ORDER NO. 20241003-3

HAYS TRINITY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Hays County, Texas
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ORDER DETERMINING THAT DROUGHT CONDITION TRIGGERS FOR THE DISTRICT HAVE MOVED TO EMERGENCY STAGE FROM CRITICAL STATUS

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

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

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

WHEREAS, drought status of EMERGENCY Stage for all **Non-Exempt Permit Holders** is a mandatory and enforceable 40% 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 EMERGENCY Stage for all **Exempt** well owners is a request by the Board of Directors to reduce groundwater use by 40%;

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 EMERGENCY 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 40%; 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 EMERGENCY Stage drought condition; and

5) The Board recognizes that Public Water Service providers within the District are responsible for the management of their customers' 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) EMERGENCY Stage drought conditions will stay in effect for western Hays County until further notice.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED October 3, 2024

Bruce A Moulton

Bruce Moulton, HTGCD Board President

David P Smith

David Smith, HTGCD Board Secretary/Treasurer