

Update on MUD 18's Ground Water Reduction Plan:



Recap of Background: In 2008-09, Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District (LSGCD), the organization responsible for the protection of groundwater resources in Montgomery County, issued rules requiring Large Volume Users (LVUs), such as Bentwater, to use 30% less groundwater from the Jasper formation in the Gulf Coast Aquifer by 2016 than permitted for 2009. We had to have a plan to meet the water use reduction requirements by conservation, reclaiming, or use of alternate water sources. After examining various alternatives, the Board chose to develop a producing well in the deeper Catahoula formation. The new water plant began production in July 2012.

Earning Credits: As an incentive to LVUs to move forward in their conservation plans, the LSGCD encouraged entities to reduce groundwater production from the Jasper formation before the 2016 mandatory requirement by earning double credits. These credits can then be sold to entities who are unable to finance or find good alternate water sources. MUD 18 has achieved contracts with three LVUs to purchase a portion of our early credits. The District will receive payments under these contracts beginning this year and continuing through 2016. The total amount of these contracted commitments will help defray one fifth the total cost of the Catahoula well and Water Plant #3. MUD 18 will continue to seek additional sales of these credits.

Operating Strategy: Since water credits have financial value to MUD 18, we have adopted an operating strategy which maximizes production from the Catahoula without negative impact to either of our Jasper production wells. For the month of January, 85% of the total water produced was from the Catahoula well. After 2016, we expect the operating strategy would be more balanced across the three wells while still meeting the restrictions on Jasper production. This longer term strategy ensures longer producing lives for all three of the wells.

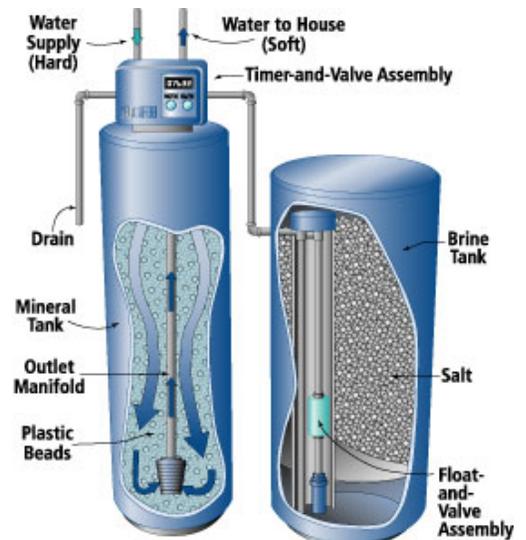
Conservation Pays: With homeowners help, MUD 18 will receive over \$3000 from LSGCD in rebates of water permit fees for using less than the permitted volume from Jasper wells #1 and #2. Your conservation efforts help keep our costs down.

What Should I Do About My Water Softener?

This question is being asked by many homeowners in Bentwater. Since the water from the Jasper aquifer is "harder" water, many residents have installed a water softener. Now, with 85% of the water produced is from the "softer" Catahoula aquifer, some residents have experienced the water being "too soft." Ideal water softness is a very personal preference, so each homeowner should decide if and how to adjust their water softener to achieve the desired "feel."

A couple of options include:

1. Slowing it down. Adjusting the water softener so that it provides a lower dose of the softening agent. A resident can gradually adjust the dosage until the desired softness/hardness is produced. For example, a setting of 17 may be reduced to a setting of 6 or 7.



2. Setting the softener on bypass; in effect, turning the system off. Homeowners choosing this option are encouraged to check with the manufacturer's recommendation for how to maintain an idle system especially the integrity of the plastic beads in softener.

As explained in the section above, MUD18's strategy is to maximize the softer Catahoula supply through 2016 to accumulate water credits which have financial value to the District. After 2016, the water produced will be more of a blend between the Catahoula and the Jasper aquifers. This blend will likely be less soft, causing some homeowners to choose to increase the adjustment on their softeners, If a softener has been idle for a prolonged period without recommended maintenance, the system may need to be serviced or replaced.

Televising of Sewer System: As part of the District's Five Year Plan, 18,000 feet of sewer lines have been televised for early detection of line failure. The oldest lines are being inspected first. Results show that the pipe material is in good shape. Identified problems in pipe connections, especially in deeper lines, are being corrected. Each year additional lines will be inspected. This preventive maintenance is important to avoid unanticipated system failure in sewer system network of piping.

Number of Homes In Bentwater Will Soon Exceed 1800:

As of February 2013, Bentwater had 1772 homes completed, and 22 homes under construction and 11 homes approved but not started for a total of 1805 homes. In January, thirteen water tap fees were made, a significant increase over previous months. Bentwater has a total of 2968 lots; some of these have been unitized by homeowners as a single lot.

Recycling Facts:



Glass. Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to power a television for 20 minutes. That's a whole episode of your favorite show if you don't count the commercials. Recycled wine bottles save even more!

Recycling is a multibillion-dollar industry that employs millions of Americans and helps advance our clean energy economy.

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
Joe Constantino	Secretary	597-8029
Chris Uzelmeier	Assistant Secretary	449-5198