

Waterline Express

www.wcid17.org

The Newsletter for Travis County Water Control and Improvement District No. 17

Spring 2015

Drought is Still With Us

As everyone knows by now, Central Texas is in the most severe drought in the history of the Highland Lakes, and Lake Travis, the source of our drinking water, is down to 627 feet mean sea level. The "Sometimes Islands" are now the permanent peninsula, and we do not know what summer will bring. While the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) has said that they have enough municipal water for current contracts, they have continued to keep customers like WCID 17 on a mandatory one-day per week outdoor watering schedule, and imposed a drought rate on all raw water purchased.

While customers of WCID 17 are doing a great job, and definitely showing their commitment to water conservation, landscaping remains a challenge. With warmer weather, everyone is getting in the mood to fix up their yards and do spring planting. While you are doing that, we encourage you to be mindful that one-day per week restrictions are still in effect year round. Check your watering day at www.wcid17.org/conservation. WCID 17 encourages anyone installing a landscape to remember, the smart way to landscape is to use native water-efficient plants and not to plant during the heat of the Texas summer. Native plants should require less maintenance, less water, and can be found in many various textures and colors.

If you have already set your irrigation timer to the one-day, one-time limit between 12:01 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., only on your one day, THANK YOU. If you find your water use for irrigation high, it may be time for a free irrigation audit by WCID 17's licensed irrigation inspector. To request an irrigation audit, please send an email with "IRRIGATION AUDIT REQUEST" in the subject line to ltterrell@wcid17.org.

WCID 17 is Designated a Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

Based on population, Travis County WCID17, along with several other area entities, has been declared to be a Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) under the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. This permit was issued November 19, 2014.

This MS4 is located inside the WCID 17 boundaries within the City of Lakeway and the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the cities of Lakeway, Bee Cave, Austin and within the Austin urbanized area in Travis County. The MS4 designation means that WCID 17 is responsible for water quality protection and, along with other entities such as cities, is responsible to regulate drainage inlets, ponds, and construction activities which might have runoff to lakes and streams. WCID 17 will also take actions to prevent illegal dumping and other activities which could cause pollution.

Copies of the Notice of Intent, Stormwater Management Program, general permit, and general permit fact sheet are available for viewing and copying at the WCID 17 Administrative Office, 3812 Eck Lane, Austin, Texas 78734.

TCEQ's Small MS4 General Permit requires certain stormwater pollution prevention and control measures, monitoring and reporting, and periodic inspections. One of the projects that will be implemented over the coming two years will be stormwater drain identification by placement of medallions on drain inlets in Steiner Ranch and Flintrock Falls. If you are interested in helping with this project or having them throughout your neighborhood, please contact Linda Sandlin at lsandlin@wcid17.org.

WHEN DOING HOME IMPROVEMENTS, DO I NEED A PLUMBING PERMIT?

WCID 17 is responsible by law to the state regulatory agency, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), for protecting the drinking water supply from contamination or pollution that could result from improper plumbing practices. All plumbing within the boundaries of the District must be installed in accordance with the 2009 Uniform Plumbing Code, with District amendments. Any property which fails to comply with required plumbing standards may be denied water service.

A permit is required for:

- Building a new home;
- Building a commercial building(s);
- Installing a new Yard Line to an existing house, trailer, prefabricated house, or structure formerly using a well or cistern;
- Installation or replacement of hot water heaters or water softeners;
- Installing a sprinkler/irrigation system; altering existing main line; adding new zones; and upgrading check valves to RPZ;
- Addition to a home or business which requires additional plumbing or which alters original plumbing including, but not limited to, new bathrooms, kitchen, sinks or drains;
- Remodeling an existing house, room(s), or commercial building, if it necessitates changing the existing plumbing; and
- Installing a pool.

Permits are NOT required for repairs or replacement of fixtures, such as faucets, toilets, pressure regulating valves, or any repairs which do not require breaking into the walls or altering original plumbing.

Plumbing permits are valid for 1 year, Irrigation permits are valid for 3 months, and Pool permits are valid for 6 months. If the permit expires before the work is completed, a permit may be extended for an additional fee.

These permits are issued to a licensed master plumber and require completion of all required inspections to avoid any penalties, fines and possible termination of service. All permit applications are available at www.wcid17.org/Forms. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ann at macramer@wcid17.org or (512) 266-1111, ext. 10.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

WCID 17 Administration will be closed April 3, May 25 and July 3. These closings WILL NOT affect trash and recycling pick-up. Reminder: for any trash problems, please call Progressive direct at 512.282.3508 as quickly as the problem is noticed. Routine billing, water and wastewater questions may be left at 512.266.1111 and will be returned within 24-hours upon return to normal business hours.



TRAVIS COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 17

The mission of District No. 17, a public utility, is to provide the District with an adequate supply of safe, potable water, and to ensure the fiscally sound, environmentally responsible development and management of water resources and wastewater facilities.

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Billing Questions
512.266.1111, ext. 18 or 22

Trash Billing Questions
512.266.1111, ext. 22

Trash Service Problems - Progressive
512.282.3508

Conserving Water for Today and Tomorrow

Waterline Express is published
by Travis County Water Control
and Improvement District No. 17
3812 Eck Lane
Austin Texas 78734
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