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For immediate Release

Harvesting Rainwater for Our Future

Stanton, Texas (September 2, 2014) - Why harvest rainwater? Did you know that by 2060 Texas' population is expected to increase by 82%? This projection comes from the Texas Water Development Board, who also states that with this increase in population, the demand for water will increase by 22% (Water for Texas 2012 State Water Plan). The rising population in the United States, along with the drought that is harboring all across this nation, is reason enough for us as individuals to stop and think about our diminishing ground water and what we can do to conserve our water.

Many people do not realize how much rainwater they can actually collect and store from just one single rain. One inch of rainfall on a 2,000 sq. foot roof equals 1,250 gallons of water. You can harvest rainwater by capturing, diverting and storing rainwater for later use. There are simple rainwater harvesting systems and then there are complex harvesting systems.

A simple rainwater harvesting systems consists of a catchment (any area from which water can be collected) such as a roof, paved area or the soils surf; a distribution system (a system that channels water from catchments to landscape holding areas) such as gutters, downspouts, sloped sidewalks, hillsides, etc.; and the landscape holding area itself which could be a concave depression covered by grass or plants, a berm, moat, or soil terraces.

A complex rainwater harvesting system diverts water to a built in storage container to provide water between rainfalls. This system will cost more money to build, but in return will yield greater water savings than systems without water storage. A complex system includes catchments, a conveyance system, a storage container, and a distribution system. A catchment, which is mentioned above, could be concrete, asphalt, brick paving or any smooth-surface roof such as metal (the highest yielding catchment option). A conveyance system is a way to direct water from catchments to storage containers, such as canals, gutters, or downspouts. Water should be filtered to remove debris before it reaches the container in which it will be stored. The container should be made of polyethylene, fiberglass, wood, concrete or metal. Swimming pools, septic tanks, stock tanks or ferro-cement culverts are some examples for underground storage containers. And an above ground storage container could be a 55 gallon plastic or steel drum, barrels, tanks, cisterns, stock tanks, etc. Your final step should be a distribution system, which is a way to channel water to plants or your home from the storage container. You can use constructed channels, solid or perforated pipes or a garden hose, plus gates and diverters to feed your outdoor landscape. If you are using your rain harvested water in place of a private

or municipal water supply you will need to use an “air gap” or an approved back-flow prevention device. Make sure pumps turn off automatically when your tank is empty.

The benefits of harvesting rainwater are tremendous. Listed below are just a few examples of how rainwater harvesting is beneficial:

1. Saves money by reducing your water bills
2. Reduces demand on the municipal water supply
3. Reduces flooding, erosion and the containment of surface water with sediments, fertilizers and pesticides in rainfall runoff
4. Rainwater is good for plants because it is free of salts and other minerals that can harm the root growth

As you can see, the benefits of saving rainwater are unsurpassable and the time and energy to create a harvesting system are minimal. With population on the rise and water diminishing, who wouldn’t want to conserve rainwater? To learn more about the benefits of harvesting rainwater or to learn more on how to construct a rainwater harvesting system please feel free to contact the Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District at 708 W. St. Peter Street, Stanton, Texas, call 432-756-2136, or visit us online at www.pbuwcd.com.