



**Barton Springs
Edwards Aquifer**
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

For Immediate Release: Monday, October 15, 2018

For more information, contact: Robin Gary, Senior Public Information and Education Coordinator at rhgary@bseacd.org, 512-282-8441

Aquifer District Lifts Drought Declaration

At the October 11 Board Meeting, the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District's Directors declared a No-Drought condition for the aquifers within the District, effective immediately. While rainfall totals across central Texas varied significantly in September and October, areas in the contributing and recharge zones received enough rain to saturate soils and allow runoff to generate stream flow in the recharge zone creeks. One of the area's two groundwater drought indicators, Barton Springs discharge, has been above the Stage II Alarm Drought threshold (10-day average of 38 cubic feet per second) since September 9, 2018. On Friday, October 5, 2018 the water level in the Lovelady Well crossed above its drought threshold (478.4 feet above mean sea level). Both indicators need to be above their designated thresholds – and currently are – to emerge from drought.

The District declared a groundwater drought and has been enforcing mandatory water-use restrictions since July 2018. Sustained creekflow in the recharge zone creeks has generated substantial recharge to the aquifer. Water levels are still below average, but with additional rainfall they could continue to rise. Groundwater users are encouraged to maintain conservation practices, but mandatory pumping curtailments are lifted.

Useful links:

- Drought Status page: <http://bseacd.org/aquifer-science/drought-status/>
- Press Release archive: <http://bseacd.org/publications/press-releases/>
- Drought Management page: <http://bseacd.org/regulatory/drought-management/>
- Water Conservation & Protection page: <http://bseacd.org/education/water-conservation/>

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

#