

Press Release

October 16th, 2026

Mike De La Garza

EAA Communications & Engagement

Executive Director

Mdelagarza@Edwardsaquifer.org



Manage. Enhance. Protect.

Improved aquifer levels prompt return to EAA Stage 2 pumping reductions for the San Antonio Pool

San Antonio, TX – The Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) has declared the return to Stage 2 of its Critical Period Management Plan (CPM) effective Monday, October 5th, 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 increased aquifer water levels.

Aquifer Management Services staff carefully track water levels at the San Antonio Pool Index Well J-17, the Uvalde Pool Index Well J-27, and discharge at Comal and San Marcos springs to evaluate aquifer levels and spring discharge trends. On October 16, 2026, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) provided revised spring discharge measurements for Comal Springs which caused retroactive updates to Critical Period Management. On October 5, 2026, the reported daily mean discharge at Comal Springs was 169 cubic feet per second (cfs). That reported daily mean discharge resulted in a ten-day rolling average of 151 cfs for Comal Springs, which is above the threshold for Stage 2 within the San Antonio Pool. The ten-day rolling average for Index Well J-17 was 640.2 feet above mean sea level (ft amsl), and the San Marcos Springs ten-day rolling average was 89 cfs.

As shown in Figure 1, CPM Stage 2 for the San Antonio Pool reduces the annual authorized withdrawal amounts available to affected Edwards Aquifer groundwater permit holders by 30 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 monthly.

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

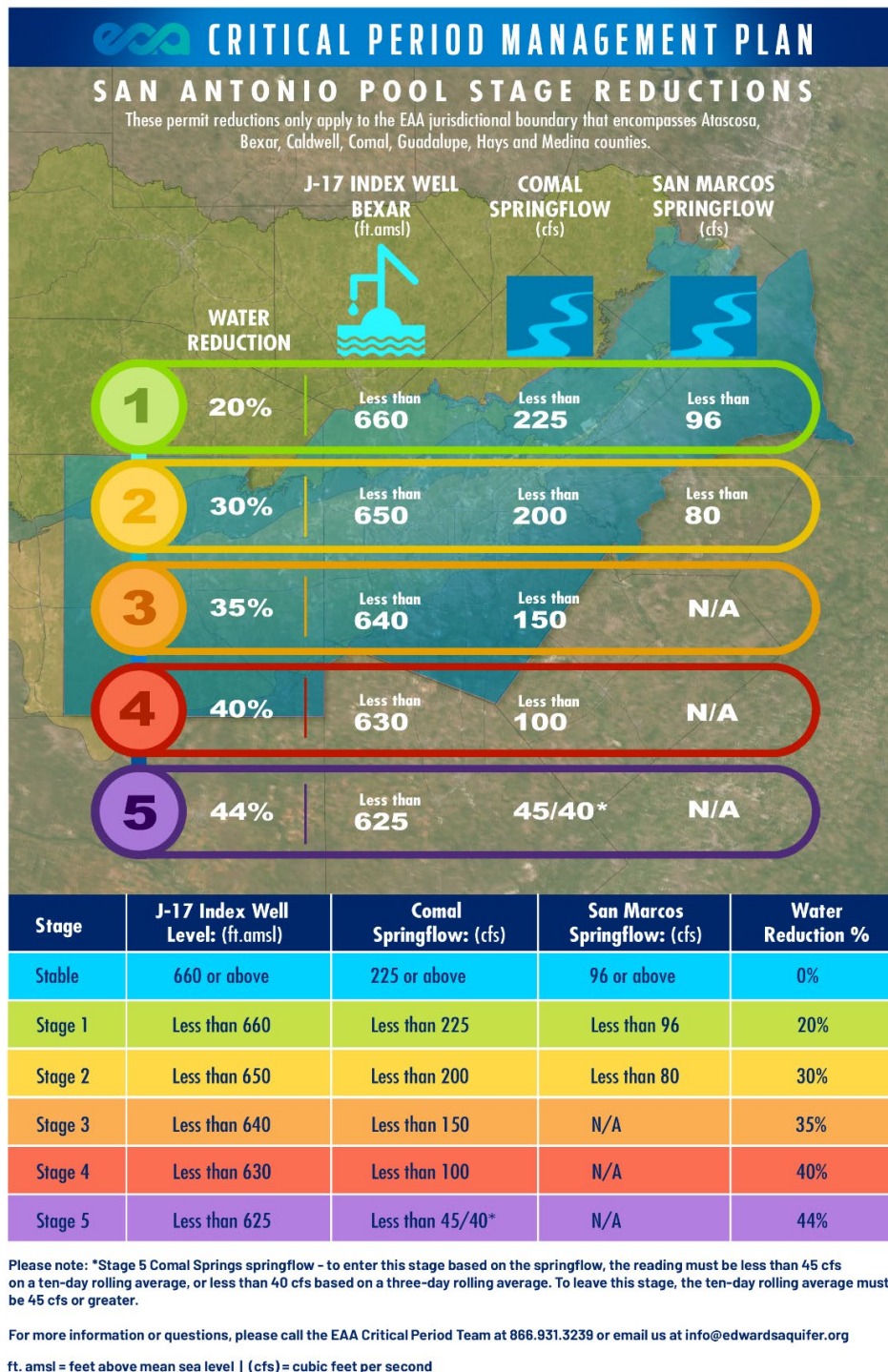
-more-

withdrawals from the Edwards Aquifer. Any enforcement of such activities or limitations is enforced by a municipality. The EAA does not regulate the public at large, 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.

-end-

Figure 1.



More information can be found at:

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

-end-