



## NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT STAGE I CRITICAL PERIOD

The purpose of this notice is to advise Edwards Aquifer (Aquifer) groundwater withdrawal permit holders that the General Manager of the Edwards Aquifer Authority (Authority) has determined that the criteria for declaring Stage I of the Authority's Critical Period Management Plan have recently been satisfied. The General Manager hereby gives notice of the commencement of Stage I Critical Period beginning on April 18, 2011. *See* EAA RULES § 715.212. Stage I will remain in effect until the General Manager finds that Critical Period conditions are no longer warranted and issues a Notice of Expiration on the Authority's website declaring an end to Stage I. When water levels of the Aquifer or springflows of Comal Springs or San Marcos Springs decline below certain trigger levels, the Critical Period Management Plan of the Authority is implemented to reduce withdrawals from the Aquifer. This plan is designed to slow the rate of decline of Aquifer levels or springflows.

During Stage I Critical Period, a permit holder's groundwater withdrawal amount contained in an Initial Regular Permit is adjusted *downward* by the calculations in § 715.218 of the Authority's rules. For the San Antonio Pool, permitted withdrawal amounts are interrupted during Stage I by 20%. In addition, all holders of groundwater withdrawal permits (or their contract users) are required to file monthly groundwater withdrawal reports. *See* EAA RULES § 715.210. Stage I does not apply to the Uvalde Pool.

Please note, irrigators may claim an exemption from Critical Period requirements in order to finish irrigating a crop already planted prior to the declaration of Stage I. However, irrigators intending to take advantage of this exemption must file a notice of intent to finish a crop with the Authority. *See* EAA RULES § 715.219. This notice must be filed no later than May 18, 2011. Additional crop(s) may also be planted, but will be subject to Critical Period requirements and limited to the amount of available groundwater remaining in a permit holder's authorized annual withdrawal amount. *See* EAA RULES § 715.219(c). If any additional crop(s) is planted, the irrigator must file a notice of intent to plant an additional crop within 15 days after the crop is planted. These notice forms are available on the Authority's website at [www.edwardsaquifer.org](http://www.edwardsaquifer.org), or may be obtained by requesting a copy. To aid in calculating the groundwater withdrawal amount authorized during Stage I, permit holders may use the Authority's Groundwater Calculator also available on the Authority's website.

If any interested person has questions or would like additional information, they may contact Mr. Javier Hernandez, Conservation Supervisor, at (210) 222-2204 or (800) 292-1047 or visit the Authority's offices at 1615 N. St. Mary's Street, San Antonio, Texas. Provisions of the Authority's Critical Period Management Plan can be found in Chapter 715, Subchapter E of the Authority's rules. The rules are available on the Authority's website or can be obtained at the Authority's offices.

**ISSUED THIS 18th DAY OF April, 2011.**

Karl J. Dreher  
General Manager

