

Press Release

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Manage. Enhance. Protect.

**Aquifer Conditions Improve:
EAA Lifts Stage 4 and Returns to Stage 3
Permit Reductions for the Uvalde Pool**

San Antonio, TX – The Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) has declared the lifting of Stage 4 and a return to Stage 3 Critical Period Management pumping curtailments for Edwards Aquifer withdrawal permit holders in the Uvalde Pool of the EAA's jurisdiction (Uvalde County) based on improved aquifer conditions. Effective Tuesday, July 21, 2026, aquifer conditions were such that for the first time since March 2024, the Uvalde Pool is out of Stage 4. Yesterday, the ten-day average at the J-27 index was 842.5 feet above mean sea level (ft. amsl), which is above the Stage 4 threshold and within the Stage 3 range of the EAA Critical Period Management Plan (CPM).

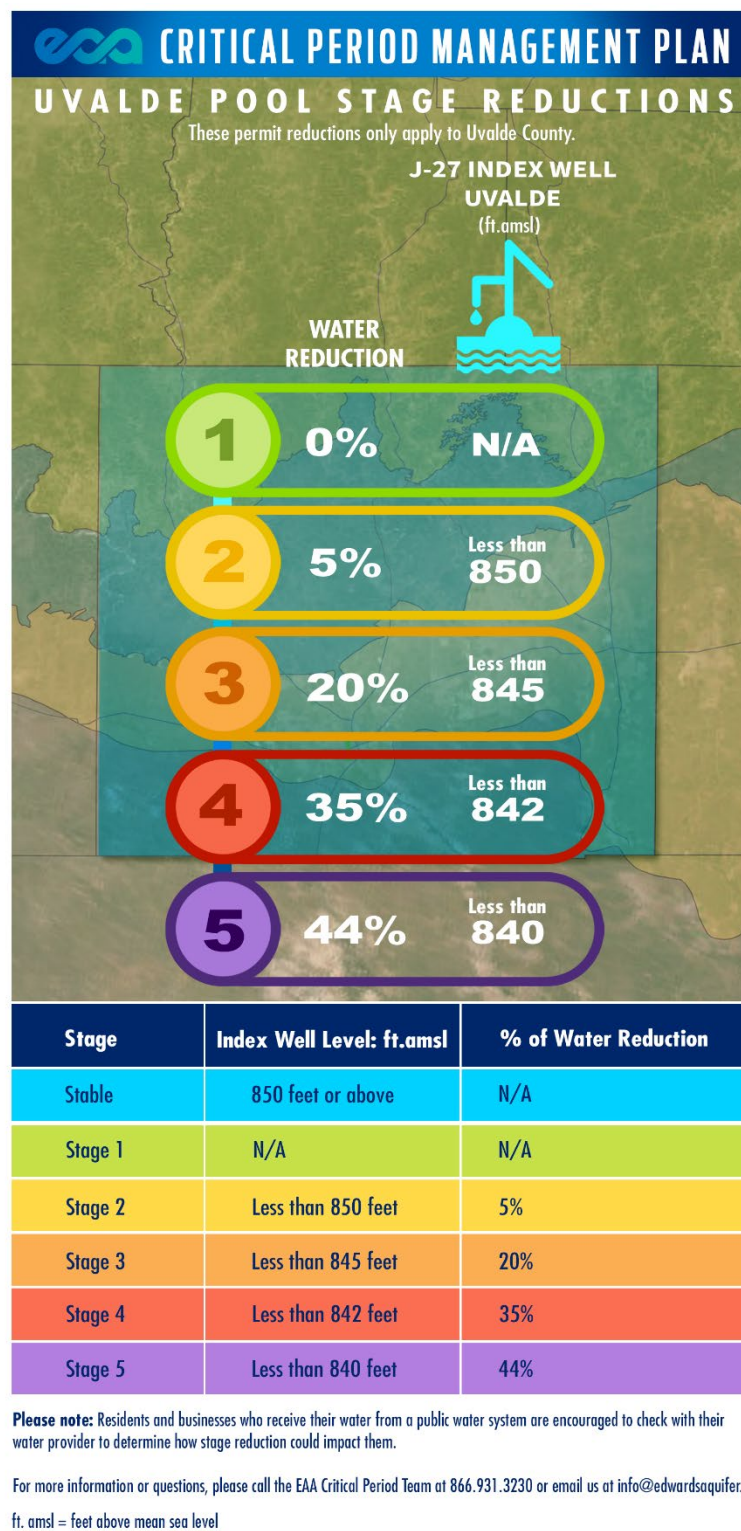
As shown in Figure 1, CPM Stage 3 for the Uvalde Pool reduces the annual authorized withdrawal amounts available to affected Edwards groundwater permit holders by 20 percent based on the number of days CPM is in effect for the indicated stage reduction. These reductions apply to all Edwards Aquifer groundwater permit holders authorized to pump more than three acre-feet annually. This includes industrial and agricultural users, as well as water utilities authorized to pump water from the Edwards Aquifer for delivery to their respective customers. All affected permit holders must also report their pumping totals during any stage of CPM reductions to the EAA on a monthly basis.

Residents and businesses within Uvalde County who receive their water from a public water system should follow their respective water providers' directives regarding water use practices. It should be noted that the EAA does not enforce lawn watering activities or other general water limitations beyond the curtailment of withdrawals from the Edwards Aquifer. Any enforcement of such activities or limitations is enforced by a municipality. The EAA does not regulate the general public but instead regulates Edwards well owners with withdrawal permits authorizing their right to pump from the aquifer.

The EAA is a groundwater conservation district that manages, enhances and protects the Edwards Aquifer, a major groundwater system serving approximately two-and-one-half million South Central Texans. The EAA jurisdiction spans across 8 counties including Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, and parts of Atascosa, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Comal and Hays counties.

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Figure 1.



More information can be found at:

<https://www.edwardsaquifer.org/groundwater-users/critical-period-drought-management/>

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