

**Press Release**

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## **Decreasing aquifer levels prompt return to EAA Stage 3 pumping reductions for the San Antonio Pool**

**San Antonio, TX** – The Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) has declared the return to Stage 3 of its Critical Period Management Plan (CPM) effective Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, for Edwards groundwater permit holders in the San Antonio Pool (Medina, Bexar, and parts of Atascosa, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Comal, and Hays counties) based on declining aquifer water levels. On Sunday, the ten-day average recorded at the J-17 index well was 639.9 feet above mean sea level (ft. amsl), which resulted in meeting the threshold for Stage 3.

As shown in Figure 1, CPM Stage 3 for the San Antonio Pool reduces the annual authorized withdrawal amounts available to affected Edwards Aquifer groundwater permit holders by 35 percent of their withdrawal amounts 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 to the EAA on a monthly basis.

Residents and businesses within those counties 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.

### **Figure 1.**

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Please note: \*Stage 5 Comal Springs springflow - to enter this stage based on the springflow, the reading must be less than 45 cfs on a ten-day rolling average, or less than 40 cfs based on a three-day rolling average. To leave this stage, the ten-day rolling average must be 45 cfs or greater.

For more information or questions, please call the EAA Critical Period Team at 866.931.3239 or email us at [info@edwardsaquifer.org](mailto:info@edwardsaquifer.org)

ft. amsl = feet above mean sea level | (cfs) = cubic feet per second

**More information can be found at:**

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

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