

ORDER NO. 226

**HAYS TRINITY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Hays County, Texas**

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**ORDER DETERMINING THAT DROUGHT CONDITION TRIGGERS FOR THE
DISTRICT HAVE MOVED TO CRITICAL STAGE FROM EMERGENCY STATUS**

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (HTGCD) reviewed and considered CRITICAL STAGE drought condition for western Hays County; and

WHEREAS, local trigger conditions of the Blanco River and the Pedernales River have exceeded the CRITICAL Stage drought condition and regional drought trigger of the Palmer Drought Index Services shows Severe and Moderate Drought conditions for the District; and

WHEREAS, all active permit holders received a drought stage notification before April 1, 2024 to begin reducing production by that effective date and HTGCD has now declared drought stage CRITICAL with an effective date of April 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, drought status of CRITICAL Stage for all “**Non-Exempt Permit Holders**” is a mandatory and enforceable curtailment of pumping production permits, and failure to do so will be a direct violation of permit terms and District Rules; Permit Holders are to refer to the District’s Drought Contingency Plan and the Drought Production Cutback Chart for each individual permit holder’s reduction amount; and

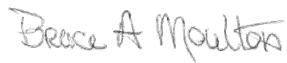
WHEREAS, drought status of CRITICAL Stage for all “**Exempt**” well owners is a request by the Board of Directors to reduce groundwater use by 30%;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED AND RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF HAYS TRINITY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, HAYS COUNTY, TEXAS, THAT:

- 1) The Board recognizes and adopts CRITICAL Stage drought conditions with a mandatory and enforceable reduction for all “**Non-Exempt Permit Holders;**” and
- 2) The Board requests that all “**Exempt**” well owners reduce their usage by 30%; and
- 3) The Board directs District staff to report production violations including those of waste within western Hays County to the Board for enforceable penalties; and

- 4) The Board requests that all western Hays County residents use extreme caution and care with water use throughout the CRITICAL Stage drought condition; and
- 5) The Board recognizes that Public Water Service providers within the District are responsible for the management of their customer's groundwater reductions within their Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) including outdoor watering dates and time schedules; and
- 6) The Board urges immediate adherence to the Drought Contingency Plans and Drought Curtailment Plans; and
- 7) CRITICAL Stage drought conditions will stay in effect for western Hays County until further notice.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED April 4, 2024



Bruce Moulton, Board President



David Smith, Board Secretary-Treasurer