



TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD PRESENTS
2011 TEXAS RAIN CATCHER AWARD

AUSTIN – (March 1, 2012) – The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) today presented the 2011 Texas Rain Catcher Award to the Hays Consolidated Independent School District in Kyle for their remarkable efforts at conserving water through rainwater harvesting. They were one of two winners in the educational category of the annual competition.

The Hays Consolidated Independent School District serves nearly 15,000 students and includes 20 campuses located throughout the Kyle and Buda communities. The school district has been a leader in water conservation and took the initiative to install rainwater harvesting systems at two of their campuses that opened in 2010. The system at each campus consists of two 53,000-gallon metal tanks (a total of 106,000 gallons of capacity) that collect rainwater flowing off about 44,000 square feet of roof area. Condensate (approximately 2,900 gallons/12 hours when the system is running at peak capacity) from the rooftop heating, ventilation, and air cooling systems is also collected in the tanks. The harvested rainwater and condensate water are used entirely for irrigation. Excess rainwater is channeled to an onsite detention pond and allowed to infiltrate into the subsurface. The rainwater harvesting systems at both campuses are part of the math, science, and ecology/environment lessons.

Other winners of the 2011 Texas Rain Catcher Award are the Native American Seed Company in Junction (commercial/industrial category); Denton County in Denton (government category); Hacienda Maria in Junction (residential category) and Stroman Middle School in Victoria (educational category).

On July 16, 2007, the TWDB authorized the Executive Administrator to establish and implement the Texas Rain Catcher Award competition and recognition program. The program was established as an additional means of promoting rainwater harvesting in the state, educating the public on the benefits and advantages of rainwater harvesting, and recognizing individuals and entities dedicated to the cause of managing this precious natural resource.

Since the start of the program, the TWDB has recognized 18 individuals or entities. The winners have demonstrated exceptional efforts at conserving water through rainwater harvesting and educating the public about this important conservation measure.

For more information about the winners, as well as more information on rainwater harvesting, please visit <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/innovativewater/rainwater/>.

The TWDB is the state agency charged with collecting and disseminating water-related data, assisting with regional planning and preparing the State Water Plan for the development of the state's water resources. The TWDB administers cost-effective financial programs for the construction of water supply, wastewater treatment, flood control, and agricultural water conservation projects.