



Fort Bend Subsidence District Water Conservation School Program Groundwater Credit Policy



Beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, the Fort Bend Subsidence District (District) partnered with the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District (HGSD) in the implementation of the “Learning to be WaterWise” Water Conservation School Program. The School Program includes water conservation education to 3rd to 6th grade students through customized lesson plans and water conservation take-home kit at no cost to the teacher or student. Since the 2022-2023 school year, the Water Conservation School Program expanded to include water resources and subsidence education under the new name of H₂O LAB! with additional online resources, tutorials, and activities for teachers and students.

The Water Conservation School Program is available for local schools through sponsorships. Sponsorships from permittees or other entities bear the cost of the Program in return for Groundwater Certificates that can be applied to their permit.

1. Issuance of Groundwater Certificates

For every student sponsored in the District’s Water Conservation School Program, H₂O LAB!, the sponsor will receive a Groundwater B Series credit of 84,000 gallons. The 84,000-gallon credit is based on a study conducted with the cooperation of the Texas Water Development Board that estimated the potential savings of this Program to be 1,400 gallons per household per month. The District will provide a Groundwater B Series credit of 84,000 gallons per student sponsored, which is based 1,400 gallons per month for the first 5 years.

The Sponsor will be issued a Groundwater B Series Certificate labeled with the following conditions:

- 1) Term of no more than 20 years from issuance date
- 2) Redeemable for no more than 30% of a permittee’s yearly total water demand
- 3) Total number of students sponsored
- 4) Total gallons deposited in the Groundwater Bank (i.e., number of groundwater credits)

The Sponsor will receive a Groundwater B Series certificate mailed to the designated recipient.

2. Redemption of Groundwater Credits

A permittee may request a permit for an amount of groundwater that exceeds the applicable groundwater reduction requirements without becoming subject to pay a disincentive permit fee provided that the permittee submits groundwater credits to cover the amount of groundwater requested in excess of the amount allowed. The permittee will be required to pay the regular permit fee for any amount of groundwater allocation requested, including any amount for which groundwater credits are submitted.

In order to redeem the groundwater credits for use on a permit, the District will only accept the original Groundwater Certificate. If the permittee has lost the original Groundwater Certificate, the District can replace the Groundwater Certificate for a nominal fee and will issue a new Groundwater Certificate that contains the same certified amount of groundwater deposited and same expiration date as the original, thereby voiding the lost Groundwater Certificate.

Water Conservation School Program groundwater credits may be sold or otherwise transferred between permittees; however, the District will charge a transfer fee for the permittee who is receiving the transferred groundwater credit.

Replaced or transferred Groundwater Certificates will maintain the same expiration date as provided in the original issued Groundwater Certificate.