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For Immediate Release

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EAA Declares Stage 3 Permit Reductions for Uvalde Pool

San Antonio, TX – The Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) declares Stage 3 Critical Period Management permit reductions for Uvalde County under the purview of the Edwards Aquifer Authority within the Uvalde Pool effective Sunday, May 7, 2023. It was officially confirmed that the 10-day average at the J-27 index well fell below 845 to 844.9 feet above mean sea level (ft msl). Hence, the EAA formally declares Stage 3 permit reductions.

As shown in Figure 1, the EAA Critical Period Management Plan for the Uvalde Pool requires Edwards groundwater permit holders in Uvalde County to reduce their annual authorized pumping by 20 percent. 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 its respective customers. All affected permit holders must also report their pumping totals to the EAA on a monthly basis.

Residents and businesses within those counties who receive their water from a public water system should follow their respective water provider's directives regarding water use practices. It should be noted that the EAA does not enforce lawn watering activities or other general water limitations enacted. Any enforcement of such activities or limitations is enforced by a municipality. The EAA does not regulate the general public, 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.



Figure 1.

EAA Critical Period Management Plan

How the EAA Manages Critical Stage Reductions

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%

More information can be found at <https://bit.ly/EAACriticalPeriodManagementPlan>