers on a weekly basis during an Emergency Response Period.</p> <p>g. Collect and evaluate data for the assessment of the Middle and Lower Trinity Aquifers and how they might be impacted and regulated by drought.</p>	

**Education & Outreach**

**Performance Standard 3-3:** Inform and educate permittees and the public about declared drought stages and the severity of drought, and encourage practices and behaviors to reduce water use.

<b>Metric</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Documentation</b>
1. Timeliness and adequacy of response to requests for information.	Annual	Met 38 TPIA requests received and processed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Record of newsletter, press releases, and drought updates sent to Press, Permittees, and email subscribers.</li> <li>• Availability of drought stage road signs and bill inserts for permittee use.</li> </ul>
2. Absence of complaints received concerning water utility permittees' unwarranted actions.	Annual	Met No complaints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public information requests and responses on file.</li> <li>• Responses to residents' inquiries about drought restrictions or inappropriate water use.</li> </ul>

**Example Board-Level Activities**

a. Authorize and participate in efforts to disseminate information related to aquifer conditions during drought and practices that could facilitate demand reduction.

**Example Staff-Level Activities**

- a. Provide public awareness of declared drought stages and drought severity by at least monthly communications which may include written and electronic correspondence, newspaper articles and advertisements, press releases, the District website, District newsletter, and special permittee newsletters.
- b. Support permittees' efforts to inform their end users of drought stages and water conservation measures with by creating general drought stage information and informational materials on water conservation.

**Objective 4. Demonstrate leadership in external communication, collaboration, coordination and joint planning with respect to groundwater and related resources.**

Note: The 'example activities' for directors and staff listed below are intended by the Management Plan and therefore in this annual assessment to be only illustrative ones for this Objective and Performance Standard, and should not be construed as restrictive or mandatory in each or any one year. In addition, all are subject to the Board's actions indicating the District's current intent as to their scope and their priority with respect to other activities.

General Management			
Performance Standard 4-1:	Metric	Frequency	Score
Cultivate and communicate effectively and routinely with stakeholders of all types that affect and are affected by the District's programs and policies.	1. Collective judgment of the Board once each quarter as to whether communications between the District and its stakeholder community, including constituents and other public officials, are providing an effective basis for District decision-making and for identifying any needed remedial actions.	Quarterly	Met
			Documentation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Directors' compensation forms</li> <li>Directors' correspondence logs (if available)</li> <li>Minutes of activity reported in the Directors' Reports as reported in each regular Board meeting</li> <li>Minutes of Board action providing collective judgment</li> </ul>
Example Board-Level Activities			
a. Cultivate balanced relationships with and among stakeholders, precinct residents, and policy makers to promote the District's mission.			
b. Represent the District with legislative community, other political subdivisions, and related groups.			
Example Staff-Level Activities			
a. Cultivate balanced relationships between District staff and stakeholders.			
b. Represent the District with legislative community, other political subdivisions, and related groups.			
c. Represent the District in alliances and other organizations with common interests.			



Regulatory Compliance			
Performance Standard 4-2:	Collaborate with joint Groundwater Management Area (GMA) and regional water planning efforts on policies, regulations, and activities affecting water quality or desired future conditions of the aquifers managed by the District.		
Metric	Frequency	Score	Documentation
1. Percent of GMA meetings attended;	Annual	Met GMA 9 - 80% attendance GMA 10 – 75% attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Region K and L attendance reports</li> <li>GMA 9 and 10 attendance reports</li> <li>GMA GCD management plan reviews on file</li> <li>Minutes of Board meetings where GMA (or RWPG, if applicable) representatives were appointed.</li> <li>Minutes of Board meetings where GMA/RWPG issues where considered</li> <li>Notices of DFC hearings conducted/attended</li> </ul>
2. Timely provision of responsive comments on management plans of other GCDs in GMA 9 and 10;	Annual, if applicable	N/A	
3. Participation in public hearings on DFCs and management plans	Annual, if applicable	N/A	
4. Timely discussion and voting on GMA items	Annual, if applicable	N/A	
Example Board-Level Activities			
a. Utilize the data, results, and staff recommendations associated with water quality and/or desired future conditions to direct staff and develop policy in accordance with the District's mission.			
b. Designate a District representative to participate in and serve as a voting member of GMA 9 and GMA 10.			
c. Review and comment on management plans of other GMA member districts for consistency with DFCs of shared or hydrologically connected aquifers.			
Example Staff-Level Activities			
a. Provide information and input to current and proposed rules, standards, and planning efforts related to regional development and water/wastewater management.			
b. Apply standards specified in the Regional Water Quality Protection Plan (2005) where applicable. <i>Directors note that "standards" here do not refer to enforceable regulatory standards but are interpreted to be in the sense of consensus "principles".</i>			
c. Provide recommendations to the Board on management plans of other GMA member districts for consistency with DFCs of shared or hydrologically connected aquifers.			
d. Develop and implement a cost-effective method for evaluating and demonstrating compliance with the DFCs of the relevant aquifers in the District, in collaboration with other GCDs in the GMAs.			
e. Support by attendance and in-kind consultation services in meetings of GMAs 9 and 10, as appropriate.			

- f. Seek public inputs on concerns that help articulate DFCs.
- g. Vote on applicable items requiring GMA joint planning approvals.



**Aquifer Science**

<p><b>Performance Standard 4-3:</b></p>	<p>Provide technical assistance as warranted to federal, state and local entities; organizations; and individuals on the geology, hydrogeology, and karst features impacted by groundwater-utilizing land use activities.</p>		
Metric	Frequency	Score	Documentation
<p>1. Qualitative judgment by the Board as to how well the District's directors are promoting groundwater protection with other entities.</p>	<p>Annual</p>	<p>Met</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly Director Activity Reports on file</li> <li>• WPAP reviews and comments on file</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Example Board-Level Activities</b></p>			
<p>a. Establish standards and criteria specified in the Regional Water Quality Protection Plan to be used by District staff in evaluating deleterious impacts to recharge water quality.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Example Staff-Level Activities</b></p> <p>a. Provide information to developers, roadway contractors, the regulated community, and local and state agency personnel about the locations and sources of vulnerability of the District's groundwater resources, and the steps they can take to mitigate the threats of contamination.</p> <p>b. Apply standards and criteria specified in the Regional Water Quality Protection Plan (2005), as applicable and warranted, for the evaluation of various land uses requiring or affecting groundwater supplies and the associated potential for recharge water quality degradation or waste.</p> <p>c. Review and provide comments, where applicable, for Water Pollution Abatement Plans or other environmental site assessments associated with any permits or authorizations submitted to the TCEQ, COA, small cities, counties, or other political jurisdictions in order to mitigate potential degradation of the District's groundwater resources.</p>		

**Education & Outreach**

**Performance Standard 4-4:** Through education and public outreach, inform groundwater users and the general public of the connectivity of recharge and discharge, importance of water quality protection, and the relationship between surface water and groundwater.

Metric	Frequency	Score	Documentation
1. Number of workshops/seminars with acknowledged District participation;	Annual	Met	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documentation in monthly team activity reports.</li> <li>Database tracking for Friends of the Aquifers email subscriptions.</li> <li>Summary list of outreach activities.</li> </ul>
2. Number of District-sponsored outreach meetings and info distribution events;	Annual	Met	
3. Trends in number of page views and amount of "click-throughs" for District website;	Annual	Met	
4. Number of new subscriptions to the Friends of the Aquifers email contact list.	Annual	Met	

Example Board-Level Activities	Example Staff-Level Activities
<p>a. Communicate with constituents of their respective single-member precincts to ensure fair representation.</p> <p>b. Facilitate dissemination of education and public outreach information within respective single-member precincts.</p> <p>c. Help promote and/or participate in District-sponsored events.</p>	<p>a. Offer and/or recommend workshop(s) and/or presentations that educate local residents on the District, its management, District aquifers, Texas groundwater and surface resources, and indoor/outdoor water conservation practices.</p> <p>b. Use electronic and printed media and in-person visits to deliver accurate and timely information to community groups that are interested in and/or affect the groundwater resource and its use, both upon request and on a proactive basis.</p> <p>c. Organize and conduct events that allow the District to work cooperatively with area residents, including youth, in demonstrating the important relationships between surface and groundwater quality.</p> <p>d. Maintain up-to-date District and aquifer information and literature that are available to the public via the website, print materials, and an electronic newsletter.</p>

**General Management**

**Performance Standard 4-5:**

Prepare, submit, and maintain a draft and final Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and provide support of related National Environmental Policy Act documentation and processes for obtaining an Incidental Take Permit from the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) for the endangered species at Barton Springs.

Metric	Frequency	Score	Documentation
1. Satisfactory progress toward completion of the HCP that is acceptable to FWS, as judged by the Board and with the use of an annual HCP Status Report prepared by District Staff near the end of each fiscal year;	Annual, if and when applicable	Met ITP application submitted Nov. 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HCP Annual Report on file</li> <li>• Incidental Take Permit on file</li> <li>• MAC's Annual HCP Progress Report, on file</li> <li>• Minutes of MAC meetings</li> <li>• Rules &amp; Bylaws that reduce permitted withdrawals during Emergency Response Period droughts to requisite amounts</li> </ul>
2. Upon its receipt, success in maintaining a Section 10(a) Incidental Take Permit;	Annual, if and when applicable	N/A	
3. Establishment and convening meetings at least annually of an HCP Management Advisory Committee;	Annual, if and when applicable	Met	
4. Promulgation of a regulatory program that achieves the Extreme Drought Withdrawal Limitation that is based on the MAG for the prevailing drought DFC for the Freshwater Edwards Aquifer.	Annual	Met	

**Example Board-Level Activities**

- a. Assess and authorize needed measures within the District's authority, on a continuing basis, to minimize take and prevent jeopardy of the endangered species that are specified in the HCP.
- b. Fund on a continuing basis the primary and adaptive management measures to minimize take and prevent jeopardy of the endangered species in the HCP.

**Example Staff-Level Activities**

- a. Prepare a draft HCP, respond to public comments, and prepare and submit a final HCP that are acceptable to FWS.
- b. Establish, periodically convene, and utilize an HCP Management Advisory Committee to assess independently the effectiveness of the HCP measures and recommend changes necessary to improve effectiveness, if warranted.
- c. Employ an adaptive management strategy to respond effectively to unforeseen and/or changed circumstances.

## Objective 5. Extend current groundwater supplies by encouraging supply-side and demand-side improvements.

Note: The 'example activities' for directors and staff listed below are intended by the Management Plan and therefore in this annual assessment to be only illustrative ones for this Objective and Performance Standard, and should not be construed as restrictive or mandatory in each or any one year. In addition, all are subject to the Board's actions indicating the District's current intent as to their scope and their priority with respect to other activities.

Regulatory Compliance			
Performance Standard 5-1:	Metric	Frequency	Score
	On at least a bi-annual basis, assess the availability and feasibility of regional alternative water supplies and encourage District permittees to diversify their water supplies by fostering arrangements with available water suppliers.	Bi-Annual odd # years (Due: 2015)	<p><b>Met</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative Water Supply Status Report on file</li> </ul>
1. A report completed in odd-numbered years summarizing the above activities, grant activities, and active alternative supply projects in the District, and making recommendations.			Documentation
Example Board-Level Activities			
<p>a. Provide input to District staff about policy considerations of alternative water supplies.</p> <p>b. Provide active leadership in promoting and pursuing alternative water supplies, including but not limited to participating in speakers' bureaus, working with water providers, legislative community and agencies such as TWDB and TCEQ, and assessing political and economic efficacy and paths.</p>		Example Staff-Level Activities	
		<p>a. Identify available alternative water resources and supplies (e.g., saline Edwards desalination, ASR, reuse, rainwater, etc.).</p> <p>b. Evaluate viability of alternative water sources by considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- available/proposed infrastructure</li> <li>- financial factors</li> <li>- logistical/engineering factors</li> <li>- potential secondary impacts (development density/intensity or recharge water quality).</li> </ul> <p>c. Develop relationships/agreements with area surface water providers and encourage service to District permittees during extreme drought where appropriate.</p> <p>d. Explore possible incentives to District permittees to implement the use of alternative water supplies through pricing, permit terms, and other mechanisms where appropriate. <i>Directors note that exploration of these incentives requires Board authorization and involvement.</i></p>	

*This comprises a possible future correcting amendment of the Management Plan.*

- e. Remove/reduce institutional barriers to use of alternative sources as feasible.
- f. Produce a bi-annual report for the Board to serve as a summary of regional alternative supplies and activities [related to this objective]

Aquifer Science			
Performance Standard 5-2:	Conduct investigations and, as warranted and feasible, physically alter discrete recharge features that will lead to an increase in recharge to the Edwards Aquifer.		
Metric	Frequency	Score	Documentation
1. Annual oral presentation in even-numbered years on progress in these activities, to enable the Board to assess the progress;	Bi-Annual even # years (Due: 2016)	Met	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternative Water Supply Status Report on file</li> <li>Minutes of Board meeting in which oral presentation on this topic was made.</li> <li>Photographs of work being conducted in these recharge features</li> </ul>
2. Inclusion of these activities in the biennial Alternative Water Supplies Report in odd-numbered years;	Bi-Annual odd # years (Due: 2015)	Met Grant applications to substitute for report	
3. Number of excavations conducted in caves, sinkholes, or recharge features annually (with at least one being satisfactory).	Annual	Met (1 – Antioch Cave)	
Example Board-Level Activities			
a. Participate in discussions about activities related to recharge enhancement.			<p><b>Example Staff-Level Activities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine locations, cost-effective methods, and efficacy of potential recharge maintenance and enhancement for at least one additional recharge feature during the five-year term of this <i>Plan</i>.</li> <li>Seek both internal and external funding to study and construct BMPs that are capable of diverting surface waters into the District aquifers.</li> <li>Excavate sediment and other material from at least one recharge feature, such as caves, sinkholes, and BMPs, each year so that the capacity of the feature to recharge the aquifer will be at least maintained if not increased.</li> <li>Identify and pursue grant funding, as appropriate, Board-authorized and available pertaining to recharge enhancement and nonpoint source pollution, and manage grant projects in accordance with grant requirements and good project management practice to meet milestones on budget and schedule.</li> </ol>
b. Establish policies concerning recharge enhancement projects.			
c. Fund approved projects, including seeking external funding partners.			

**Aquifer Science**

**Performance Standard 5-3:**

Conduct investigations, as warranted and feasible, to evaluate the potential for the saline zone of the Edwards Aquifer to provide water for a desalination facility, and to evaluate the potential for the Edwards saline zone and the Trinity aquifers beneath the freshwater Edwards as reservoirs for an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) system.

Metric	Frequency	Score	Documentation
1. Annual oral presentation in even-numbered years on progress in these activities to enable the Board to assess the progress;	Bi-Annual even # years (Due: 2016)	Met	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternative Water Supply Status Report on file</li> <li>Minutes of Board meeting in which oral presentation on this topic was made</li> <li>Abstracts, reports, or publications summarizing results of these studies</li> </ul>
2. Inclusion of these activities in the biennial Alternative Water Supplies Report in odd-numbered years.	Bi-Annual odd # years (Due: 2015)	Met Grant applications to substitute for report	

**Example Board-Level Activities**

- Provide input of the extent of investigations of the saline zone and the level of interest of the Board on desalination and ASR.
- Assist in developing and approve a business plan if and as necessary for co-funded investigations.
- Authorize funding for a portion or all of investigations on the Edwards saline zone.

**Example Staff-Level Activities**

- Install monitor well in saline zone for sampling and aquifer parameter testing.
- Cooperate with other organizations for installing a test well in the saline zone and for evaluating the feasibility of desalination and/or ASR in the saline zone.
- Conduct aquifer tests of Trinity aquifers to determine if they could serve as reservoirs for an ASR system.

**Education & Outreach**

**Performance Standard 5-4:** Maintain and develop programs that inform and educate District groundwater users and area residents of all ages about water conservation practices and resources and use of alternate water sources including gray water/condensate reuse and rainwater harvesting.

<b>Metric</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Documentation</b>
1. Preparation and dissemination of material shared with District groundwater users and area residents that will inform them about water conservation and alternate water sources.	Annual	Met	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social media posts, newsletter articles, and email bulletins highlighting upcoming events.</li> <li>• Monthly team activity status report documentation of permittee communications about conservation credits and education events (via mail or email).</li> <li>• High volume private well owner list updates and tracking of materials sent.</li> </ul>

**Example Board-Level Activities**

- a. Provide direction and input to staff on messages that the Board would like to convey to the public about water conservation and alternate water sources.
- a. Support and publicize other local-area water conservation initiatives using print and presentation opportunities.
- b. Maintain up-to-date water conservation and alternate water source information and literature that is available to the public via the website and print materials.
- c. Provide District groundwater permittees and end-users with water conservation and alternate water source presentations upon request where possible.
- d. Offer and/or recommend educational events annually that address topics such as leak detection, water audits, irrigation audits, indoor water conservation, water use behavior, native landscaping, or rainwater harvesting.
- e. Engage and solicit participation of permittees and other stakeholders on the District’s conservation credit policy.



**Objective 6. Increase understanding of all District aquifers so that appropriate policy and regulatory decisions are made.**

Note: The 'example activities' for directors and staff listed below are intended by the Management Plan and therefore in this annual assessment to be only illustrative ones for this Objective and Performance Standard, and should not be construed as restrictive or mandatory in each or any one year. In addition, all are subject to the Board's actions indicating the District's current intent as to their scope and their priority with respect to other activities.

Regulatory Compliance			
Performance Standard 6-1:	Metric	Frequency	Score
Assess aquifer conditions by sampling and collecting groundwater data from selected wells.			
1. Information collected on wells within the District entered into District database		Annual	Met
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual well sampling tracking spreadsheet</li> <li>Database reports</li> </ul>
Example Board-Level Activities			
a. Provide direction and input to staff about how the Board would like to have data collected, maintained, and reported.			<p>Documentation</p> <p>Example Staff-Level Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect water-quality and groundwater-level information annually from:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All individually permitted wells (except for public supply wells) scheduled for routine compliance inspections</li> <li>All newly drilled wells</li> <li>Abandoned wells where sample collection is possible prior to District-authorized plugging</li> <li>Five (5) other selected wells of interest.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Record data in District databases and use to assess groundwater quality and quantity.</li> </ul>

**Aquifer Science**

**Performance Standard 6-2:**

Conduct scientific studies to better determine groundwater availability, to understand and prevent threats to water quality, to minimize impacts to water-supply wells and springs, and to provide sound science on which to base District policy.

Metric	Frequency	Score	Documentation
1. An annual report of publications produced by the District that affects or will affect current or future Board decision-making	Annual	Met	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compendium of publications and presentations by District staff and directors on file</li> <li>• Abstracts, reports, or publications summarizing results of these studies</li> </ul>
2. Qualitative judgment by Board as to adequacy of the type of scientific information provided to them	Annual	Met	

**Example Board-Level Activities**

- Provide guidance on policy issues that involve scientific evaluation.
- Authorize funding for a portion or all of investigations related to aquifer science.

**Example Staff-Level Activities**

- Collect, maintain, and interpret relevant data such as water levels, water quality, stream flow, rainfall, and aquifer properties, including water-level information from at least ten (10) monitor wells and stream or spring flow measurements at least three (3) times annually.
- Periodically and regularly measure and evaluate the accuracy and precision of the discharges at the Barton Springs complex, and promote improvements in the reliability of such measurements.
- Identify and pursue grant funding, as appropriate and available to conduct aquifer studies, and manage grant projects in accordance with grant requirements and good project management practice to meet milestones on budget and schedule.
- Assess effects of “urban leakage” and its consequences for groundwater model calibration and outputs.
- Collaborate on aquifer studies with other agencies and institutions by participating in at least five meetings each year with other groundwater scientists and engineers to discuss topics of current and direct interest to the District staff.
- Evaluate the various groundwater models to determine which ones best suit the needs of the District for groundwater availability analyses, or consider other model software that has not yet been applied to District studies.

- g. Prepare presentations, abstracts, and papers to present at scientific meetings and conferences or for publication by the District or other scientific organizations.
- h. Appoint and convene when appropriate an *ad hoc* technical advisory committee to review and comment on District investigations and analyses. ***Directors note that only the Board may appoint and convene advisory committees, and that staff involvement will be in administering and utilizing outputs of such committees. This comprises a possible future correcting amendment of the Management Plan.***

**Basis for Board of Directors'**

**Evaluation of Progress on Objectives and Performance Standards**

## Basis for Evaluation of Progress on Objectives and Performance Standards

<b>Teams:</b>	<b>General Management</b>	<b>General Services</b>	<b>Education &amp; Outreach</b>	<b>Aquifer Science</b>	<b>Regulatory Compliance</b>
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### **Objective 1. Assure the long-term sustainability of the District to carry out its mission as a GCD with excellence.**

**PS 1-1:** Hire, equip, train, evaluate, and motivate appropriate staff to achieve the District's mission within budgetary constraints.

- The Board conducted the General Manager's FY 2015 performance review and objectives assessment at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 27, 2015. The Board took action determining that the General Manager's performance in FY 2015 was satisfactory and that the FY 2015 objectives were substantially achieved. The Board went further to award a cost of living salary increase and the incentive compensation for achieving the objectives.
- There were no instances of unresolved personnel issues and none were referred to the Board.
- The District had one staff resignation in FY 2015 therefore the net turnover rate was 10%. The turnover was mitigated through an agreement with the departing hydrogeologic technician, Alan Andrews, to delay his departure date until May 4, 2016 to allow time to hire and cross train his replacement, Justin Camp, who started on April 6, 2015. The District did not use any interns this year.
- Annual performance and salary reviews were completed for all regular staff. On the basis of the reviews, staff was collectively awarded a 3.1% raise which was within the FY 2015 budgeted amount for salaries and wages. Incentive compensation for completed projects was also awarded according to the incentive compensation plan.
- Collectively, staff attended approximately five courses for purposes of directed training and professional development in FY 2015. This support is in addition to more than 26 technical/policy conferences, seminars, workshops, webinars, and symposia in which one or more District staff members and directors participated. There were two out-of-country (Spain and the United Kingdom) conferences attended this fiscal year by the Aquifer Science team, and one out-of-state (Minnesota). In all, approximately \$14,210 was spent on professional development, training, tuition, and career advancement for staff members and directors in FY 2015.
- The District staff managed an extraordinary workload involving tasks largely related to the unanticipated events leading up to annexation of the Shared Territory in Hays County and the implementation of HB 3405 passed during the 84<sup>th</sup> legislative session. Implementation of HB 3405 created additional workload through processing of the temporary permits, outreach efforts in the new area, and technical work associated with establishing a monitoring well

network in certain areas of projected increases in Trinity Aquifer pumping. The additional workload strained resources across all teams and was managed through extra staff labor and some contracted consulting support.

**PS 1-2:** Align District plans, policies, and programs with the District’s mission and vision, and regularly review and revise them, as warranted, to respond to changing circumstances that affect their need, effectiveness, or implementation.

- Staff continued to operate in accordance with the objectives of the 2013 MP and the methodology developed for measuring progress towards satisfying the MP objectives. With annexation of the new areas under HB 3405, staff anticipates revisions and updates will be needed to reflect the management objectives of the new Shared Territory. Other revisions will likely be needed to reflect evolving management objectives of the entire jurisdictional area as a whole.
- At the end of FY 2015, the Director Job Descriptions had not yet been initiated. These projects were again sidelined to prepare for and implement the statutory mandates of HB 3405 and make progress on higher priority and resource intensive projects such as the HCP, the review of the SH 45 roadway design review, and TWDB grant applications and projects.
- As reported in the FY 2014 annual report, the MP requirement to develop a Contingency and Risk Management (CRMP) is satisfied through the commitment to measures of the Draft HCP which specify pre-determined responses to the certain Changed and Unforeseen Circumstances. It is staff’s opinion that these HCP measures serve the same function as a CRMP; therefore, a unique plan is not needed.

This metric was determined by the Board to be met in consideration of the FY 2014 objectives assessment on the basis of the HCP contingency comments for Changed and Unforeseen Circumstances. Therefore, this metric was judged by staff to be “met.”

- The District timely completed and the Board approved its annual budget and fee schedule for FY 2015 on July 24, 2014; and a subsequent budget revision on May 8, 2015. The staff developed and the Board approved the proposed FY 2016 budget and fee schedule in late FY 2015, on July 30, 2015.
- The Board continued the convention of strategic planning through the setting of annual goals by adopting its FY 2015 goals on August 21, 2014. These annual goals provide policy-level direction to the General Manager and staff, and serve to guide the District’s expenditure of staff time and resources.
- The Board convened and actively engaged in a standing Management Advisory Committee (MAC) to assist in the development of the District HCP and support its implementation. The MAC also served as the *ad hoc* advisory group. This work occurred mostly in FY 2014 but carried over into FY 2015 prior to submittal of the application in November 2015.

**PS 1-3:** Ensure the District has the near-term and long-term financial basis and contractual wherewithal to support its mission.

- District Board and staff members maintained their financial resources in a manner that maximizes liquidity while maintaining the greatest return on District fund balances by investing in securities or investment pools that operate in low risk investments and are backed by the state and/or federal government.
- The District developed, implemented and modified, as needed, a balanced FY 2015 annual budget that the Board initially approved on July 24, 2014, and then revised on May 28, 2015.
- The District successfully operated within its budgeted operating expenses, although the District Board did approve the use of reserve funds for the installation of a Westbay well, which ultimately did not happen during this annual cycle, election and legislative endeavors, and the HCP completion (all within the initial budget). A budget revision was necessary in May but no additional funds were requested, rather moved around within existing line items.
- The District obtained new contracts for services in accordance with established District standards that meet or exceed the requirements of state law and the District's Rules & Bylaws.
- The District submitted an application to the TWDB Board for a Regional Facility Planning Grant on January 28, 2015 to assess the Saline Edwards Aquifer as a potential water supply. The District was awarded grant funding in the amount of \$240,000 to support the District's grant project. The contract with TWDB for the grant project was approved by the Board and executed on August 27, 2015.
- The District's investment officer, Dana Christine Wilson, completed the official Public Funds Investment Act (PFIA) training on May 1, 2015 (a biennial requirement).

**PS 1-4:** Provide efficient administrative support and infrastructure, such that District operations are executed reliably and accurately, meet staff and local stakeholder needs, and conform to District policies and with federal and state requirements.

- A cost-benefit analyses was performed on all District insurance and employee-benefit policies before renewal; and acquired, amended and renewed all District benefit policies in a timely fashion.
- All District records were maintained, retained, and controlled in accordance with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission-approved District Records Retention Schedule to allow for safekeeping and efficient retrieval of any and all records; and annually audit records for effective management of use, maintenance, retention, preservation and disposal of the records' life cycle as required by the Local Government Code.
- Maintained and upgraded (e.g. remodeling projects) the office building and the grounds, office equipment, and supplies to provide an efficient work environment that meets the needs of the



staff and stakeholder community. Facilities upgrades for FY 2015 was a remodel of space to create a lab area to improve function and efficiency.

- District Board agendas and pertinent meeting materials and backup documentation were developed, posted, and distributed in a timely manner. Select documents were posted on the District website as pertinent and necessary. Official records, files, and minutes of Board meetings were also appropriately maintained and made available for public viewing on the District website.

**PS 1-5:** Provide mechanisms to align District *Rules*, policies, and programs with the will of its collective and precinct-level constituencies, within the constraints of statutes governing the District.

- There was not a full Board of 5 members from September until November 4, 2014 (Election Day) in FY 2015 as Gary Franklin resigned from his Precinct 2 position in April 2014. After considering the interested candidates to fill the vacancy by appointment, the Board opted not to make an appointment in favor of letting the process of the next election determine who would replace the vacated position. That general election took place on November 4, 2014 where Blayne Stansberry was elected in a contested election Director of Precinct 2 to fill the vacancy.
- Effective participation may be demonstrated by the documentation of Board activity communications described under PS 4-1. This process and methodology was developed during FY 2013. The formal judgment of the effectiveness of the Board's communications was available for the entire FY 2015. The efforts of each Director to engage the full spectrum of stakeholder interests was observed and demonstrated by their attendance in the majority of all Board meetings, work sessions, stakeholder meetings, District-sponsored activities, and individual communications.
- An election was held for both Precincts 2 and 5 in FY 2015. The elections were conducted in accordance with newly redistricted precinct boundaries, State and Federal law, and as required by Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code, and the rules set forth in the Texas Election Code.

**PS 1-6:** Provide leadership in promoting legislation and regulations that benefit the protection of the District's groundwater resources and opposing legislation and regulations that harm those resources.

- After a solicitation of statements of interest and then proposals from firms to provide legislative consulting services toward the end of FY 2014, the General Manager coordinated with a subcommittee of the Board to narrow down a short list, interview, and then recommend a first-choice firm to provide legislative support in the 84<sup>th</sup> legislative session. In the beginning of FY 2015, the Board chose the firm of Sledge Law and Public Strategies and the General Manager negotiated and executed a contract to provide such services.
- The General Manager served as the primary point of contact and coordinated with Sledge Law and the appointed Board subcommittees to advocate for the District's adopted legislative



agenda throughout the session. Efforts included bill tracking and review and providing testimony at committee hearings on certain bills. The lobbying efforts were successful in affecting the following legislative agenda “driver” items and associated bills:

Saline Zone Management (HB 30): HB 30 was originally drafted to prescribe GCD rules for designated brackish groundwater production zones. The passed version of the bill was revised to only approve a study to identify the zones. The BSEACD was exempted from the bill in recognition of the District’s ongoing efforts to manage the Saline Edwards Aquifer.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery (HB 655): HB 655 provided authority to TCEQ to regulate the injection and recovery of injected water in ASR systems. HB 655 includes a special provision recognizing the authority of the BSEACD over recovery of water from ASR systems which was authorized by HB 3405.

Seller’s Disclosure Notices (HB 1221): HB 1221 was passed requiring sellers to report whether a property was in a GCD or not. This was the direct product of BSEACD efforts to advocate for this issue.

- Other non-driver agenda items and associated bills affected by the District’s lobbying efforts include: HB 930 related to TDLR regulation of water well drillers and pump installers; HB 1232 related to TWDB study and mapping of aquifers; and SB 854 related to GCD permitting and automatic renewals.
- Other non-agenda bills affected by the District’s lobbying efforts include: HB 200 relating to GCD regulation of groundwater and the DFC appeal process; HB 2767 (TWCA Chapter 36 “clean up” bill); HB 3163 related to GCD Board member immunity from law suits; and HB 4112 (the “fair share” bill) relating to groundwater ownership and property rights.
- HB 3405: HB 3405 to expand the jurisdiction of the BSEACD was the dominant legislative initiative this session but was not anticipated or identified in the legislative agenda. The General Manager and the HB 3405 special subcommittee of the Board coordinated very closely with the District lobbyist to track progress and provide input into the provisions of HB 3405 throughout the legislative process. This effort included frequent review of bill language, providing committee testimony, and many meetings with area stakeholders and officials, bill sponsors, other legislators, legislative staffers, and other lobbyists. The District’s efforts were ultimately successful with HB 3405 becoming law effective on June 19, 2015 in a form favorable to the District.
- A Legislative Debriefing Report was provided by Brian Sledge of Sledge Law, the District’s legislative consultant, at the June 25, 2015 Board meeting. The Board adopted the report and accepted the report as satisfying this performance standard.

## **Objective 2. Promulgate a fair and efficient regulatory program.**

**PS 2-1:** Review and modify the *Rules* as warranted to provide and maintain a sound statutory basis for continued District operations and to ensure consistency with both District authority and programmatic needs.

- During FY 2015, the District adopted amendments and revisions to the Rules and Bylaws. A quorum of the District Board of Directors voted unanimously to adopt the proposed revisions at its regular meeting on July 16, 2015. The primary objectives of the changes were to implement new statutory requirements and to promulgate provisions that address the legislative provisions set for in HB 3405 that was put into effect on June 19, 2015. The rule changes were generally focused on registration and permitting of wells in the new area under HB 3405. District staff intends to initiate another round of rulemaking in FY 2016.
- The HCP is currently under FWS review and an ITP has not been issued. Upon approval and issuance of an ITP, staff will propose rule changes necessary to address the efforts of the HCP and ITP.
- District staff revised and updated Drought Target Charts, User Conservation Plans, and User Drought Contingency Plans to incorporate the upcoming effective ERP curtailment requirements. These documents reflect rule requirement 3-7.6(B)(4) that states during an ERP declaration after October 11, 2015, each permittee with an Historical Freshwater Edwards Production Permit is required to curtail monthly permitted pumpage by 50%. The implementation of this rule is critical in ensuring the preservation of the Freshwater Edwards DFC during a drought of record scenario.

**PS 2-2:** Process and review all well registrations, permit renewals, and applications for permits, permit amendments, and authorizations in accordance with the *Rules*, *Well Construction Standards*, and other District guidelines in accordance within specified procedural timeframes.

- During FY 2015, the District implemented an online registration system to receive well registration applications from well owners. The online registration system was implemented in June 2014 in response to recent annexation efforts associated with the passage of HB 3405. Approximately 65 registration surveys were received and processed. The District also hosted its annual Water Well Checkup where it is estimated that < 5 of the 50 participants were new well registrations.
- As reported in the “District Programs-Team Highlights” section of the Annual Report, the following applications were received and processed in FY 2015. All applications were processed in conformance with the District’s information requirements, procedural requirements, and time frames. All current production and transport permits were renewed at the end of the respective permit terms as well.

<b>TOTAL Permit Applications</b>	<b>40</b>
Minor Amendment	8
Exempt Well	3
Limited Production Permit	12
Individual Production Permit	3
New Individual Well Drilling Authorizations/Modification	2
Test Well	1
Well Plugging	11

**PS 2-3:** Monitor existing District wells for compliance with the *Rules*, and *Well Construction Standards*.

- During FY 2015, the Regulatory Compliance Team conducted a number of inspections on existing permitted well systems in response to applications received and processed. The following is a list of inspections.

<b>TOTAL Inspections/ Investigations/ Onsite Visits</b>	<b>40</b>
Exempt Well Inspections	2
Limited Production Permit Inspections	7
Individual Production Permit Inspections	1
Test Well Inspections	1
Plugging Inspections	11
Special Investigation Inspections	7
Onsite Permittee Visits	11

- There were no formal enforcement actions initiated in FY 2015. District staff initiated approximately seven special investigations or inspections and it was determined that no enforcement actions were necessary in these cases.
- Monthly meter readings were collected from all individual permittees each month with the large majority reported in a timely manner. Permittees failing to submit timely reports were provided with notices of the District’s intent to collect meter readings. Most delinquent permittees were generally responsive once the notice was received. Meter readings not received after the notice was provided were collected by staff and a fee was assessed to those permittees, in accordance with the *Rules*. As a result of an adopted rule change, the monthly meter reading requirement for all nonexempt domestic users has been relaxed to an annual meter reading requirement.

**P-S 2-4:** Efficiently process permittee meter readings, water use fee invoices and payments, conservation credits, permit renewals and related communications.

- District production permits are effective for the duration of the District fiscal year (September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>) and are generally automatically renewed by the Board, contingent on absence of compliance issues, unpaid balances, etc., in August of each year for the following fiscal year. The Board approved conditional renewal of all District production permits for FY 2015 during its regular meeting on July 24, 2014.
- District Rule 3-6.4 requires that an audit be conducted in the first quarter of each fiscal year to determine eligibility for conservation credits and the amount of credits earned by permittees in the preceding fiscal year. The audit for FY 2015 was completed and then reported to the Board at the regular Board meeting on September 24, 2015 where the directors approved issuance of \$38,190 (which was \$9,122 more than the previous year of FY 2014 where there was \$29,068 in earned credits).
- A staff-initiated under-pumpage analysis was not performed in FY 2015. Such analysis was judged by the General Manager not to be warranted this fiscal year.
- In FY 2015, all permittee water use fee invoices and payments and meter readings were processed in accordance with specified procedures and timeframes.

**Objective 3. Develop and implement an effective drought management program that achieves the adopted Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) of each relevant aquifer in the District.**

**PS 3-1:** Assist permittees in developing drought and conservation planning strategies, permit conversion strategies, pricing strategies, and enforce compliance with drought management rules during District-declared drought to achieve DFCs during extreme drought.

- The majority of permittees have current UDCPs on file and are currently compliant with District rules; 15 permittees have outdated UDCPs. Permittees have the option to revise drought charts no more than once per year but must update their plans at least every five years. Staff also provided assistance during District-declared drought by assisting with drought plan implementation, drought rule interpretation, and by providing education materials to facilitate permittees to end-user outreach efforts.
- District staff assisted permittees in complying with the requirements of the Stage II Alarm Drought that was declared on August 14, 2014 and continued into the beginning of FY 2015. The District declared No-Drought status on January 29, 2015. Staff assisted permittees in complying with Stage II Alarm Drought requirements. The District remained in No-Drought for the remainder of FY 2015.
- In accordance with the District enforcement plan, the District focused enforcement efforts on egregious and persistent occurrences of non-compliance which included pre-enforcement compliance meetings and monitoring of commitments by permittees to implement measures to improve compliance. In FY 2015, the Regulatory Compliance Team did not have to conduct any pre-enforcement meetings for non-compliance.
- The District has implemented all drought-related rules and curtailments in accordance with the District's enforcement plan and drought management protocols. During FY 2015, the duration of the declared drought was from September 1, 2014 (drought declared on August 14, 2014) to January 29, 2015. Drought enforcement measures were assessed for Stage II Alarm Drought for the entire duration of the drought. Stage II Alarm Drought all permittees collectively reduced pumpage by an aggregate 53% (Table 1).



**Table 1**

<b>Stage II Alarm Drought</b>			
	<b>Total Actual Monthly Pumpage</b>	<b>Permitted Monthly Baseline</b>	<b>% Curtailment</b>
<b>September 2014</b>	140,655,459	279,986,305	50%
<b>October 2014</b>	130,697,823	233,871,125	56%
<b>November 2014</b>	99,685,643	190,831,059	52%
<b>December 2014</b>	92,130,785	165,914,479	56%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>463,169,710</b>	<b>870,602,968</b>	<b>53%</b>

**PS 3-2:** Monitor and declare drought stages on the basis of the analysis of data from the District’s defined drought triggers and in accordance with the adopted drought trigger methodology.

Staff monitored the District’s two drought trigger sites (Barton Springs and Lovelady monitor well) plus numerous other indicators of drought conditions relating to the Edwards Aquifer within and nearby the District. The USGS is responsible for the equipment and maintaining data on their website. District staff frequently verify water-level values that are measured by the equipment at the Lovelady monitor well. During periods of District-declared drought and during times preceding potential drought, staff provided timely updated reports of aquifer conditions at each Board meeting. Data from Trinity monitor wells were also collected and evaluated at these times.

**PS 3-3:** Inform and educate permittees and the public about declared drought stages and the severity of drought, and encourage practices and behaviors to reduce water use.

- Mass communication efforts: Significant effort went to posting and maintaining monitoring well efforts for what is now the Shared Territory. 7 Spotlight pages and permanent Trinity Well website were posted. 1 Aquifer Bulletin Newsletter, 3 Fact Sheets were crafted or updated (Annexation, Policy Overview, Well Owner Guide). There were 6 press releases circulated, including election results, annexation updates, drought stage notice, rule change announcements, and permitting deadlines.
- Friends of the Aquifers email notices: The Friends of the Aquifers email list includes Press (~122), Permittees (~147), HOAs (~128), Teachers (~239), Partners (~47) and the general public. Email notices can target specific groups or be released to the entire list (~2,200 emails). A total of 30 email notices were circulated.

- Drought stage road signs and bill inserts: not applicable since we did not enter into a drought stage in FY 2015.
- Public Information Requests: 38 public information requests were received and tracked. All 38 were answered satisfactorily and in a timely fashion.
- Residents' inquiries about drought restrictions: The District did not receive any email/phone call concerns from area residents regarding water waste. However, there was significant interest in well drilling activity by Electro Purification in what is now the Shared Territory. Concerned well owners were kept up-to-date on monitoring efforts through Spotlights, email blasts to the Friends of the Aquifers list, and the Trinity Well website. Many presentations were made to community groups, and in collaboration with area GCDs, staff measured approximately 108 wells.

**Objective 4. Demonstrate leadership in external communication, collaboration, coordination and joint planning with respect to groundwater and related resources.**

**PS 4-1:** Cultivate and communicate effectively and routinely with stakeholders of all types that affect and are affected by the District's programs and policies.

Evidence to support progress towards this standard is provided through Directors' Reports provided monthly at a regular Board meeting, and through modified Director's Compensation forms that provide documentation of activities, correspondence, events attended and other communications. For FY 2015, the Board reviewed the reported activities and correspondence of each individual Director, and formally approved the demonstration of effective communication for each quarter of the year.

**PS 4-2:** Collaborate with joint Groundwater Management Area (GMA) and regional water planning efforts on policies, regulations, and activities affecting water quality or desired future conditions of the aquifers managed by the District.

**Joint-Regional Groundwater Planning**

The District has jurisdictional area and therefore designated voting representatives in both GMA 9 (Hill Country Trinity Aquifer) and GMA 10 (Edwards Aquifer). The District actively participated in joint regional groundwater planning process by providing in-kind consultation services and by participating in voting on posted agenda items affecting the respective GMAs.

Groundwater Management Area 9

The designated District representative (Brian Hunt) attended 4 of 5 GMA 9 meetings. He actively participated by participating in meetings and voting on posted agenda items affecting the GMA. The District also contributed funds (\$5,055) to support the work of a consultant to assist GMA 9 in preparing the Explanatory Report for the 2016 planning cycle. Mr. Hunt reported news and activities to the BSEACD Board of Directors. Noteworthy activity of GMA 9 in FY 2015 included:

- GMA 9 selected the contractor team of Blanton-Guyton to write the ER, and successfully agreed to a scope of work and project cost divided evenly among the GCDs. The District contributed funds for the Explanatory Report of GMA 9.
- Extensive discussion of the relevance and DFCs of aquifers.
- Extensive discussion of the Explanatory Report.
- Annual review of management plans for each GCD (June 6, 2015): Mr. Hunt provided an overview of the District's plan and provided input on other plans.

The meetings and discussions in FY 2015 led up to an extended meeting on September 28, 2015 (Dripping Springs) that reviewed all elements and factors of the Explanatory Report. Proposed DFCs and non-relevant aquifers were voted on and approved at this meeting.



## Groundwater Management Area 10

The designated District representative for GMA 10 is John Dupnik. In FY 2015, Mr. Dupnik attended 3 of 4 GMA 10 meetings (75%). The District also contributed funds (\$15,000) to support the work of a consultant to assist GMA 10 in preparing the Explanatory Report for the 2016 planning cycle. Noteworthy activity of GMA 10 in FY 2015 included:

- Provided regular updates of Regional Planning Group activities.
- Considered the relevance of certain aquifers for planning purposes.
- Worked towards developing the framework to establish a non-voting advisory group to extend participating in planning activity to other affected parties.
- Participated in a subcommittee to consider additional analysis of projected increases in pumping in Central Hays County.
- Considered alternate DFCs for the Saline Edwards Aquifer in the northern subdivision of GMA 10.
- Reviewed and edited the draft chapter of the Explanatory Report on the freshwater Edwards Aquifer in the northern subdivision of GMA 10.

The DFC proposal process is conducted on a five-year planning cycle with the next round of DFCs due in May of 2016. Since DFCs for the next planning cycle were not yet due in FY 2015, no public hearings for GMA 10 were held or attended by District representatives.

## **Regional Water Planning Groups**

The District has jurisdictional area in both Region K (Lower Colorado River Regional Water Planning Group) and Region L (South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group); therefore, the District Board members and staff continue to actively participate in the regional water planning processes of both Region K and Region L, which are engaged in a multi-year re-evaluation of water demand, water supplies and resources, and water management strategies. The District provided input to both of these regional water planning groups.

### Region K

John Dupnik, District General Manager; and Robin Gary, Senior Staff, serve as the Region K voting member and the designated alternate, respectively, for Region K. The District representatives to Region K attended 4 of 5 meetings (80%) in FY 2015. Noteworthy activity of Region K in FY 2015 included:

- Participated in a policy subcommittee involving development of new policy concepts and the re-write of existing policies in response to new information to be included in the 2016 Regional Water Plan.
- Participated in the strategy prioritization committee to develop methodology for scoring and ranking of the supply strategies in the 2011 Regional Water Plan.
- Participated in the Water Supply Strategy committee involving review of proposed strategies to be included in the draft 2016 Regional Water Plan.

- Had meetings and provided support material to the Region K consultant to ensure that District-supported projects and strategies including Trinity/Edwards and Saline Edwards Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) and Saline Edwards Aquifer desalination were included water supply strategies the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP).
- The IPP was completed and hearings were held in various locations in the basin.

### Region L

Brian Smith, District Principal Hydrogeologist, tracked the activity of Region L and attended 2 of 3 meetings in FY 2015. Noteworthy activity of Region L in FY 2015 included:

- Voted to fill two voting-member vacancies for the Regional L planning committee. There is a total of 29 voting members.
- Reviewed various water management strategies to be included in the 2016 Regional Water Plan, and reviewed contractor's evaluations of these water management strategies.
- Updates were presented on legislative issues of interest that might affect regional water planning entities.
- The draft Initially Prepared Region Water Plan was completed and several workshops were held for public comments.

**PS 4-3:** Provide technical assistance as warranted to federal, state and local entities; organizations; and individuals on the geology, hydrogeology, and karst features impacted by groundwater-utilizing land use activities.

In FY 2015, staff reviewed 35 Water Pollution and Abatement Plans (WPAPs) that were received at the District to determine which development sites are relevant to the District's interests in protecting groundwater resources. Those plans that are determined to be of interest were reviewed in detail, and if it was appropriate, the sites were visited by staff. District staff identified two abandoned wells that needed to be properly plugged, and commented on one WPAP modification.

**PS 4-4:** Through education and public outreach, inform groundwater users and the general public of the connectivity of recharge and discharge, importance of water quality protection, and the relationship between surface water and groundwater.

- The District participated in approximately 36 outreach events including field trips, conferences, workshops, meetings, and festivals. These presentations, events, and field trips reached more than 3,121 adults and 35 students.
- The District hosted or co-hosted Groundwater to the Gulf, the Kent Butler Symposium, 5th Annual Central Texas Water Conservation Symposium "Dive Deep Into Water Conservation", Strategic Walk and Talk Homeowner Education Campaign, Water Well Checkup, Annexation Town Hall and three Neighborhood Information Sessions.
- The District website received 21,808 visits from 13,635 unique visitors who clicked through 47,826 pages throughout the fiscal year. Facebook 'likes' increased from 220 to 403. There are 323 followers on Twitter.

- There were 332 new contacts added to the Friends of the Aquifers list. Additions include Permittees, HOA contacts, Strategic Walk and Talk sign-ups, and concerned residents and well owners in the Shared Territory.

**PS 4-5:** Prepare, submit, and maintain a draft and final Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and provide support of related National Environmental Policy Act documentation and processes for obtaining an Incidental Take Permit from the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) for the endangered species at Barton Springs.

- In early FY 2015, a substantially complete draft HCP was approved by the Board for final editing and preparation of the ITP application at the regular Board meeting on September 11, 2014. The District was successful in completing and submitting the Draft HCP and ITP permit application in November of 2015. This was the culmination of a final push and a substantial increase in the level of effort in FY 2014 and the beginning of FY 2015 to complete the draft after significant review and input from the Management Advisory Committee and other stakeholders.
- After the draft was submitted, the District has been working closely with USFWS staff to discuss comments and suggest edits responsive to those comments.
- The General Manager has coordinated the work of the District's HCP consultant and staff and will continue to work with USFWS to complete a Board-approved draft for review by the regional office and subsequent notice and public comments in FY 2016.

## **Objective 5. Extend current groundwater supplies by encouraging supply-side and demand-side improvements.**

**PS 5-1:** On at least a bi-annual basis, assess the availability and feasibility of regional alternative water supplies and encourage District permittees to diversify their water supplies by fostering arrangements with available water suppliers.

- The District continued its ongoing initiatives associated with development of alternative water supplies for the District and its region throughout FY 2015. In FY 2015, the District applied for and was awarded funds by TWDB for a Regional Facility Planning (RFP) grant to do an engineering evaluation of desalination and ASR and to install a multiport well to help characterize the saline Edwards Aquifer.
- In lieu of an annual report as required by the MP, District staff concentrated efforts on preparing the RFP grant application, negotiation the RFP grant contract, and soliciting partners for the grant opportunity for ASR feasibility studies under Rider 25 approved with the appropriations bill (HB 1) in by the Legislature in the 84<sup>th</sup> session.

On the basis of the substantial level of effort related to preparing and implementing the grant projects that facilitate the feasibility assessment of regional alternative supplies, staff considers metric to be “met” unless determined otherwise by the Board.

**PS 5-2:** Conduct investigations and, as warranted and feasible, physically alter discrete recharge features that will lead to an increase in recharge to the Edwards Aquifer.

- Antioch Cave is a recharge feature on District property that is capable of contributing a significant amount of water to the Edwards Aquifer when Onion Creek is flowing. A vault constructed over the cave entrance and automated valves allow for clean creek water to enter the cave and for contaminated storm water to be kept out. This system was maintained by District staff in FY 2015 so that the amount of clean creek water entering the cave was maximized. A regular reporting item has been added to the General Manager report special topics list to provide a monthly oral update on these and other Aquifer Science activities and satisfy this reporting requirement.
- In FY 2015, District staff worked with the City of Austin on developing procedures for cleaning out caves on City property that are capable of recharging the Edwards Aquifer with water flowing in Onion Creek. Owing to significant flooding in May 2015, some of the recharge features on City Property on Onion Creek were partially filled with sediment. District staff met with City staff in the field to discuss how to prevent this from happening again.

**PS 5-3:** Conduct investigations, as warranted and feasible, to evaluate the potential for the saline zone of the Edwards Aquifer to provide water for a desalination facility, and to evaluate the potential for the Edwards saline zone and the Trinity aquifers beneath the freshwater Edwards as reservoirs for an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) system.

- Plans for installation of a multiport monitor well in the saline Edwards were advanced in FY 2015. A budget was set by the Board in FY 2015 so that there would be sufficient funds in FY 2016 for installation of the well. Discussions were held with prospective partners, Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) and Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA), about logistics and funding of the project. Because an access agreement with a landowner in the study area had not yet been finalized, drilling and installation of the monitor well was delayed until FY 2016.
- This standard includes metrics requiring an annual oral presentation that is to be provided in even-numbered years. A regular reporting item has been added to the General Manager report special topics list to provide a monthly oral update on these and other Aquifer Science activities and satisfy this reporting requirement. The Management Plan requires that a biennial Alternative Water Supplies Report be prepared in odd-numbered years. However, considerable work was conducted in FY 2015 to prepare grant applications for projects to study alternative water supplies. These grant applications are considered to cover material that would have been included in a biennial report, so this metric is considered to have been met.

**PS 5-4:** Maintain and develop programs that inform and educate District groundwater users and area residents of all ages about water conservation practices and resources and use of alternate water sources including gray water/condensate reuse and rainwater harvesting.

- Through newsletter articles and activities such as the Water Conservation Toss, Build A Rain Barrel, and the Rainwater Harvesting Challenge, staff stresses the importance of water conservation and alternate supplies. By teaching teachers to incorporate pertinent and easy-to-use activities into their classroom and making the Water Conservation Toss available for youth groups to use at festivals and events, the District magnifies its ability to communicate this message. Events such as trainings, festivals, and workshops were posted on Facebook and promoted through Twitter.
- The District continues to research the feasibility of desalination and aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) technologies to supplement existing water supplies with Saline Edwards water resources through grant research and ongoing collaboration with TDS.

**Objective 6. Increase understanding of all District aquifers so that appropriate policy and regulatory decisions are made.**

**PS 6-1:** Assess aquifer conditions by sampling and collecting groundwater data from selected wells.

- The Aquifer Science Team collected 30 samples from sample sites including wells and springs from the Edwards and Trinity aquifers for major ions isotopes.
- The Regulatory Team collected 11 water quality samples during routine permit inspections or from new well construction inspections.
- The District, in collaboration with Texas Well Owners Network and Texas AgriLife, offered a free water well screening for private wells in the area. Well owners collected their own samples and dropped them off at the District office to be taken for analysis; approximately 50 wells were sampled during Water Well Checkup.

**PS 6-2:** Conduct scientific studies to better determine groundwater availability, to understand and prevent threats to water quality, to minimize impacts to water-supply wells and springs, and to provide sound science on which to base District policy.

- Some of the key activities of the Aquifer Science Team for FY 2015 under this performance standard include the following:
- Performed studies with the EAA, TPWD, HTGCD, and the University of Texas to characterize the groundwater flow in the Blanco Watershed. Results of preliminary work were published in a book published by Springer for an international karst conference in Malaga, Spain.
- Maintained a monitor well network of about 35 wells with instruments that collect hourly data. The District's weather station at the District office also collects hourly data. The District routinely measures water levels in the two existing multiport monitor wells that were completed in the Edwards and Trinity aquifers.
- Collected water quality data (ions and isotopes) from about 15 sample locations in FY 2015 (TWDB partnership).
- Developed, in cooperation with Magellan Pipeline Company, an annual sampling program in advance of operation of the Longhorn Pipeline that transports crude oil. In April 2015, staff sampled 10 springs and well sites for hydrocarbon contaminants as a background prior to operation using a screening test of BTEX and TPH. Staff also worked on the location of the installation of two new monitor wells anticipated in FY 2016.
- Established about 7 Trinity monitor wells and collected data regarding wells and geology in the newly annexed area of Hays County.

- Worked on developing revised aquifer test guidelines and evaluating well testing conducted in the newly annexed area of Hays County.
- Participated with Hays-Trinity GCD, Edwards Aquifer Authority, and Blanco-Pedernales GCD staff to continue to collect hydrogeologic data regarding the Trinity Aquifer (a continuation of the Hydrogeologic Atlas project).
- Performed studies with the Edwards Aquifer Authority to characterize the groundwater flow in the Blanco Watershed.
- Performed studies with the Hays Trinity GCD and the City of Austin to characterize the surface and groundwater interaction in the Onion Creek watershed.
- Continued development and data collection of a geologic database of the Edwards and Trinity Aquifers in central Texas.
- A regular reporting item has been added to the General Manager report special topics list to provide a monthly oral update on these and other Aquifer Science activities and satisfy this reporting requirement.

FY 2015 started with a Stage II Alarm Drought in place following a relatively dry 2014 summer. Water levels began to rise in September of 2014 after above-average rainfall. Drought conditions were ended due to consistent fall rains. This steady recharge increased aquifer water level as well as Barton Springs flow. The Board removed Stage II Alarm Drought, and declared No-Drought conditions on January 29, 2015. The water level in Lovelady monitor well has been on an upward trend continuing from mid-November 2014 to late August 2015. Extremely heavy rainfall on May 25 gave the Edwards a boost, as 5.20 inches fell on Camp Mabry, providing Austin its wettest May on record. The May rain tally was 17.59 inches, topping the previous 1895 record of 14.10. Lovelady finally peaked at its maximum elevation of 522.7 ft.-msl, 5 ft. higher than the previous record peak level seen in July of 2010. The water level in Lovelady eventually turned downward in elevation on August 20, 2015, and continued a steady decline due to a lack of rain in July and August.

- Staff from the Aquifer Science Team attended and presented numerous technical papers or abstracts at the International Symposium on Karst (Malaga, Spain, October 14-17, 2014), KG@B International Conference on Groundwater in Karst (Birmingham, UK, June 2015), and other meetings of aquifer scientists and managers.



**FY 2015 Published Reports:**

Smith, Brian A., [Hunt, Brian B.](#), Andrews, Alan, Watson, Jeff A., Gary, Marcus O., Wierman, Douglas A., and Broun, Alex S., 2014, Hydrologic Influences of the Blanco River on the Trinity and Edwards Aquifers, Central Texas, USA: in Hydrogeological and Environmental Investigation in Karst Systems, Springer, Environmental Earth Sciences vol.1, eds. Andreo, B., Carrasco, F., Duran, J.J., Jimenez, P., and Lamoreaux, J.W., pp. 153-161.

Smith, Brian A., [Hunt, Brian B.](#), Andrews, Alan, Watson, Jeff A., Gary, Marcus O., Wierman, Douglas A., and Broun, Alex S., 2015, Surface Water-Groundwater Interactions Along the Blanco River of Central Texas, USA: in Hydrogeological and Environmental Investigation in Karst Systems, Springer, Environmental Earth Sciences vol.1, eds.. DOI 10.1007/s12665-015-4630-1.

Hunt, Brian B., [Smith, Brian A.](#), Andrews, Alan, Wierman, Douglas A., and Broun, Alex S., Gary, Marcus O., 2015, Influence of Faulting and Relay Ramp Structures on Groundwater Flow in the Karstic Edwards and Trinity Aquifers, Central Texas: KG@B 2015, International Conference on Groundwater in Karst, Birmingham, UK, June 20-2, 2015.