

DIRECTORS

Donald F. Hill
President

Beth Murany,
Vice President

Bob Tomlinson,
Assistant Vice President

Joe Wallace,
Secretary

Sally A. Martinez,
Assistant Secretary

DISTRICT OPERATIONS:

Mary Moore Hayes
General Manager

Karyn Hennessy, MBA
Administrative &
Billing Manager

John Pate
Operations Manager

Dan Whitcher,
Project Coordinator

What is a GRP...and why do we need one?

We live in a world spilling over with acronyms and keeping up with exactly what they all stand for is a difficult task. The federal government is famous for them -- FBI, CIA, EPA, DOE, EOB, FAA -- to name just a few. We seem to put everything into shorthand... even, sadly, the date of the terrorist attack on America -- now known simply as 9-11.

Texas has no shortage of acronyms, especially when it comes to regulation involving water. There's a whole new language to learn when it comes to the state agencies that have the responsibility for regulating this vital resource.

In the water business, one of the most important abbreviations to come along is **GRP**. The initials stand for **Groundwater Reduction Plan** -- a critical process that has been mandated by the *FBSD* -- the *Fort Bend Subsidence District* -- to shift us away from our reliance on groundwater to surface sources of drinking water.

Along with other utility districts within the jurisdiction of *FBSD*, the District must prepare and submit our GRP for certification by January 1, 2006 -- *or become a part of a group or consortium that will do so*. The Plan outlines how the District will comply with the specific timetable mandated by the *FBSD* to reduce groundwater withdrawals to no more than 70 percent of total water demand in 2013, with a further reduction to 40 percent by 2025, and continuing thereafter. The regulatory mandate is something that will affect all of those who live and work here because, for the first time in history, the District will be relying on surface water instead of groundwater wells to supply a large share of our drinking water demand.

The conversion will not happen overnight, and it will call for very careful planning based on a thorough consideration of all the options available.

A Little Bit of History...

The Fort Bend Subsidence District adopted its first Regulatory Plan in September, 1990. The initial plan focused on the need for better data and called for additional groundwater monitoring and subsidence measurements within Fort Bend County. Since that Plan was adopted, the District has collected water-level measurements in both the Chicot and Evangeline Aquifers in Fort Bend County; analyzed water quality samples from wells in the two aquifers; collected land-surface elevations throughout the county; and developed five GPS elevation sites that operate on a monthly schedule. The *FBSD* has also updated population and water demand projections through the year 2030, and prepared the District's Groundwater Management Plan (as required by Senate Bill 1 in 1997) and had it certified by the Texas Water Development Board.

The 2003 Regulatory Plan divides the Ft. Bend County into two Regu-

Continued on page 2

What's a GRP...

Continued from page 1

latory Areas, and the requirements contained within this Plan are based on the most current data and studies on water demand, aquifer levels, and projected subsidence. The Plan sets forth as its goals : 1) to provide for the efficient use of groundwater; 2) to control and prevent waste of groundwater; 3) to control and prevent subsidence; 4) to address conjunctive surface water management; and, 5) to address groundwater natural resource issues.

Phasing Out Groundwater...

The FBSD's Regulatory Plan outlines the minimum requirements for an acceptable GRP. The Plan must include, for example, information about current and projected water demand within the utility district's boundaries through the year 2030. The GRP must also contain a description of the infrastructure necessary to deliver water sufficient to meet the projected demand; a timetable for constructing this infrastructure; and an explanation of how the construction will be financed. The

GRP must identify the source of the water supply, the water provider, and the amount of water available, and also ask for evidence (e.g., an executed contract or financial agreement) that the water supplier has sufficient water supplies and/or rights, and is willing to meet the present and projected demands as outlined in the GRP. A preliminary engineering report of the proposed facilities to be constructed through year 2013, including a description of the proposed project and area maps, must also be included along with conceptual schematic plans of the proposed facilities to be constructed for the year 2025 requirements.

The FBSD also recommends that as the GRP is developed, consideration should be given to the implementation of an aggressive **water conservation and/or reuse** program. Water reuse is something that our District has been studying aggressively and expects to implement. Water users that can switch to reclaimed water for neighborhood esplanades, parks, golf courses, and industrial sites would have a favorable impact on the GRP. ♠

You never miss the water 'til the well runs dry...

Mr. Franklin knew what he was talking about all those years ago...problem is that he could not have imagined that his beloved country would so dramatically undervalue one of its most important natural resources.

Being a frugal man, he would also probably remind us to "Waste not, want not." The axioms were good enough for our forefathers...and we need to learn to live by them today.

The Board of Directors of Ft. Bend Co. MUD 25 is making some very difficult decisions about future water supplies, and encourages you -- the consumer -- to help by using water as efficiently as possible at home and in the yard.

Let's make Old Ben proud!

Board of Directors Announces NEW District Engineer and Legal Counsel

The Board is pleased to announce the addition of two new members to its consultant team. **Camp Dresser & McKee** (CDM) has been selected as the District's engineer. CDM is a Total Quality Management (TQM) firm, founded in 1947, and is an employee owned national company with over 3,000 staff that maintains a strong regional presence. CDM brings a full range of services and experience to the District with regard to effluent reuse programs, wastewater treatment plants, water wells, lift stations, and infrastructure. **Chris Canonico, P.E.**, of CDM, will serve as the contact person and project director for the District's engineering and permitting activities.

The Board is delighted to announce the selection of **Terrie L. Sechrist**, a partner in the firm of McDonald & Sechrist LLP as the new attorney for the District. Terrie is a 1986 cum laude graduate of South Texas College of Law in Houston, TX. She serves as general counsel to municipal utility districts and management districts; bond counsel and underwriter/securities counsel to MUD's; represents a number of MUD's in connection with construction of water, sewer, and draining facilities; as well as land use and annexation issues.

The District welcomes Chris and Terrie to the team and looks forward to a long and productive relationship while working together to meet the needs of the District's residents. ♠



Board determines that base water rate increase necessary ...

There is a growing recognition throughout the United States and elsewhere in the world that the condition of much of our vital water and sewer infrastructure needs serious attention. Many major metropolitan areas have discovered what happens when the pipes, pumps, and treatment facilities critical to delivering a clean, adequate supply of potable water get old and outdated and aren't able to be adequately serviced and maintained.

In our District, however, the Board of Directors has been exceptionally vigilant over the water and sewer infrastructure, and have made sound management decisions along the way. As a result, the District has been able to keep pace with the growth in our neighborhoods, and continue to supply quality drinking water to our customers.

There have been some dramatic changes in the district's customer base over the years -- growing from 3,400 to almost 8,000 residents since 1980, and we are projected to grow to over 13,200 residents by the year 2010.

Our District has consistently performed aggressive routine maintenance and, at the same time, kept its vision firmly fixed on the future. In the recent past, the District has built an additional water well and two additional ground

storage tanks, constructed a new water line across Red Gully, and are in the process of expanding the sewage treatment plant. Plans are underway to refurbish Pheasant Creek's aging infrastructure, install new filters to accommodate effluent reuse as well as expansion, continue its meter replacement program, and install an improved monitoring system for increased security.

Additionally, plans to implement an effluent reuse program which will reduce groundwater consumption, and assure compliance with new regulatory mandates...a critical component to help meet the District's water conservation mandate.



In preparation for the additional costs that will surely accompany compliance with the Subsidence District's mandates to convert to surface water, the District's Board of Directors has voted to support the decision made earlier by the previous board and General Manager to raise the base water rate for low end users that

had been previously approved as a pumpage fee.

According to the Texas Municipal League, Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 25 has *one of the lowest rates for water and sewer service in the region*, with few or no increases for low end users since the District's inception. The City of Houston, City of Sugar Land, and West University Place, for example, have increased rates for water and sewer service this year at an average of 9.8%.

The District will raise the base water rate of \$15.00 per month for the first 5,000 gallons used to \$18.00 per month for the first 5,000 gallons used, effective January 1, 2005. Additional water used (above the minimum gallonage) will continue to be billed at current rates.

As has always been the District's practice, the construction of our water infrastructure will continue to be funded through bonds, and paid for by taxes (see page 4). The cost of maintenance and operations is paid for through water and sewer fees, and this is the area where costs are expected to continue to increase during the conversion process.

The Board of Directors encourages residents with questions or concerns about this upcoming rate increase to communicate with us -- see all the ways to do this on page 4 -- or plan to attend one of the regularly scheduled Board meetings. Information about this and other important topics may be found on the District's website, www.waterdistrict25.com. 💧



BOARD OF DIRECTORS REDUCES DISTRICT TAX RATE FOR 2004!

The Board of Directors of Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 25 voted to set its 2004 tax rate at \$0.87 per \$100 of assessed value. The \$0.87 tax rate represents a **decrease** in taxes for the eighth straight year!

Additionally, the District will continue to offer its senior citizens a discounted tax rate. Senior citizens, often living on a fixed income, will enjoy a double benefit

from the reduced tax rate as well as the discount.

Fortunately -- thanks to sound fiscal management on the part of the Board of Directors and staff -- the District continues to realize the economic benefit of recent growth within our area. A broader tax base means that the burden is accommodated by more people and each of us is able to enjoy a lower rate. ♦

May we help you Communicate?

The District Operations team is here to serve you, and here's how to reach us...

Billing Problems:

Talk to Karen or Tony at 281-277-0129 ext. 105, 109, or 112.

Leaks, Inspections, Problems associated with Excavations:

Talk with John, Brian, or Don Ehler at 281-277-0129, ext. 101, 113, 111, or 106.

Quick and easy access anytime...

1. E-MAIL -- Our staff can be reached at our E-Mail addresses listed online in the "Contact Us" area -- www.waterdistrict25.com.

2. BY PHONE --

Phone: 281-277-0129

Fax: 281-277-0028

3. REGULAR MAIL --

Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 25
P.O. Box 2847
Sugar Land, Texas 77487-2847



4. MONTHLY MEETINGS --

Come to a District meeting! Your Board of Directors holds a public meeting the second Friday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at our office, located at:

18230 Old Richmond Road
Sugar Land, Texas 77478



Fort Bend County Municipal
Utility District No. 25
P.O. Box 2847
Sugar Land, Texas 77487-2847