Press Release
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AUTHORITY

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Recent Rains Improve Aquifer levels and 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 Tuesday, November 3rd, 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 November 3, 2026, the daily high-water level at Index Well J-17 was 641.9 feet Above Mean Sea Level (ft amsl). That daily high-water level resulted in a ten-day rolling average of 640.1 ft amsl for Index Well J-17, which is above the threshold for Stage 2 within the San Antonio Pool. The ten-day rolling average for Comal Springs was 157 cubic feet per second (cfs), and the San Marcos Springs ten-day rolling average was 88 cfs. We have confirmed that the measurement protocols utilized for groundwater elevation measurements and spring discharge meet quality assurance standards and were within the limits of acceptance. As of November 3, 2026, the measured water levels at Index Well J-17 met the criteria for Stage 2 Critical Period Management for the San Antonio Pool.

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.

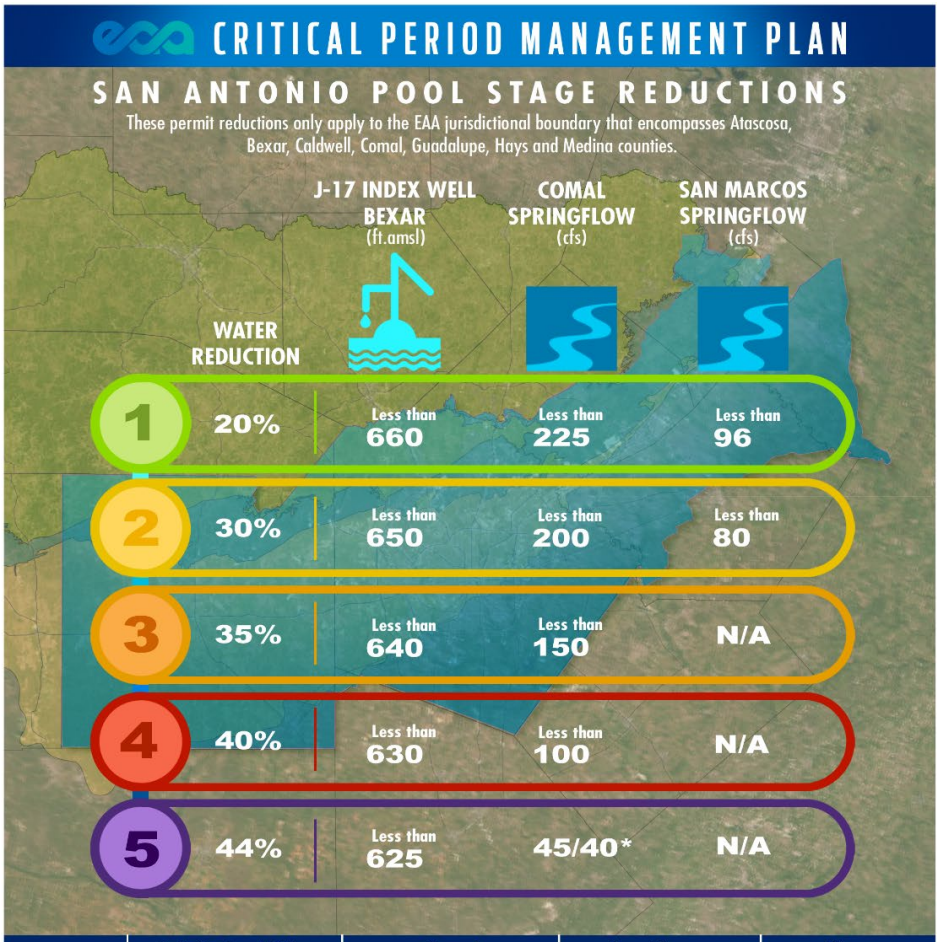
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Residents and businesses within those counties who receive their water from a public water system should follow their respective water providers' directives regarding water use practices. It should be noted that the EAA does not enforce lawn watering 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 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.

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Figure 1.



Stage	J-17 Index Well Level: (ft.amsl)	Comal Springflow: (cfs)	San Marcos Springflow: (cfs)	Water Reduction %
Stable	660 or above	225 or above	96 or above	0%
Stage 1	Less than 660	Less than 225	Less than 96	20%
Stage 2	Less than 650	Less than 200	Less than 80	30%
Stage 3	Less than 640	Less than 150	N/A	35%
Stage 4	Less than 630	Less than 100	N/A	40%
Stage 5	Less than 625	Less than 45/40*	N/A	44%

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

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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