

Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District

P.O. Box 625
254 N. Jefferson St., Room 600
La Grange, Texas 78945
Telephone: (979) 968-3135
Fax: (979) 968-3194

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District
Date: May 31, 2005
Contact: Linda Streicher, Manager
Telephone: (979) 968-3135, Fax: (979) 968-3194

Well Registration Deadline Reminder

The Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District reminds Fayette County landowners that all existing water wells must be registered with the District by July 1, 2005. Existing wells registered after that date will be charged a \$5 fee. New wells must be registered within 14 days after the well is completed.

The District is taking this inventory of water wells in order to obtain more current and accurate information about the water usage and needs of Fayette County. The State of Texas determines how much groundwater is available to Fayette County, based on groundwater availability computer models. These models are using old data, and typically only including one to three wells for all of Fayette County. The District has concerns about the accuracy or reliability of the data currently being used by the State in the regional planning process. If the State's models determine that Fayette County has surplus groundwater, then the District must allow the sale of that surplus to urban areas in need of more water. For this reason and others, the District has commissioned a hydrogeologic study of the aquifers within the District boundaries. The data received through well registrations will contribute significantly to the accuracy of this study, which is already underway.

Another key reason to register a well is to minimize the risk of harm to that well by any new wells. When an application for a high volume well permit is received, the District will consider the proximity, depth and usage of all the registered wells in the area of the proposed well. Conditions will be set on the permitted well to try to insure that the new well does not negatively affect any existing well. The District can't consider a well in this process if it is not registered and known to the District.

Nearly 3,700 wells have been registered with the District to date. Paul Kohlleppel, District president, points out that many districts require well registration, but in no case has registration ever led to metering of those wells. He said, "This district has no intention or plans to ever require meters on wells in the county. Only permitted, high volume wells may be asked to install a meter."

Well registration forms can be obtained at the District's Office located at 254 N. Jefferson St., Room 600, La Grange, Texas 78945 during the office hours of 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Monday through Friday, or downloaded from the District's website at www.fayettedistrict.com, or by calling the District at (979) 968-3135 to request a form be mailed to you.

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SOURCE: FAYETTE COUNTY GCD