Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District

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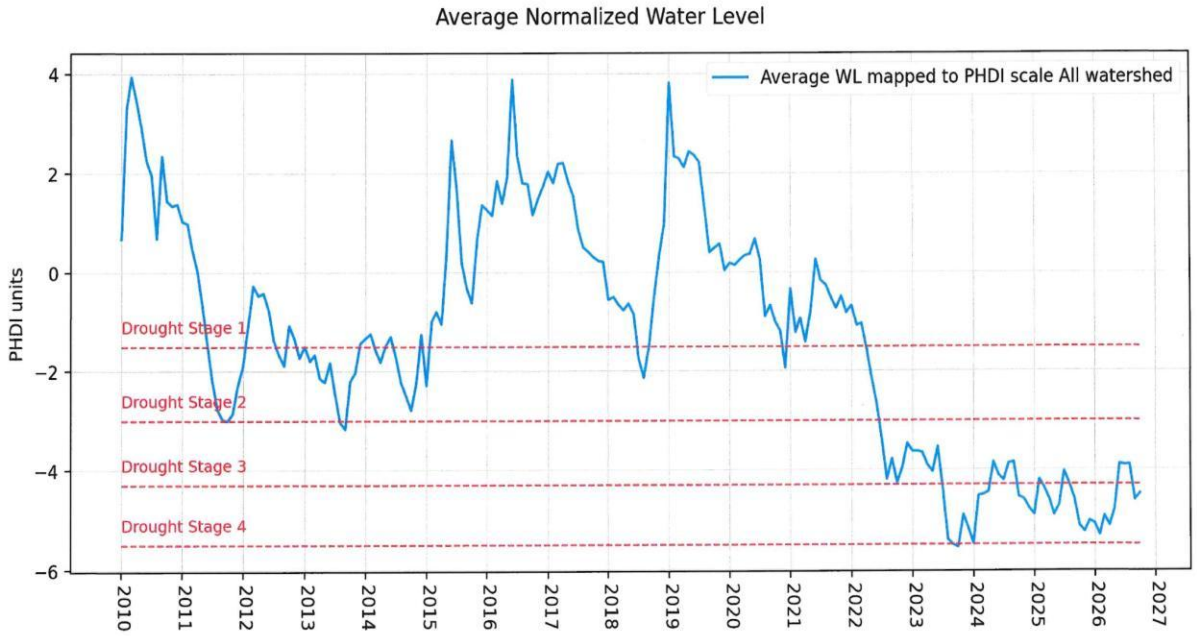
PRESS RELEASE

Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District Announces Escalation to Drought Stage 3

Johnson City, TX — Oct. 15, 2026 — The Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District (BPGCD) today announced that, following a unanimous vote by the Board of Directors, the district is officially moving from Drought Stage 2 to Drought Stage 3, effective immediately. This escalation reflects the continued decline in groundwater levels across the district and the heightened risk to municipal, agricultural, and residential water supplies.

Current Conditions

- **Monitoring-Well Data:** The latest aggregate analysis of the district's network of monitoring wells (see the below graph entitle, "Average Normalized Water Levels") shows a sustained drop in water tables, pushing the average water level below the threshold defined for Drought Stage 3 in the Blanco-Pedernales Drought Index (BPDI).
- **BPDI Model:** The BPDI model, which integrates the regional Palmer Hydrologic Drought Index (PHDI), now classifies the district's overall water status as **severe** (Stage 3), indicating that water levels are critically low and that existing supplies may not meet essential demand without additional conservation measures.



Stage 3 Restrictions and Compliance Guidelines

Conservation Goal: 20-50% reduction in groundwater use

Usage Reduction Measures:

- Continue, or increase, voluntary reduction in various uses
- Check for and correct all plumbing leaks
- Water outside lawns, trees, shrubs every 5 to 7 days
- Water at night between 8pm and midnight using hand-held hose with automatic shut-off nozzle or automatic timer. Hose end sprinkler systems are prohibited.
- Wash vehicles at car wash only as needed.
- No washing of buildings, driveways, streets, patios, or other outdoor surfaces except as required for human or animal health and safety needs, or for fire prevention
- Watering for dust control only when required by law

- Livestock watered in leak-proof troughs strongly recommended
- Pumping groundwater into livestock ponds is discouraged.
- Providing groundwater to ponds, lakes, tanks, reservoirs, or other surface impoundments for holding water is prohibited.

Community Impact

The District urges all residents and businesses to take immediate steps to conserve water and comply with Stage 3 drought restrictions. These measures are essential to protect remaining water resources and ensure availability for critical needs. For more information on Stage 3 restrictions and conservation guidelines, please visit the District's website at blancogroundwatertx.gov or phone the office at 830-868-9196.

About the Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District

The Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District manages and protects the region's groundwater resources, to provide safe, reliable water to residents, farms, and businesses. Through science-based tools such as the BPDI, the District monitors water-level trends and implements proactive drought-management strategies to safeguard the community's water future.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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