
PRESS RELEASE



Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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December 29, 2008, Conroe, Texas – The Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District at its November 11, 2008, Board of Directors meeting voted to allow an incentive for the development and use of reclaimed water from wastewater treatment plants to replace local groundwater for purposes outside the home, namely irrigation and cooling tower and other consumptive uses. This incentive is in the form of credits that would accrue in the same way that money deposited in a bank can be withdrawn and spent.

The District Regulatory Plan requires that large volume users of groundwater must commit to reducing their usage of local groundwater to no more than 70 percent of their total usage by 2015. This reduction can be accomplished either by bringing in surface water to replace the groundwater currently being used, or it can be accomplished by using reclaimed water for purposes other than human consumption, as noted above. The credit that was voted in by the Board for this purpose is 2 gallons of credit for each gallon of reclaimed water that is used between now and 2015. The additional credit is given because there is no requirement currently for any reduction between now and 2015, but any actions taken to reduce usage now will have an overall positive effect upon the aquifer.

A water system who amasses credits through reclaimed water usage prior to 2015 can then spend those credits to continue to use groundwater for more than 70 percent of their demand beyond 2015 for as long as the credits last. At some point in time, they will still need to convert to additional alternative supplies since few systems are able to use enough reclaimed water to meet the 30 percent conversion requirement solely by that means. After 2015, the utility is still using reclaimed water for a part of its demand, but it is then just a reduction applied against the 30 percent requirement.

The Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District was created with the task of managing and protecting the groundwater in Montgomery County to ensure that this valuable resource remains available to future generations of Montgomery County Residents. As noted above the Board is looking for every possible means to reduce the cost of reducing groundwater usage while maintaining the aquifer overall at levels which do not cause excessive drawdown and potential subsidence.

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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