

# Heartbeat of the Hickory

Autumn 2012

## Poster Contest Announced

*Water: Reduce Your Use!*

Once again we're holding our annual Water Theme Poster Contest. This contest is open to all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students within the District. The top three posters will receive Walmart Gift Certificates (\$20, \$15, and \$10 for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place respectively) as well as mention in the local paper and in our quarterly newsletter. Letters announcing the contest have been mailed to area teachers. Home-schooled students are also invited to enter.

The theme for this year's contest is:

**Water: Reduce Your Use!**

The deadline for entry is **February 8, 2013**.

Artwork should be on a sheet of paper no larger than 10" x 15". We prefer the item to be flat and produced with materials that do not smear, crack or chip.

Contact the District office with any questions.

## Groundwater Terms and Conversions

*Ever wonder what an acre-foot actually is?*

We're constantly hearing terms like acre-foot and gallons per minute used, but how much water are we actually talking about?

**Acre-foot (AF):** One acre-foot is enough water to cover an acre of land a foot deep in water. That's 325,851 gallons or 43,560 cubic feet.

**Million Gallons per Day (MGD):** One MGD is 3.07 AF a day or 1,120 AF/year.

**Cubic Feet per Second (CFS):** One CFS equals 1.98 AF/day or 646,272 MGD.

**Gallons per Minute (GPM):** One GPM is 1.61 AF/year or 1,440 Gallons per Day. A well would have to produce 226.3 GPM and run 24 hours without stopping to produce 1 AF in a single day. If a well ran continuously at 1 GPM without ceasing, it would produce 1 AF in 226.3 days.

## Water Testing

One of the services the District offers its tax-paying supporters is free water testing. Before bringing water samples to us, call the office. Using the correct containers and sampling techniques are vital to insuring the accuracy of test results. The District lab is NOT a certified lab. Lab results are for informational purposes only. We also test wells outside the District, for a small fee.

There are several constituents for which we test. One of the most crucial is bacteria (coliform/e coli). Individuals may have their water tested for the presence of bacteria to determine whether or not the water is safe. Cities and other water authorities which supply the public are required by law to have a number of samples tested each month; therefore, individuals who are served by city lines can be assured that their water is safe to drink. However, individuals who rely on private wells to supply drinking water should consider sampling on a regular basis to assure drinking safety.

Bacteria causes diseases such as cholera, dysentery, and typhoid fever. These diseases are spread by water which has been contaminated with bodily wastes from infected people or animals. All these diseases are intestinal, and the spread of them can be prevented by testing water for possible fecal contamination. While testing for the actual disease-producing germs is fairly difficult; the non-disease causing germs in the intestines of people and warm-blooded animals are easily detected. These bacteria are called coliform.

Our lab tests for total coliform, e. coli, total dissolved solvents, pH, conductivity, nitrates, sulfates, iron, chlorides and total hardness. We unfortunately can **NOT** test for radionuclides.

<b>Directors</b>	
Precinct 1	Owen Parks, Board President
Precinct 2	Bill Sloan, Board Vice-President
Precinct 3	Gay Nesloney, Director
Precinct 4	Wendell Moody, Director
Precinct 5	Bert Striegler, Board Secretary
<b>Staff</b>	
Manager	David Huie
Consulting Manager	Caroline Runge
Assistant Manager	Angelina Deans
Lab/Field Technician	Ronnie Moore



# U.S. Drought Monitor

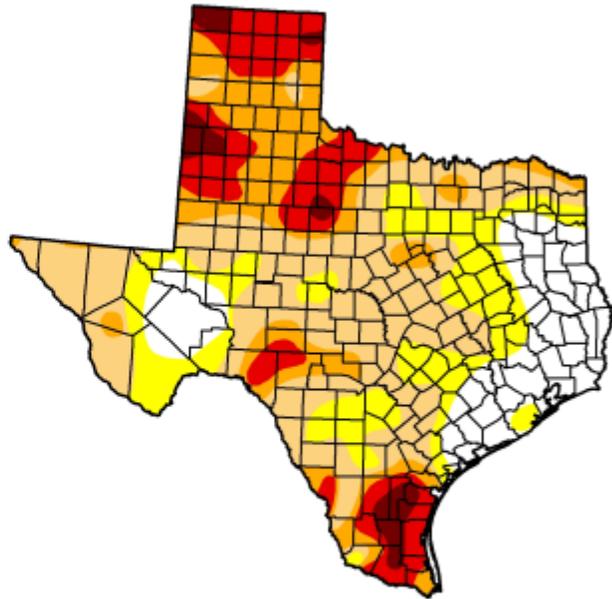
October 9, 2012

Valid 7 a.m. EST

## Texas

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	16.50	83.50	65.38	31.79	15.88	3.23
Last Week (10/02/2012 map)	16.69	83.31	65.97	32.55	16.16	3.23
3 Months Ago (07/10/2012 map)	4.49	95.51	77.23	39.41	9.09	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	0.01	99.99	97.83	84.81	67.32	32.36
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	9.13	90.87	78.73	57.41	24.91	5.18
One Year Ago (10/04/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.16	96.99	87.99



**Intensity:**

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

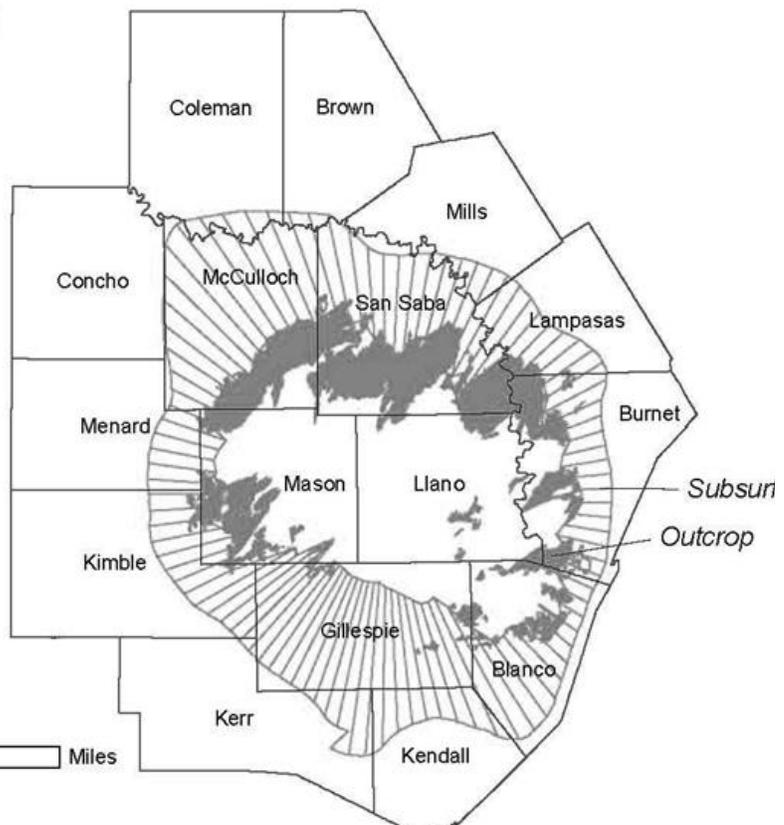
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



Released Thursday, October 11, 2012  
Matthew Rosencrans, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

## Ellenburger-San Saba Aquifer



The District's name is deceptive. We do not only cover the Hickory Aquifer but all the aquifers within the District boundaries. This is one of the aquifers in the District. The solid color is the Ellenburger-San Saba outcrop. The Ellenburger-San Saba Aquifer is a minor aquifer that is found in parts of 15 counties in the Llano Uplift area of Central Texas.