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For Immediate Release

Thank God for Rain, but Extreme Drought Conditions still in effect

STANTON, Texas (January 22, 2013) – Area residents are grateful for the small amount of moisture hydrating the parched West Texas land earlier this month, but an inch of rain can only do so much in severe drought conditions.

As of December, the Palmer Drought Severity Index showed Martin and Howard counties in extreme drought, which parallel conditions since this time last year. With little rainfall throughout 2012, the drought monitor could still be high in the New Year. Keeping this in mind, the Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District monitors the drought index to better communicate the importance of conserving water. In order to save water and use it wisely, the PBUWCD offers helpful indoor tips to practice daily.

Tip 1 – While most plumbers encourage dripping faucets to prevent pipes from freezing during winter months, catch the dripping water in a bowl and use it to water plants to use water efficiently.

Tip 2 – If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the showerhead with a water-efficient model.

Tip 3 – When cleaning out fish tanks, give the nutrient-rich water to your plants.

Tip 4 – When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.

Tip 5 – Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in the refrigerator for water efficiency and food safety.

For more ways to conserve water in your home, visit the Permian Basin UWCD's education website at www.savingh2o.org or stop by our office at 708 W. St. Peter in Stanton.

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The Southern Ogallala Conservation & Outreach Program is the education and public relations division of the Permian Basin UWCD. SOCOP's mission is to spread underground water awareness and encourage water conservation practices. For more information, visit savingh2o.org.