

Press Release

August 6, 2026

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**EAA Declares an Increase to Stage 2 Permit Reductions
for the San Antonio Pool**

San Antonio, TX – The Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) has declared Stage 2 Critical Period Management (CPM) for Edwards withdrawal permit holders in the San Antonio Pool of the EAA’s jurisdiction, which includes Medina, Bexar, and parts of Atascosa, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Comal, and Hays counties. The declaration is based on declining aquifer conditions and is effective Thursday, August 6, 2026. Today, the 10-day average at the J-17 index well is 649.8 feet above mean sea level (ft. amsl), which falls within the Stage 2 threshold of the EAA CPM Plan. Additionally, the 10-day average at Comal Springs is 219 cubic feet per second (cfs), while the San Marcos Springs is 128 cfs. Please note that a more restrictive stage of CPM stage is triggered when any one of these indicators reaches its threshold for that stage.

The San Antonio Pool has been under a stage of CPM reductions since March 2022 due to prolonged drought. Only recently, following significant rainfall across much of the region in July did aquifer and springflow conditions improve enough to enable the EAA to lift CPM reductions to Stage 1. However, the decline in aquifer levels below the Stage 2 threshold indicates a return to hotter, drier weather.

As shown in Figure 1, CPM Stage 2 for the San Antonio Pool requires Edwards permit holders to reduce their annual authorized withdrawal amounts by 30 percent. These reductions are calculated based on the number of days CPM remains in effect for the indicated stage reduction and apply to all Edwards permit holders authorized to pump more than 3 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 their respective customers. All affected permit holders must also report their pumping totals to the EAA monthly.

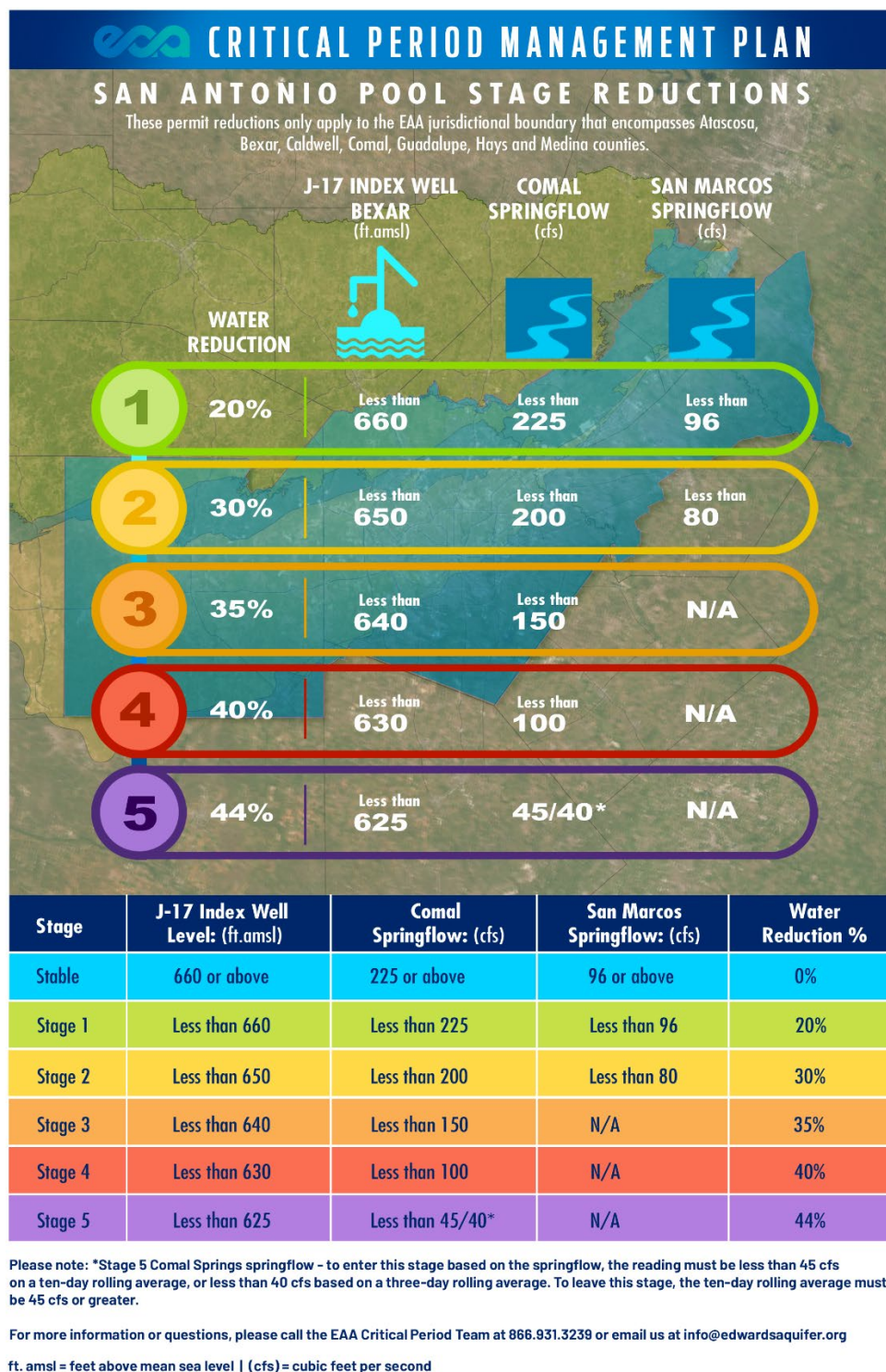
Residents and businesses within these counties who receive their water from a public water system should follow their respective water providers’ directives regarding water use practices. The EAA does not enforce lawn watering activities or other general water limitations beyond the curtailment of withdrawals from the Edwards Aquifer. Any enforcement of such activities or limitations is the responsibility of a municipality. The EAA does not regulate the general public; rather, it 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

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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.



More information can be found at:

<https://www.edwardsaquifer.org/groundwater-users/critical-period-drought-management/>

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