

EAA Critical Period Management Plan

How the EAA Manages Critical Stage Reductions

The intent of the EAA Critical Period Management (CPM) Plan is to sustain aquifer and springflow levels during times of drought. CPM applies to most well owners who have a permit to withdraw water from the Edwards Aquifer by temporarily reducing their authorized withdrawal amount. Based on ten-day averages of certain aquifer level and springflow readings, which are indicators of the current condition of the aquifer, CPM reductions are divided by aquifer "pools" described below.

THE SAN ANTONIO POOL

San Antonio Pool pumping permit reductions apply to Atascosa, Bexar, Caldwell, Comal, Guadalupe, Hays, and Medina counties.

Critical Period Stage	J-17 Index Well Level above mean sea level (amsl)	San Marcos Springs Flow cubic feet per second (cfs)	Comal Springs Flow cubic feet per second (cfs)	% of Water Reduction
No Stage indicates stable levels	660 feet or above	96 or above	225 or above	0%
Stage 1	less than 660 feet	less than 96	less than 225	20%
Stage 2	Less than 650 feet	less than 80	Less than 200	30%
Stage 3	Less than 640 feet	Not Applicable	Less than 150	35%
Stage 4	Less than 630 feet	Not Applicable	Less than 100	40%
Stage 5	Less than 625 feet	Not Applicable	Less than 45/40*	44%

*Stage 5 Comal Springs Flow - 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.

Why do we need to know Springflow?

The Comal and San Marcos Springs provide habitats for threatened and endangered species that are protected under the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP), which can serve as indicators species for the health of the aquifer. The EAA uses springflow to balance the water needs for the more than 2.5 million people that rely on the aquifer.

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THE UVALDE POOL

The Uvalde pool pumping permit reductions only apply to Uvalde County.

Critical Period Stage	J-27 Index Well Level above mean sea level (amsl)	% of Water Reduction
No Stage indicates stable levels	850 feet or above	0%
Stage 1	N/A	0%
Stage 2	Less than 850 feet	5%
Stage 3	Less than 845 feet	20%
Stage 4	Less than 842 feet	35%
Stage 5	Less than 840 feet	44%

Please note: Residents and businesses who receive their water from a public water system are encouraged to check with their water provider to determine to how stage reductions could impact them.

For more information or questions, please call the EAA Critical Period Team at (866) 931-3239 or email us at info@edwardsaquifer.org.