
PRESS RELEASE



Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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July 15, 2008, Conroe, Texas – The Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District at its July 8, 2008, Board of Directors meeting authorized its 2009 groundwater use fee and groundwater transportation fee rate.

In a unanimous decision, the Board by resolution authorized maintaining water use fees for 2009 at 7 cents per 1,000 gallons for all registered wells pumping under Historic Use and Operating permits. The 7 cents per 1,000 gallons does not apply to wells permitted for agricultural use, which will remain \$1 per acre-foot permitted. Small “mom and pop” well owners that produce water only for domestic or livestock use are not required to pay a fee. An acre-foot of water is approximately 325,000 gallons.

The groundwater transportation fee, which is charged to permittees who pump groundwater from a well in Montgomery County and transport that water for use outside of the county, is an additional 50 percent surcharge on top of the regular water use fee rate (\$0.105/1,000 gallons).

The Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District is one of nearly 94 groundwater conservation districts statewide created by the state legislature to conserve, protect, and enhance groundwater resources. The state legislature has taken the direction thus far that managing groundwater resources is best done through local control, rather than through state action.

The Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District is but one of a few that is not funded by ad valorem taxes. The founding Board of Directors opted for a fee-based revenue structure, believing fees place the cost on those who are actually using the resource, instead of spreading the cost indiscriminately across all taxpayers. Compared to some groundwater districts where the ad valorem taxes or permit and use fees can be as high as \$25 per year or more, the cost passed through to the average homeowner in Montgomery County is generally less than a \$1.00/month.

Montgomery County, which relies solely on underground aquifers for its water supply, is currently permitted to withdraw more water annually than can be recharged by the aquifer. The aquifer replenishes about 64,000 acre feet a year through rainfall and runoff. Currently, Montgomery County permit holders are authorized to produce in excess of 78,000 acre feet

annually. With a growing population, it is important for all Montgomery County residents to use our precious water resources as efficiently as possible.

The District in December 2006 adopted a Groundwater Regulatory Plan (GRP) which essentially puts all permitted groundwater users on notice that they must reduce their groundwater usage to approximately 70 percent of their permitted amount by 2015 and is requiring “large volume groundwater users” to submit “Water Resources Assessment Plans” (WRAP) to the District by early 2009 on how they plan to meet that goal.

For more information please contact the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District (936.494.3436), or visit our website, www.lonestargcd.org.

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