



PRESS RELEASE
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San Antonio Returns to Drought Restrictions

Stage One Water Rules Reinstated for San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO – San Antonio’s break from drought restrictions is over for now. This year’s heavy rains provided significant recharge for the Edwards Aquifer, but levels couldn’t be maintained during the summer and the 10-day average has dropped to 659.5, requiring a return to Stage 1 water restrictions effective Friday, July 31.

Per City ordinance, City Manager Sheryl Sculley in consultation with Robert R. Puente, President/CEO of San Antonio Water System (SAWS), declared Stage 1 management rules are in effect.

Stage 1 of the city’s drought plan is triggered when the 10-day average of the Edwards Aquifer at the J-17 monitoring well drops to 660 feet or below. According to the city’s Aquifer Management Plan ordinance, coming out of drought stages can be considered 15 days after the aquifer is above the trigger.

“While the rain we received earlier this year greatly improved aquifer levels, it wasn’t enough to completely remove the prospect of drought restrictions,” said Robert R. Puente, SAWS President/CEO. “We have an ample supply of water from the Edwards and six other sources, but state law requires us to cut back on pumping when the Edwards Aquifer reaches certain levels.”

Under Stage 1, outdoor watering with a sprinkler or irrigation system is allowed only before 11 a.m. and after 7 p.m., one day per week, as determined by the last number of your street address:

- 0 or 1 – Monday**
- 2 or 3 – Tuesday**
- 4 or 5 – Wednesday**
- 6 or 7 – Thursday**
- 8 or 9 – Friday**

Watering days begin and end at midnight; overnight watering is not allowed. Water waste, such as water running down the street, is prohibited year-round. However, watering with a handheld hose is still allowed any day, any time.

Since 1992, San Antonio Water System has been a leader in innovative water management strategies, making San Antonio water’s most resourceful city. Water and wastewater services are provided to more than 1.6 million consumers in the San Antonio region.

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