

MUD 18 Newsletter
August 2011
www.mcmud18.com

Update On New Water Well and Plant. The drilling contractor has finished drilling the new Catahoula well and is expected to wrap up their part of the project by the end of August. While the drilling contractor completes the well portion of the project, the plant construction contractor has mobilized to the site to begin installing the storage tanks, cooling towers, piping, and electrical control systems. The projected completion date for the plant is October 31, 2011. The new well should be in production by January 1, 2012.

The completion of the new water plant will enable the District to exceed the minimum TCEQ and Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District's requirements for groundwater production and conservation. Since the District will have converted to an Alternative Water Source (AWS) before January 1, 2016, groundwater credits will be accumulated over the next four years for future use. These credits can be used for our own purposes if needed or contracted to other groundwater users.

MUD 18 has entered into contracts with several entities to sell credits from 2013-2016. We are considering additional requests for smaller numbers of credits as well. Payments from these credit sales are expected to defray about 25% of the engineering and construction costs for the new well and associated water plant, commensurate with the risk we took. As 2016 deadline approaches, we may receive other requests for credit sales from other large volume groundwater producers to meet the Lone Star regulations. Our new Catahoula well is expected to have sufficient capacity to take advantage of existing and future commitments.

No Garbage Pickup on Labor Day. Labor Day is one of the holidays observed by Waste Management. There will be no service on Monday, September 5. Service will resume on Friday, September 9.



Mild Drought Conditions Continue in Effect. The drought continues, but MUD 18 has not had to invoke mandatory water restrictions. The wells are pumping an average of 13 hours per day, just below our mandatory conservation stage. *Most Bentwater customers continue to demonstrate mindfulness in wise use of water, especially in landscape irrigation practices. MUD 18 Board is very appreciative of your cooperation.*

When you review your monthly bill, take note of your monthly usage. Indoor usage for an average home in Bentwater is about 4000 gal/month. Usage in excess of that amount is outdoor usage, mostly by your irrigation system. If you do not have a strategy for operating your irrigation system efficiently, you can learn how to do this by visiting www.bentwatercivic.com and following the Water Wise menu to the irrigation calculator.

We continue to recommend that homeowners voluntarily use the practices that would become mandatory if we reach Stage 2 of the District's Drought Contingency Plan:

1. Even-numbered addresses run irrigation systems only on Sundays and Thursdays
2. Odd-numbered addresses run irrigation systems only on Wednesdays and Saturdays
3. Refrain from outdoor use between the hours of 6AM and 10AM and between 6PM and midnight.
4. Outdoor use by a hand held hose or bucket may be done at any time on any day of the week.



If you have not reviewed/revised your irrigation schedule, we urge you to do your part in conserving water use during this extreme drought. Equally important, if you have not checked whether your system is in good working order, please do so. It will save you money. It will help the District to operate within safe operating limits of the water plant facilities. And it will help us avoid mandatory restrictions, an unpleasant experience for everyone.

We need your continued attention to good water conservation practices to avoid mandatory restrictions.

Hurricane Season - Preparation Reminders. While the official hurricane season begins in June, historically, August and September are the most active. If a large storm hits our area, residents should understand the importance of minimizing use of water, minimizing the production of waste water and other helpful actions especially critical if we have an extended electrical power outage. Your June billing included our *Hurricane Information* planning guide. If you need an additional copy of this information, you can find it on our website by clicking on the "Documents" tab.



Housing Report for Bentwater. As of July, 1723 homes have been completed, 28 are under construction and 11 house plans have been approved, but construction has not started. When these new home starts are completed, we will have a total of 1762 homes. The current projection for the number of new homes completed in 2011 is 60 homes. This compares with under 40 homes per year added in recent years.

Sign-up for E-Blasts: If you are not receiving our E-Blasts, you are missing out on timely information. Go to our website www.mcmud18.com and give us your email address. Your address will not be shared with anyone and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Need to report a Problem? Don't assume the problem has already been identified or reported. If you observe a water leak, sewer odor, discolored water, open manholes, alarms are sounding, or other problems, please help us by calling:

Hays Utility Service @ 936-588-1166.

Hays has someone in Bentwater every day, seven days a week. They can and will respond 24 hours a day. Their general office hours are from 8:00AM to 4:30PM Monday through Friday.

Meetings Open to the Public: Our regularly scheduled monthly meetings are the **2nd Tuesdays at 2:30PM** in the Country Club Board Room. Meetings are open to the public. The agenda is posted on our web site and the message board in the breezeway entrance to the Country Club Grill near the Golf Pro-shop.

Sincerely,

Your MUD Board:

Lou Tichacek	President	597-7010
Linda Pierce	Vice President	597-5463
Roy Champagne	Treasurer	597-8786
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