



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contact: Roland Ruiz, (210) 477-5143 or  
1-800-292-1047, ext. 143

**EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY DECLARES REGION OUT OF STAGE II  
AND BACK INTO STAGE I GROUNDWATER RESTRICTIONS**  
***Low Flows at San Marcos Springs Keep Pumping Limits in Place***

**SAN ANTONIO (November 21, 2006)** – The Edwards Aquifer Authority today lifted Stage II pumping restrictions for the part of its jurisdictional region known as the San Antonio Pool, and in doing so declared the return to the less restrictive cutbacks of its Stage I Demand Management/Critical Period Management Plan (DM/CPM). The return to Stage I restrictions means that municipal and industrial Edwards Aquifer permit holders are required to reduce their pumping from the aquifer by 5 percent instead of the 10 percent cutback mandated by Stage II.

Effective November 21, 2006, the San Antonio Pool will officially come out of Stage II and back into Stage I, which will remain in effect until the average springflow at San Marcos Springs increases to above the 110 cubic-feet-per-second (cfs) trigger level. Rate of springflow at San Marcos Springs is one of three aquifer level indicators in the region that can keep the area under pumping restrictions. The San Antonio Pool includes all of Bexar and Medina, and parts of Atascosa, Guadalupe, Comal, Hays, and Caldwell counties. The only county within the Authority's jurisdiction not affected is Uvalde, which is a separate pool and remains above its Stage I trigger levels.

Although the San Antonio Pool remains under groundwater restrictions, the shift from Stage II back to Stage I is a positive sign for the Edwards Aquifer and the 1.7 million people who rely on it as their primary water supply, said Authority General Manager Robert Potts.

"This provides a bit of relief for our permit holders, although we're not yet where we'd like to be – out of restrictions altogether," Potts said. "Generally, the region has responded well to the challenges presented by this very intense drought. The combination of cooler weather and some rain in recent weeks has allowed the aquifer to stabilize itself, but because San Marcos Springs have been slow to respond, we'll remain in Stage I and continue to monitor aquifer conditions very closely."

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Stage I was first declared for the San Antonio pool on July 20, based on low aquifer level readings at the J-17 Index Well in Bexar County. However, it was the low rate of springflow at San Marcos Springs that prompted the Authority to declare Stage II on September 11, and which now keeps the area under Stage I restrictions.

The Authority's DM/CPM rules reduce how much groundwater can be withdrawn from the Edwards Aquifer during periods of low rainfall and significant declines in aquifer levels or springflows. These rules are designed to slow the rate of decline of the Edwards Aquifer and to protect springflow at the San Marcos and Comal springs through a series of four stages of mandatory groundwater cutbacks.

The mandatory groundwater reductions for the San Antonio Pool are activated by aquifer conditions as monitored and measured by any one of three mechanisms: 1) water level at Well J-17 in Bexar County; 2) springflow discharge rate at San Marcos Springs; and 3) springflow discharge rate at Comal Springs. For the Uvalde Pool (all of Uvalde County), mandatory reductions are triggered by water levels at Index Well J-27 in the city of Uvalde. When the water level at these index wells or springflow rates decline to prescribed trigger levels, the appropriate stage of the Authority's demand management plan is declared and put into effect.

The Edwards Aquifer Authority manages, enhances, and protects the Edwards Aquifer, one of the major groundwater systems in Texas serving approximately 1.7 million people. More information on the Edwards Aquifer Authority is available on line at [www.edwardsaquifer.org](http://www.edwardsaquifer.org) or by calling (210) 222-2204 or (800) 292-1047.

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**NOTICE TO: MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL EDWARDS AQUIFER  
PERMIT HOLDERS**

**EXPIRATION OF STAGE II AND RETURN TO  
STAGE I DEMAND MANAGEMENT /CRITICAL PERIOD MANAGEMENT**

The Edwards Aquifer Authority (“Authority”) declares the expiration of Stage II and the return to Stage I mandatory reductions in groundwater use for the area within its jurisdictional boundaries identified as the San Antonio Pool (Bexar and Medina counties, and parts of Atascosa, Comal, Guadalupe, Hays, and Caldwell counties) when warranted by measurement readings of water levels at the J-17 Index Well in Bexar County or the rate of springflow at either the Comal or San Marcos springs. Stage I of the Authority’s Demand Management/Critical Period Management (DM/CPM) Rules stipulates that during this time all Edwards Aquifer municipal and industrial pumpers throughout the affected area must reduce groundwater use by 5 percent.

**The General Manager has determined that the criteria for coming out of Stage II and returning to Stage I of the DM/CPM Rules have been recently satisfied. The General Manager, therefore, as required by the Authority’s rules, gives notice that Stage II will expire and Stage I will continue as of November 21, 2006 at 8:00 a.m.**

During Stage I, permit holders (or their lessees) must reduce the amount of groundwater specified in their Demand Management/Critical Period Withdrawal Schedule by 5 percent. For assistance in calculating authorized groundwater withdrawal amounts during Stage I, permit holders can use the Authority’s Groundwater Rights Calculator available online at [www.edwardsaquifer.org](http://www.edwardsaquifer.org). Also during this period, all permit holders (or their lessees) must file monthly groundwater withdrawal reports with the Authority.

For more information about this notice, or the Authority’s Demand Management and Critical Period Management Rules, contact Mr. Javier Hernandez, Conservation Supervisor, at (210) 222-2204 or (800) 292-1047. You may also go online to the Authority’s website at [www.edwardsaquifer.org](http://www.edwardsaquifer.org) or visit the main office of the Authority at 1615 N. St. Mary’s Street, San Antonio, Texas.

**ISSUED THIS 21st DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2006.**

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Robert J. Potts  
General Manager  
Edwards Aquifer Authority