

Demand Management/ Critical Period Management Trigger Levels

The Edwards Aquifer Authority (Authority) Demand Management/Critical Period Management (DM/CPM) Rules set maximum limits on groundwater withdrawals during periods of low rainfall and significant decline in aquifer level or springflows. The DM/CPM rules are in effect year-round and outline four stages of mandatory reductions in groundwater use intended to slow the rate of decline in the Edwards Aquifer.

For the San Antonio Pool (Bexar, Medina, and parts of Atascosa, Comal, Guadalupe, Hays and Caldwell counties), these stages are triggered by aquifer level readings at the J-17 Index Well in Bexar County or by the rate of springflow at either the San Marcos or Comal springs. For the Uvalde Pool

(Uvalde County), stages are triggered by aquifer level readings at the J-27 Index Well in Uvalde County. When the water level at these index wells or springflow rates decline to DM/CPM trigger levels, mandatory groundwater use restrictions are declared and remain in effect for at least 30 days, unless the general manager declares otherwise.

The DM/CPM rules apply to all Edwards Aquifer users who hold groundwater withdrawal permits and pump more than three acre-feet of groundwater per year. Mandatory groundwater use reductions are based on quarterly allocation schedules filed annually with the Authority.

The following table shows various DM/CPM trigger levels and stages:

SAN ANTONIO POOL				
J-17 Index Well	Stage I	Stage II	Stage III	**Stage IV
Trigger Level	650 ft.	640 ft.	630 ft.	627 ft.
Groundwater Use Reduction	5%	10%	15%	23%
Affected Permit Holders	Municipal, Industrial	Municipal, Industrial	Municipal, Industrial, Irrigation	Municipal, Industrial, Irrigation
San Marcos Springs	Stage I	Stage II	Stage III	Stage IV
Trigger Level*	110 cfs	96 cfs	80 cfs	Stage IV is contingent upon J-17 index well level.
Groundwater Use Reduction	5%	10%	15%	
Affected Permit Holders	Municipal, Industrial	Municipal, Industrial	Municipal, Industrial, Irrigation	
Comal Springs	Stage I	Stage II	Stage III	Stage IV
Trigger Level*	220 cfs	154 cfs	86 cfs	Stage IV is contingent upon J-17 index well level.
Groundwater Use Reduction	5%	10%	15%	
Affected Permit Holders	Municipal, Industrial	Municipal, Industrial	Municipal, Industrial, Irrigation	
UVALDE POOL				
J-27 Index Well	Stage I	Stage II	Stage III	***Stage IV
Trigger Level	N/A	N/A	845 ft.	842 ft.
Groundwater Use Reduction	N/A	N/A	15%	23%
Affected Permit Holders	N/A	N/A	Municipal, Industrial, Irrigation	Municipal, Industrial, Irrigation

*Trigger levels are based on a five-day running average of springflow discharge measured in cubic feet per second (cfs).

**San Antonio Pool - The General Manager will declare Stage IV if either of the following conditions exist: a) if at 8:00 a.m., the level of the aquifer measured at the J-17 index well drops below 627 feet; or b) if at 8:00 a.m. on the 30th day following Stage III notification, the level of the aquifer remains less than 630 feet.

***Uvalde Pool - The General Manager will declare Stage IV if either of the following conditions exist: a) if at 8:00 a.m., the level of the aquifer measured at the J-27 index well drops below 842 feet; or b) if at 8:00 a.m. on the 30th day following Stage III notification, the level of the aquifer remains less than 845 feet.