

MUD 18 October Update 2010

2010 Tax Rate:

At our September meeting, your **MUD 18 Board voted to continue the tax rate of \$0.44 per \$100 of assessed.** Over the life of the District, the Board has been able to, not only avoid raising taxes but also, for most years been able to declare a tax reduction. In 1995, the MUD 18 tax rate was \$0.8317. The District's tax rate over the last several years is shown in following table:

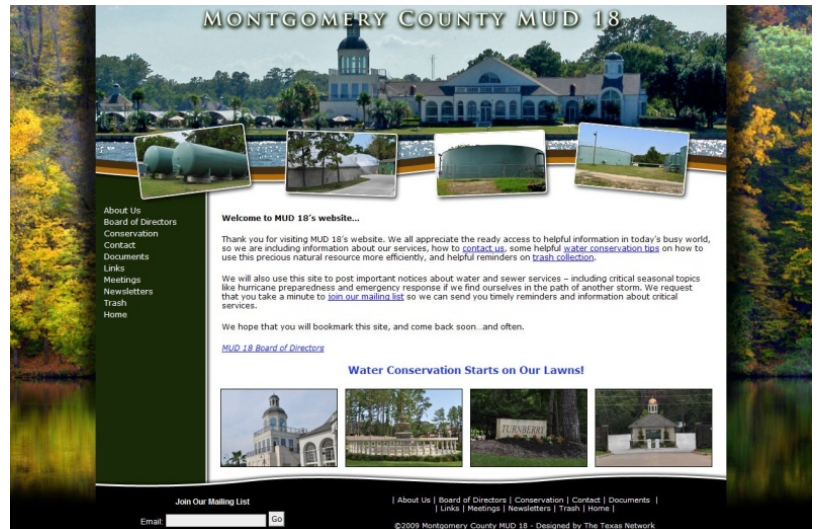
Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Rate per \$100 assessed value	0.56	.51	.51	.50	.49	.45	.44	.44

In 2011, the District will be selling an estimated \$5.5 million in bonds primarily to fund the drilling of a water well in the Catahoula Aquifer. This well is necessary because MUD 18 must expand the capacity of our water plant by adding a third production well to serve growth in our District. Drilling the well in the Catahoula Aquifer will help us meet the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District's water reduction requirements. The Board is pleased that the District can expand the facilities without a tax increase. You should receive your 2010 tax bill within the next several weeks. Our tax bills are calculated partly by the set rates and also by what the Montgomery County Appraisal District (MCAD) declares as the official taxation value for our homes. The tax payment is due in January 2011. Beginning last year, customers can use e-checks for payment of tax bills. Customers that use e-checks should be aware that they may begin incurring extra fees charged by the financial processing agent(s).

MUD 18 Website Celebrates First Year in Operation:

The District's website will soon complete its first year in operation. If we have your email address, we have been sending our newsletters and other important communication to you via E-Blasts from this website. If you are receiving these E-blasts, we hope you enjoy this convenient way to stay informed of what's happening in your MUD District. If you are not receiving them, it could be for one of the following reasons:

1. You have not yet logged on to: <http://www.MCMUD18.com> to give us your email address. It only takes a few minutes. Your address will not be shared with anyone and you can unsubscribe at any time.
2. You have not added "noreply@mcmud18" to your **safe senders** list in your email software so the e-blasts are not treated as junk mail.



If you haven't already done so, please visit our web site – a convenient and timely source of information: Waste Management garbage schedule and recycling guidelines, contact info for Hays Utility, tax rate and budget information, previous newsletters, etc. You can also access background on our bond rating, our financial policies, meeting agendas and minutes. We are also excited about posting monthly progress on the Water Wise Project – the joint effort among BCA, MUD 18 and the POA. At your convenience you can track the progress of the eight pilot homes that are using water conservation measures and technology to help us all learn more about what we can do to conserve our water supply.

Mild Drought Conditions Are No Longer in Effect:

Based on our experience in the summer drought of 2009, the Board modified the District's Drought Contingency Plan with the objective to avoid mandatory water restrictions during extended droughts by asking all customers to voluntarily reduce water usage during summer months. The modified plans call for Mild Drought Conditions (voluntary conservation) to be in effect from June 1 through September 30. We appreciate the efforts many residents made to comply with this request. We thank those of you who took extra steps to adjust the frequency and duration of your irrigation systems. Water conservation will continue to be an important topic for this area.

Five Year Plan:

The Board manages a Five Year Plan to prioritize capital improvements and repairs. Some of the projects currently underway or planned within the next year include:

1. Rehab of our Water Plant pump equipment. This work is part of our long term facilities maintenance plan. One phase of this project that is nearly complete is the installation of an electronic crane hoist that is capable of 4 way movement and 2500 lb load. *See picture.* A crane is required to lift heavy equipment in the plant to change seals/gaskets or to performance other equipment maintenance. This crane replaces manual equipment with two way movement that had deteriorated. .
2. Install an additional six natural gas generators on selected lift stations. Currently 12 generators are online. With backup power provided to these lift stations, the remaining lift stations can be kept functioning using operational backup procedures.
3. Continue a multi-year plan to replace water meters with improved electronic models.
4. Upgrade equipment on selected lift stations.
5. Upgrade hardware and software related to lift station operation.
6. Provide all weather road access to selected equipment
7. Installing a waterline interconnect at one locations that had no backup routing for water line redundancy.
8. Drainage maintenance and improvement projects.



Housing Report for Bentwater:

As of September, eight homes have been completed in 2010 for a total of 1690 homes in Bentwater. Seventeen homes are under construction and four homes have been approved but not started, bringing the total to 1711.

Need to report a Problem?

Don't assume the problem has already been identified or reported. If you observe a water leak, sewer odor, discolored water, open manholes, alarms are sounding, or other problems, please help us by calling:

Hays Utility Service @ 936-588-1166.

Hays has someone in Bentwater everyday, seven days a week. They can and will respond 24 hours a day. Their general office hours are from 8:00AM to 4:30PM Monday through Friday.

Meetings Open to the Public:

Our regularly scheduled monthly meetings are the 3rd Tuesdays in the Country Club Board Room. Meetings are open to the public. The agenda is posted on our web site and the message board in the breezeway entrance to the CC Grill near the Pro-shop.

Sincerely,

Your MUD Board:

Lou Tichacek	President	597-7010
Linda Pierce	Vice President	597-5463
Roy Champagne	Treasurer	597-8786
Joe Constantino	Secretary	597-8029
Chris Uzelmeier	Assistant Secretary	449-5198