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For Immediate Release

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The EAA Decreases Critical Period to Stage 1 Reductions

San Antonio, TX – The Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) declares a decrease to Stage 1 pumping reductions, effective Friday, April 30, 2021. It was officially confirmed that the 10-day rolling average for the San Antonio Pool of its jurisdiction, at the index well in Bexar County (J-17), rose to 650.1 feet above mean sea level (ft msl) last Friday. In addition, the 10-day rolling average for discharge at Comal Springs was 202 cubic feet per second (cfs) on Thursday, April 29, 2021, which is also below the Stage I threshold for the San Antonio Pool. The EAA declares stages of Critical Period Management based on declining water levels, and diminished springflow at Comal Springs in New Braunfels, TX and the San Marcos Springs in San Marcos, TX.

Stage 1 of the EAA drought plan requires Edwards groundwater permit holders in Atascosa, Bexar, Caldwell, Comal, Guadalupe, Hays, and Medina counties to reduce their annual authorized pumping amount by 20 percent. The purpose of mandatory pumping reductions is to stabilize water levels and springflow until rainfall replenishes the aquifer. Stage 1 reductions apply to all Edwards Aquifer groundwater permit holders authorized to pump more than three acre-feet annually. This includes industrial and agricultural uses, as well as, water utilities authorized to pump water from the Edwards Aquifer for delivery to its respective customers. All affected permit holders must also report their pumping totals to the EAA on a monthly basis.

Residents and businesses who receive their water from a public water system should follow their water provider's directives regarding water use practices. For additional information on Stage 1 requirements, please call the EAA Critical Period Team at (866) 931-3239 or by visit the EAA website at www.edwardsaquifer.org.

The EAA is a groundwater conservation district that manages, enhances and protects the Edwards Aquifer, a major groundwater system serving approximately 2 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.

More information can be found at www.edwardsaquifer.org

Figure 1.

CRITICAL PERIOD TRIGGERS, STAGES, AND WITHDRAWAL REDUCTIONS



The following Critical Period triggers and percent reductions apply to all Municipal, Industrial and Irrigation users authorized to withdraw more than 3 acre-feet.

San Antonio Pool

Critical Period is declared in the San Antonio Pool when the 10-day average of the rate of springflow at either the Comal or San Marcos springs, or aquifer reading at the J-17 Index Well in Bexar County drops below the Stage I trigger level. Likewise, a more restrictive stage of Critical Period is activated by any one of these triggers. However, the declaration of a less restrictive stage of Critical Period requires the 10-day averages of all three trigger levels to be above the activation thresholds of the particular stage in effect at the time.

TRIGGER (based on 10-day average)	CRITICAL PERIOD STAGE I	CRITICAL PERIOD STAGE II	CRITICAL PERIOD STAGE III	CRITICAL PERIOD STAGE IV	CRITICAL PERIOD STAGE V
Index Well J-17 Level (MSL)	<660	<650	<640	<630	<625
San Marcos Springs Flow (CFS)	<96	<80	N/A	N/A	N/A
Comal Springs Flow (CFS)	<225	<200	<150	<100	<45/40*
Withdrawal Reduction	20%	30%	35%	40%	44%

Uvalde Pool

The Uvalde Pool enters Critical Period at Stage II based on the 10-day average of aquifer level readings at the J-27 Index Well in Uvalde County.

TRIGGER (based on 10-day average)	CRITICAL PERIOD STAGE I	CRITICAL PERIOD STAGE II	CRITICAL PERIOD STAGE III	CRITICAL PERIOD STAGE IV	CRITICAL PERIOD STAGE V
Index Well J-27 Level (MSL)	N/A	<850	<845	<842	<840
San Marcos Springs Flow (CFS)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Comal Springs Flow (CFS)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Withdrawal Reduction	N/A	5%	20%	35%	44%

*San Antonio Pool only: In order to enter into Critical Period Stage V, the applicable springflow trigger is either less than 45 cfs based on a ten-day rolling average or less than 40 cfs based on a three-day rolling average. Expiration of Critical Period Stage V is based on a ten-day rolling average of 45 cfs or greater.

Definitions: (MSL) Mean Sea Level; (CFS) Cubic Feet Per Second