



# After a hot and dry June, the forecast is largely unchanged

By Austin Horn, Staff Writer | July 4, 2018



Photo: William Luther /San Antonio Express-News

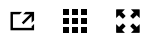


IMAGE 1 OF 2

Kayakers take advantage of a brief storm that brought a stronger flow to the San Antonio River's Mission Reach in May 21. May was the third driest on record. June was the 24th driest.

After a long dry spell, the San Antonio area expected to get a much-needed burst of showers in late June.

Despite a forecast of **3 inches or more of rain**, which could have staved off a drought, the storms didn't materialize.

"The event from the middle of June produced a lot of rain for Corpus Christi, even Brownsville, but it didn't quite give us rain," Brett Williams, a forecaster for the National Weather Service, said. "It didn't make it as far north and west as we thought."

Now, the drought is here, with the far northern part of Bexar County designated in moderate drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, and the rest of the county abnormally dry.

June continued a hot and dry streak that started in April.

With a precipitation total of 0.71 inches, compared with a monthly average of 4.14, and an average high of 96.8 degrees, last month ended as the 24th-driest and third-hottest June on record. May was the third-hottest and 13th-

## Express Newsletters

Get the latest news, sports and food features sent directly to your inbox.

[Sign up](#)

Print subscribers get a password for your existing account [here](#)

driest May ever.

But a respite might come soon, according to Williams and State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon.

As of Tuesday, Williams said the forecast calls for San Antonio to get about a half-inch of rain starting Wednesday, probably in the late afternoon before Fourth of July fireworks.

Williams said the rain, while much-needed, likely won't be enough to alleviate the drought.

He and Nielsen-Gammon agreed the long-term forecast isn't much better. Barring the arrival of tropical storm systems, Nielsen-Gammon doesn't have faith that July will have much rain.

"It'll be hot as long as we don't get substantial rain coming in to get the ground wetter," he said.

On the positive side, Williams said temperatures will be slightly lower than normal later this week, with highs in the low to mid-90s, a bit of a relief from almost nonstop triple-digit highs. As for the longer-term forecast, however, he predicted more of the same: hot and dry.

The Edwards Aquifer, the region's primary source of drinking water, is on the precipice of dropping below 640 feet above sea level. If the aquifer's average level stays below that for 10 days, the Edwards Aquifer Authority can call for Stage 3 pumping restrictions, which would require a 35 percent cut in pumping. That affects water utilities, businesses and others who pump directly from the aquifer.

The San Antonio Water System is now in **Stage 2 drought restrictions**, which limits outdoor water consumption by shortening the hours people can use irrigation systems, sprinklers and soaker hoses. SAWS said it does not expect to require further cuts, even if the EAA goes to Stage 3.

For more information about Stage 2 watering rules, visit [saws.org/drought](https://saws.org/drought). For EAA pumping restriction details, visit [www.edwardsaquifer.org](https://www.edwardsaquifer.org).

*austin.horn@express-news.net*

*@Littlbighorn*

HEARST *newspapers*

© 2018 Hearst Communications Inc.