

Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District
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FAYETTE COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO GRANT EXISTING AND HISTORIC USE PERMITS

On November 6, 2006 the Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors approved Rule 9.12 allowing the issuance of "Existing and Historic Use Permits." These permits allow the Fayette County GCD to find out how much groundwater is being used in the county, how much is needed for the future, and how much surplus water we will have. State law requires that any surplus water not used by the citizens of Fayette County must be made available to anyone wanting to use it for beneficial purposes, including people outside the County. Current estimates show that Fayette County has about 14,000 acre feet of available water, but the District needs to get a better idea of how much water is being used. By issuing the "Existing and Historic Use Permits" the District will be better able to reserve the water within the County for beneficial uses here.

To qualify for these permits the well owner must have a registered well in Fayette County currently producing more than 25,000 gallons of water per day and the well must have been producing water between January 1, 1994 and January 1, 2004. Wells included in this permitting process are all irrigation wells, commercial wells, and public supply wells. All applications for "Existing and Historic Use Permits" must be received at the Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District before August 1, 2007 to be eligible to receive a permit. After the August 1, 2007 deadline no "Existing and Historic Use Permits" will be issued. Any application for a permit that is received after the deadline will be subject to the District's rules covering new wells, no matter when the well was drilled.

Well owners permitted under the "Existing and Historic" use rules will benefit by having their permit based on the amount of water used over a long period of time and not by new well guidelines. This could mean being permitted for a greater amount of water than a new well.

Applications are available at the Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District office located in the Agricultural Building at 254 N. Jefferson, Room 600. If you would like more information about Existing and Historic Use Permits, or if your group or civic organization would like this information presented at an upcoming meeting, you can contact the District at 979-968-3135.

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SOURCE: FAYETTE COUNTY GCD