



July 2026

Official statement from the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) regarding the Seco Creek Sinkhole Gate:

Since 2023, the Seco Creek Sinkhole diversion channel, in Medina County, has had a gate which was installed to ensure regulatory compliance with the state of Texas' surface water laws. Specifically, the gate enables the EAA to control the diversion of water to the sinkhole in compliance with the terms of a state-issued permit that authorizes surface water flows in the Seco Creek to be intentionally diverted to the Seco Sinkhole via a manmade channel for enhanced recharge to the Edwards Aquifer. The manmade channel was established through the agency's predecessor, the Edwards Aquifer Underground Water District (EUWD), and in 2022-2023 the EAA went through a process with the State to update diversion permits for each of its four recharge structures to accurately reflect historic recharge to the aquifer caused by these structures and to ensure continuing compliance.

The gate remains closed for two reasons: 1) to generally protect the quality of water entering the aquifer, allowing first-flush stormwater flows in the creek to bypass the sinkhole, thus reducing the risk of pollutants entering the sinkhole; and 2) to specifically comply with the State's injection permit conditions, which require the gate remain closed until applicable criteria are developed that will clearly define water quality standards for stormwater that will flow into the diversion channel, into the sinkhole, and then the aquifer itself.

In its closed position, the gate mimics the natural flow of stormwater prior to there being a manmade diversion channel from the creek to the sinkhole. The closed gate restrains but does not completely prevent water from entering the sinkhole.