

CONSERVE



This newsletter is dedicated to providing Edwards Aquifer permit holders useful information about the EAHCP springflow protection programs.

FEBRUARY 2026

SECURE YOUR ENROLLMENT IN INCENTIVE BASED SPRINGFLOW PROTECTION PROGRAMS

As the agency embarks on its **30th anniversary** this coming June, we want to thank all permit holders that have enrolled in the Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option (VISPO) or the Aquifer Storage and

Recovery (ASR) Springflow Protection Forbearance Program because you have positively impacted the protection of the Edwards Aquifer by helping safeguard the springflows that emanate from the Comal and San Marcos springs for the threatened and endangered species and for the betterment of all those that rely on the Edwards Aquifer.

This will be the fourth year in a row this program has enacted its forbearance protocol due to the October 1, 2025, J-17 index well reading of 628.4 ft. msl, which was below the forbearance trigger of 635 ft. msl. Therefore, all permit holders enrolled in the VISPO program this year are required to suspend use of their enrolled water for the entirety of 2026.

BREAKDOWN OF VISPO PROGRAM TRIGGER FOR 2026

PROGRAM TRIGGER	2025 J-17 WELL READING	FORBEARANCE PROTOCOL INCENTIVE
J-17 well reading falls below 635 ft. msl on October 1.	On October 1, 2025, the reading was at 628.4 ft. msl.	Must suspend use of enrolled water for 2026 and will receive \$214 per acre-foot of water enrolled in the program. This includes standby year and forbearance year incentive amounts.



If you are a permittee with unused water rights, we encourage you to consider enrolling in the VISPO program for two years. We are also seeking long-term leases for both restricted (base irrigation) and unrestricted water rights available, so please reach out to me so I can discuss options with you.

ASR and VISPO Program Manager | Javier Hernandez

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ASR SPRINGFLOW PROTECTION FORBEARANCE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS:

This program triggers based on annual recharge of the Edwards Aquifer, which is provided by U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to the EAA where they report this annual recharge amount. Please note, if the 10-year recharge average is equal to or less than 500,000 acre-feet, forbearance will be triggered for all water enrolled in the program by permit holders and cannot be used. ~ continued ~

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Due to lack of rainfall throughout the region this past year and drought conditions persisting, we are predicting the report to indicate that annual recharge was not enough to sustain the 10-year average above 500,000 acre-feet. If this proves to be the case, participating permittees must forbear the use of their enrolled water beginning on January 1, 2027.

**WE WILL KEEP PARTICIPATING PERMITTEES
UP TO SPEED AS SOON AS WE RECEIVE THE REPORT
AND PROVIDE CONFIRMATION NOTICES.**

We want to remind permit holders enrolled in this program that any water enrolled cannot be used, and we encourage those who need to irrigate to take steps to lease additional water from the market. Please be aware that the EAA Critical Period Management reductions are being implemented currently, so take that into consideration.



Learn more about our springflow protection programs by scanning this QR code.

You can contact Javier Hernandez at: 210-222-2204, ext.139, or email, jhernandez@edwardsaquifer.org.