



City of San Marcos

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Corrected Version

Stage 2 Watering Restrictions Continue

San Marcos Suspends Implementation of Stage 3 Water Rules

The San Marcos City Council has adopted an ordinance on first reading temporarily suspending Stage 3 water restrictions until October 1 in light of the fact that the City has already reduced Edwards Aquifer pumping by 75-80%.

The temporary measure suspends implementation of Stage 3 restrictions, which allow lawn sprinklers only once every two weeks, unless the utility director determines that the more stringent rules are needed to achieve withdrawal levels mandated by the Edwards Aquifer Authority or the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority.

San Marcos residents are continuing under Stage 2 water restrictions implemented on June 3 due to falling aquifer levels from the lack of rain. The City's Stage 2 rules allow lawn sprinklers once a week on a designated weekday. San Marcos will continue under Stage 2 restrictions if triggers remain at or below Stage 2 levels.

“San Marcos has been a leader in the region in addressing water supply issues and finding alternatives to the Edwards Aquifer for more than three decades,” said Mayor Daniel Guerrero. “In addition to paying for water rights from Canyon Lake, we are working with our neighbors on the Hays-Caldwell Public Utility Agency to assure our water supply 25 and 50 years from now.”

Establishing an alternate supply means that San Marcos has reduced its pumping from the Edwards Aquifer to levels well below the most stringent pumping limitations imposed under all four stages of the Edwards Aquifer Authority critical period drought response plan.

Under EAA rules, aquifer pumping permit holders must reduce withdrawals by 20% in Stage 1, 30% in Stage 2, 35% in Stage 3, and 40% in Stage 4. GBRA also has drought management rules based on the level of Canyon Lake.

San Marcos has achieved a 75-80% reduction in pumping from the Edwards Aquifer through conservation and citizen support to invest millions of dollars in buying, transporting and treating surface water from Canyon Lake since 2000.

San Marcos customers are using an average of 8.04 million gallons of water daily this summer, with an average 7 million gallons coming from Canyon Lake by way of the Guadalupe River and an average 1.04 mgd from the aquifer.

“San Marcos residents invested more than \$25 million 15 years ago to help build a 20-mile pipeline from the Guadalupe River, to pay for surface water rights and to build a Surface Water Treatment Plant,” said City Manager Jim Nuse. “We have reduced our reliance on the Edwards Aquifer by 75-80%, a significant contribution in protecting the aquifer as well as springflow into the San Marcos River.”

San Marcos voters approved the surface water project in 1990, began paying for surface water in 1995, built a 20 mile pipeline in conjunction with the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority in the late 1990s and constructed a Surface Water Treatment Plant that opened in 2000.

On Tuesday, July 6, the J-17 index well in San Antonio stood at 643.7 feet above sea level, with the 10 day average at 644.9 feet. Comal Springs in New Braunfels were flowing at 174 cubic feet per second (cfs) and the San Marcos River at 111 cfs.

Stage 2, first implemented this year on June 3, limits lawn irrigation, golf course and athletic field watering, and non-commercial car washing to once a week on a designated weekday during limited hours. Hand watering is allowed any day **and at any time**.

The City’s Stage 3 rules would allow lawn sprinklers only once every other week on a designated day during restricted hours, limit hand watering to once a week, ban any non-commercial car washing, and prohibit filling of new or existing swimming pools.

More information on the City’s drought response program is available on the City website at www.sanmarcostx.gov and the Edwards Aquifer Authority at www.edwardsaquifer.org.

**Critical Period Triggers, Stages, and Withdrawal Reductions- 10 Day Average
San Antonio Pool of Edwards Aquifer**

Comal Springs Flow (CFS)	San Marcos Springs Flow (CFS)	Index Well J-17 (Mean Sea Level)	Critical Period Stage	Withdrawal Reductions
<225	<96	<660	I	20%
<200	<80	<650	II	30%
<150	N/A	<640	III	35%
<100	N/A	<630	IV	40%