

PRESS RELEASE: Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

The Board of Directors of the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District met on May 9, 2011 at the Wimberley Community Center for a one agenda topic, drought Alarm Stage. The District's three drought condition triggers: the Blanco River, the Pedernales River, and the Palmer Drought Severity Index / US Drought Monitor have all three met the criteria for Alarm Stage. The District, which encompasses western Hays County, has been in drought condition Voluntary Conservation, which requests a 10% voluntary reduction. This new drought condition, Alarm Stage, sanctioned by the Board of Directors and unanimously enacted ORDER 149. It states that Non-Exempt Permit holders are mandated to reduce their use of groundwater by 20% of their total yearly permit production. The District recognizes that there are approximately 6000 Exempt well owners within western Hays County which are under no regulatory authority of the District. The District requests that Exempt well owners reduce their use by 20%. ORDER 149 requests that Exempt well owners use the following outdoor watering schedule:

Odd numbered addresses: Wednesday and or Saturday only
Even numbered addresses: Thursday and or Sunday only
Watering Hours: 6:00 am – 9:00 am and or 8:00 pm – 11:00 pm
No Watering at any other times
Hand-held hoses or hand-held buckets are allowed at any time

The Board of Directors recognizes Public Water Service providers within the District to manage their customer's groundwater reductions including outdoor watering dates and time schedules.

A copy of ORDER 149 can be located on the District's website www.haysgroundwater.com under Quick Links / Regulatory. There you can read further detail of Order 149 plus ways property owners can reduce their groundwater use. You may contact the District directly at 512-858-9253 with any question or concerns. We suggest you come by our office and pick up a free drought sign for your home or subdivision. "Working together for the benefit of the health of the Trinity Aquifer", Rick Broun – General Manager HTGCD.