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EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

July 2004

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The General Manager's Report is published monthly.

Our Mission:
The Edwards Aquifer Authority is committed to manage, enhance and protect the Edwards Aquifer system.



Message from General Manager Gregory M. Ellis

At the June board of director's meeting, Chairman Doug Miller announced the winners of the 2003-2004 Edwards Aquifer Authority's region wide book cover contest. The winners selected in two categories best illustrated this year's theme, "Be Aquifer Aware." Students from over 400 schools across the region were invited to participate in this year's book cover design contest.

- Winners of the 1st through 5th grade category-
- 1st place- Delaine Smith, 5th grade, Jordan Intermediate
 - 2nd place- Caroline Hilbert, 5th grade, Fort Sam Houston Elementary
 - 3rd place - Kelsea Thacker, 5th grade, Fort Sam Houston Elementary

- Winners of the 9th through 12th grade category-
- 1st place- Jonathan Diaz, 11th grade, International School of the Americas
 - 2nd place- Margaret Manalo, 6th grade, Fort Sam Houston Elementary
 - 3rd place- Barbara Garza, 11th grade, McCollum High School

The first place winners in both grade categories will have their designs printed on 350,000 book covers, distributed to students in all grades across the region for the 2004-2005 school year. The winners also received certificates of participation and a U. S. Savings Bond.

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Message from General Manager (continued)

Gregory M. Ellis

The purpose of the contest is to increase water conservation awareness and to stress the importance of protecting the Edwards Aquifer to students throughout the Authority's region.

In addition, Chairman Doug Miller presented Ms. Ellen Jones of Nueces Canyon Elementary with the WaterWise™ Distinguished Educator Award. This award is presented to exemplary teachers nationwide who have assisted in strengthening the partnership between local water agencies, schools, and their families. Ms. Jones is being recognized for teaching area students about the importance of water conservation.

Kent Kid, Rebecca Creek Elementary, Comal County and Maralee Wilmotte, Kitty Hawk Middle School, Bexar County were named finalists and received certificates by mail.

The Authority's WaterWise™ program is provided to 6th grade students at no cost to local schools or school districts. Each participating classroom receives interactive instructional material and a Resource Action Kit for each student. Each kit includes water and energy saving products such as showerheads, faucet aerators, and tools to check leaks and inefficient appliances. The Authority provides over 10,000 households with Resource Action Kits. Each participating household is able to save over 80,000 gallons of water through product installation alone. Additional savings are possible through changes in daily habits as discussed throughout the program.



Winners of the 2004 Book cover contest are pictured from left to right, Jonathan Diaz, Delaine Smith and Margaret Manalo.



Pictured is Ms. Ellen Jones (centered), winner of the WaterWise™ Distinguished Teacher Education Award, with family members.

June 2004 Board Meeting

by Margaret Garcia, Program Manager – Public Affairs

Authority Directors Declare District 8 Vacancy



At their regular monthly meeting held Tuesday, June 8, 2004, the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors voted to accept the resignation of Cheryl Gilpin, Director District 8 - Comal County. Ms. Gilpin was elected to the board in November 2002 to fill an unexpired term left by former Comal County District 8 Director Rita Banda. The board instructed the general manager to proceed with filling this vacancy in accordance with the agency's By-laws.

Authority General Manager, Gregory M. Ellis also announced the resignation of Mr. Rogelio Muñoz, Director District 14 - Uvalde County. Mr. Muñoz was an original member of the board appointed by the Legislature in 1993, and elected in 1996 and 2000. The board will take formal action regarding Mr. Muñoz's resignation at the July board meeting.

Authority directors also authorized the publication of proposed rules for several chapters of EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY RULES. These proposed rules include "clean-up" amendments to several chapters of existing rules and new rules regarding enforcement. The "clean-up" amendments will allow for clarity and improved administrative efficiency. These amendments generally include the modification of well registration requirements, the exemption of federal facilities from permit and fee requirements, and the exclusion of small capacity permitted wells (3 acre-feet or less) from the requirements of the conservation and demand management/critical period management rules. The enforcement rules generally deal with enforcement action by the general manager and the board as well as administrative and civil penalties that may be assessed when a violation of the Act or Authority's rules occur. Public hearings for these proposed rules will be scheduled for August 2004.

In other business, Authority also directors adopted an omnibus final order granting six groundwater withdrawal permits representing approximately 123 acre-feet of Edwards Aquifer groundwater withdrawal rights. The board also approved agreed final orders and permits for two applicants who had previously filed protests on their proposed permits. After further review of the applicant's files, all parties to these contested permit proposals agreed on a proposed permit amount when the applicant provided additional documentation to substantiate their claims for more Edwards groundwater than originally proposed by staff. These agreed final orders represent approximately 316 acre-feet of Edwards groundwater.

In addition, Authority directors selected the Waters Consulting Group Inc. to conduct an executive search for someone to replace Authority General Manager Gregory M. Ellis. Mr. Ellis announced his intention to resign as general manager in September.

Lastly, Authority directors referred two permit applications to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH). These applications will be tried before a SOAH Administrative Law Judge, who will recommend a final action.

Edwards Aquifer Optimization Program Update

by John Hoyt, Program Manager – Aquifer Science

The basic description and purpose of the Edwards Aquifer Optimization Program (EAOP) is repeated in the following paragraph to provide background information for new readers and to provide a reference for the regular reader. Subsequent paragraphs provide information relevant to the specific report month.

The Edwards Aquifer Authority (the Authority) has undertaken the Edwards Aquifer Optimization Program (EAOP), a comprehensive program for the study and management of the Edwards Aquifer. The EAOP includes a series of seventeen interrelated, mission-directed biologic and hydrogeologic research studies known as the Optimization Technical Studies, (OTS). The OTS are designed to evaluate potential technical options for increasing the amount of water stored in the Edwards Aquifer and identify various methods for optimizing the amount of water available for withdrawal. Data and information obtained from the OTS will provide aquifer managers with the tools necessary to make scientifically-sound decisions to benefit aquifer users and preserve the environment supported by the aquifer, including the Comal and San Marcos Springs and downstream aquatic habitats.



In June 2004, the board of directors approved one OTS related item. The board approved a recommendation to select Southwest Research Institute (SwRI®) to further characterize the Edwards Aquifer flow system in Uvalde County. The board will consider a contract for the work in August. The study is a focused flowpath project that will lead to a better understanding of the effect of the "Knippa Gap" on flow within the Edwards Aquifer. The study will result in an improved conceptual model regarding the hydrologic budgets within Uvalde County including the contribution of the Uvalde Pool to the San Antonio Pool.

In addition to the OTS-related item discussed above, the following OTS-related studies are currently underway or have been completed:

Biologic Studies

- Texas wild-rice reproduction
- Comprehensive and Critical Period Monitoring Program to Evaluate the Effects of Variable Flow on Biological Resources in the Comal and San Marcos Springs Ecosystems
- Cagle's Map Turtle instream flow and habitat requirements (completed)

Flowpath/Modeling Studies

- Edwards Aquifer computer model development - MODFLOW
- Estimation of hydraulic parameters for the Edwards Aquifer management model - MODFLOW

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Edwards Aquifer Optimization Program Update (continued)

by John Hoyt, Program Manager – Aquifer Science

- Development of management modules for the Edwards Aquifer MODFLOW model
- Karst aquifer modeling research (AWWARF study)
- Edwards Aquifer freshwater/saline water interface studies
- North Medina County Flow Path Study - Hydrologic budget analysis of Medina Lake and Diversion Lake
- North Medina County Flow Path Study - Helicopter electromagnetic survey in the vicinity of Seco Sinkhole (completed)
- North Bexar County Flow Path Study - Analysis of structural controls on the Edwards and Trinity Aquifers interface in the Camp Bullis Quadrangle and surrounding area (completed)
- North Bexar County Flow Path Study - Analysis of structural controls on the Edwards and Trinity Aquifers interface in the Helotes Quadrangle.
- North Bexar County Flow Path Study - Helicopter electromagnetic survey in the vicinity of Camp Bullis
- Tracer testing of aquifer flowpaths at Comal and San Marcos springs
- Leona Formation geophysical survey (completed)
- Development of updated methods for calculating recharge to the Edwards Aquifer (pilot models for the Blanco and Nueces river basins, recharge area, completed)
- Statistical Analysis of Hydrologic Data (completed)
- Edwards Aquifer fracture/conduit study (completed)

Recharge Enhancement Studies

- Range management - paired watershed study at Honey Creek and Government Canyon State Natural areas
- Range management - augmenting aquifer recharge through brush management
- Analysis of recharge and recirculation
- Evaluation of augmentation methodologies in support of in-situ refugia at Comal and San Marcos springs

If you have questions regarding the studies listed above, please call John Hoyt, P.G., Program Manager-Aquifer Science.



Real-time Precipitation Gauging System

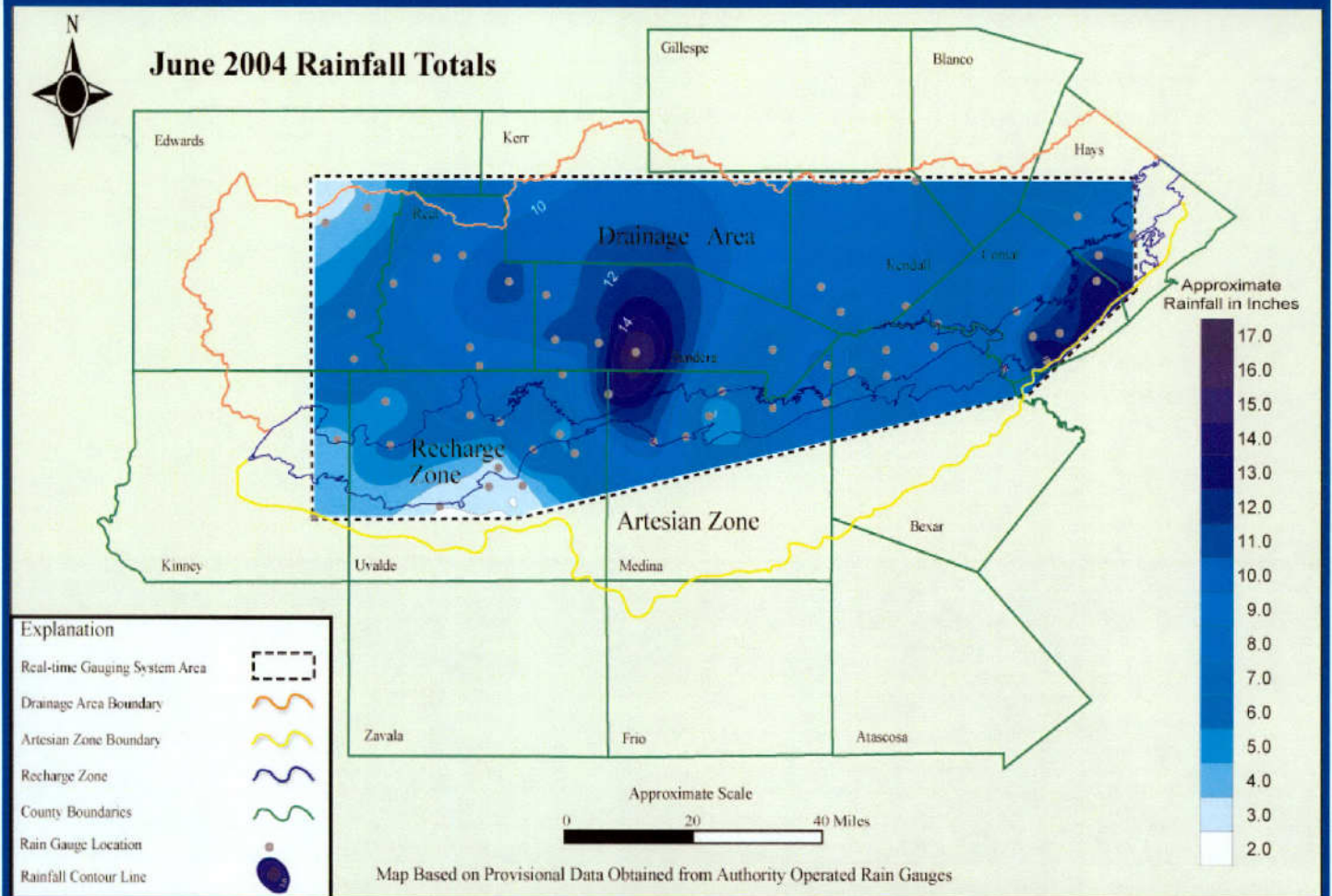
by Earl Parker, Program Manager – Investigations and Monitoring

The Authority operates 65 "real-time" precipitation gauges that transmit data to the Authority's office every six minutes. The rain gauges are generally located over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone and Drainage Area. Acquired data are used in aquifer recharge calculations, precipitation enhancement program evaluations, and a variety of research projects.

The June 2004 rainfall totals, as recorded by the real-time gauging system, indicated a wide distribution of generally heavy precipitation was recorded over the gauging system area. In addition, the precipitation was also well distributed throughout the month with only seven days in June recording no precipitation at any of the monitoring stations. Rainfall measurements were well above normal; the average rainfall measured this month was 8.1 inches with the highest measurement of just over 17 inches recorded at a station in south-central Bandera County. Rainfall totals exceeding 10 inches were recorded over large parts of Bandera County, eastern Real County, northwestern Medina County, southern Kerr County and eastern Comal and Hays counties. Only in the extreme western and southwestern portions of the gauging area was rainfall measured less than three inches. One station in eastern Kinney County measured less than 1 inch of rain - it measured 0.8 inches -- and only three other stations in southern Uvalde County measured less than three inches of rain for the month.

If you have questions regarding the attached map or the Authority's real-time precipitation gauging system, please call Earl Parker, Program Manager - Investigations and Monitoring.

June 2004 Rainfall Totals



Initial Regular Permits

by Steven D. Walthour, Program Development Liaison

In June, the Authority's board of directors granted six omnibus final orders for Initial Regular Permits representing 122.665 acre-feet of Edward's groundwater withdrawal rights. In addition, the Authority's board of directors granted final orders and Initial Regular Permits representing 316.028 acre-feet of Edward's groundwater withdrawal rights for two applicants who had previously filed protests on their proposed permits.

Authority directors also referred two permit applications to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) and postponed referring two other permit applications to SOAH because one applicant withdrew their request for a Contested Case Hearing and the other applicant requested additional time to resolve enforcement issues. The permit applications referred by the Authority directors will be tried before a SOAH Administrative Law Judge, who will recommend a final action.

To date, the Authority has issued final decisions on 943 Initial Regular Permit applications representing approximately 86% of all applications filed with the Authority. The Authority has granted 750 permits representing a total of 520,802 acre-feet of Edwards Aquifer permitted groundwater withdrawal rights, and denied 193 permit applications. Approximately 150 permit applications representing approximately 49,649 acre-feet of proposed Edward's groundwater withdrawal rights remain pending final action.

For more information regarding the Authority's initial regular permits contact Bob Burns, Permits Coordinator.



Employee News

by Margaret Garcia, Program Manager – Public Affairs



In June, Raquel Garza completed five years of service with the Authority. Raquel joined the Authority's Administration team on June 1, 1999. She serves as the Authority's Human Resources Coordinator, and is responsible for all personnel related matters. She conducts hiring procedures, works with supervisors to ensure annual employee evaluations and maintains all personnel records. Raquel also serves as the Authority's point of contact in all employee health insurance and worker's compensation matters and ensures employee payroll procedures.



In June, Michael Goldberg joined the Authority's Administration Team as GIS Analyst. Michael holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography from the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to this position, Michael worked for the City of San Antonio for four and a half years as a GIS Analyst where he provided enterprise-wide GIS support such as technical and customized GIS programming, custom maps and GIS internet development for the Planning and IT departments. Michael also worked for the Texas Water Development Board for seven months as a GIS Contractor where he provided GIS support to help improve the Water Information Integration Dissemination System.

Well Construction Program

by Rick Illgner, Program Manager – Groundwater Management Strategies

In June, Authority staff issued 27 well construction and well plugging permits. This total includes five Edwards Aquifer domestic well permits, one Edwards Aquifer domestic/livestock well permit, three Edwards Aquifer well plugging permits, and 18 "drill through" the Edwards Aquifer permits.

For more information regarding the Authority's Well Construction Program contact Jeff Robinson, Regulatory Programs Coordinator.

Groundwater Withdrawal Transfers

by Rick Illgner, Program Manager – Groundwater Management Strategies

In June, Authority staff processed seven partial sales and lease transfers representing 840.420 acre-feet in Edwards Aquifer groundwater withdrawal rights. Since the inception of the transfer program, Authority staff has processed 1,058 partial sales and lease transfers representing 194,961.829 acre-feet of groundwater withdrawal rights. Of the 1,058 partial sale and lease transfers completed, only 773 are currently active representing 141,582.113 acre-feet. Active transfers include 125 sub-leased transfers representing 27,878.452 acre-feet.

In addition, Authority staff processed one change of ownership or miscellaneous transfers representing 1,259.240 acre-feet of Edwards Aquifer groundwater.

June 2004 Transfer Table Summary

Transfer Description	Number of Transfers	Acre-Feet
June (6/1/04 - 6/30/04) Transfers (Partial Sales, Leases, Sub-leases, and Re-sales)	7	840.420
June (6/1/04 - 6/30/04) 100% Change of Ownership (Sale of Place of Use) or Miscellaneous Transfers	1	1,259.240
Total Number of Transfers (Partial Sales, Leases, and Sub-leases, and Re-sales) Completed as of 6/30/04	1058	194,961.829
Total Number of Active Transfers (Partial Sales, Leases, Sub-leases, and Re-sales) as of 6/30/04	773	141,582.113
Total Number of Active Sub-leased Transfers as of 6/30/04	125	27,878.452
Total Number of Active Re-sale Transfers as of 6/30/04	107	3,525.692

Transfer forms are located at the Authority's main office located at 1615 N. St. Mary's Street. For more information, contact Naomi Esquivel, Program Associate.

Aquifer Management Fees

by Brock Curry, Program Manager – Administration

On January 13, staff issued 294 non-agricultural aquifer management fee invoices based on authorized use for 2004. These invoices were based on an aquifer management fee rate of \$29.00 per acre-foot. As of June 30, the Authority has collected \$5,138,849 or 54% of the budgeted amount. Aquifer management fees totaling \$1,964 from 13 pumpers are considered delinquent.

Aquifer management fees for 2003 agricultural use were due January 31. As set forth in the Edwards Aquifer Authority Act, the aquifer management fee rate for agricultural users is \$2.00 per acre-foot. As of June 30, the Authority has received reports from 652 agricultural users totaling 82,801 acre-feet of groundwater used in 2003. To date, the Authority has collected \$165,625 in aquifer management fee revenue or 83% of the amount budgeted.

If you have questions regarding the aquifer management fees, please call Brock Curry, Program Manager – Administration.

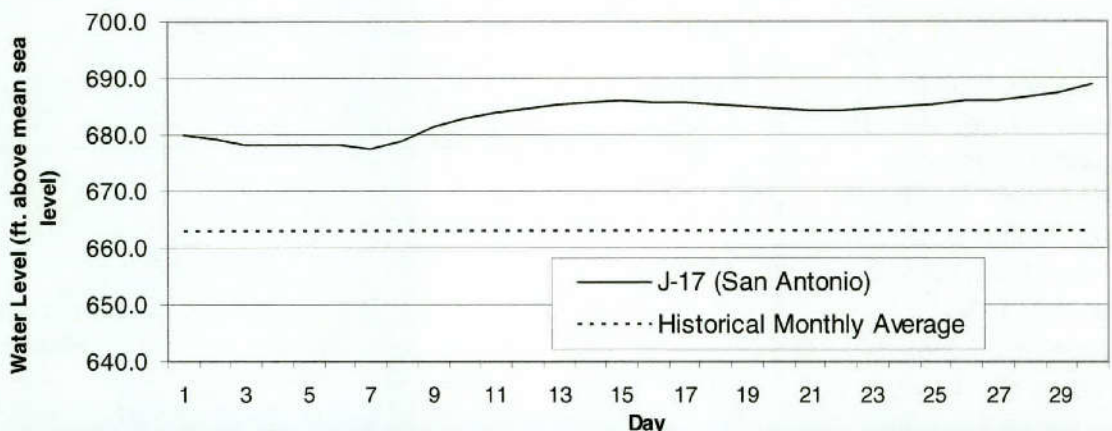
Monthly Water Level & Springflow Report

Aquifer levels can be viewed on the Authority's web site at www.edwardsaquifer.org

J-17 (San Antonio) Index Well – June 2004

J-17 (San Antonio) Index Well -
June 2004

The J-17 index well level average in June 2004 was 683.5' above mean sea level (msl) - down 2.9 feet from last month's average of 686.4' msl. The June 2004 high was 689.1' (June 30) and the low was 677.6' (June 7), a range of 11.5 feet.



The June 2004 average is 20.8 feet above the J-17 historical monthly average for June of 662.7' msl.

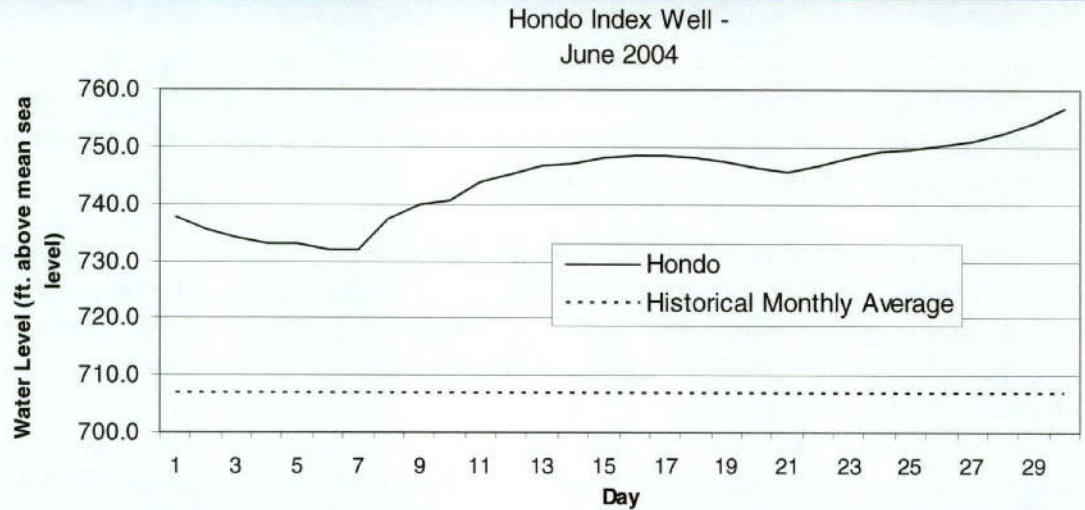
J-17 (San Antonio) Index Well – Combined Historic Record for Two Wells: 1932-2003

	June 2004	June 2003	Historical Record	
Maximum	689.1	681.7	June 14, 1992	703.3
Minimum	677.6	671.6	August 17, 1956	612.5
Average	683.5	678.2	June (1932-2003)	662.7

Hondo Index Well – June 2004

The Hondo index well level average in June 2004 was 744.3' above mean sea level (msl) - down 6.8 feet from last month's average of 751.1' msl. The June 2004 high was 756.8' (June 30) and the low was 732.1' (last occurring on June 7), a range of 24.7 feet.

The June 2004 average is 37.6 feet above the Hondo Well historical monthly average for June of 706.7' msl.

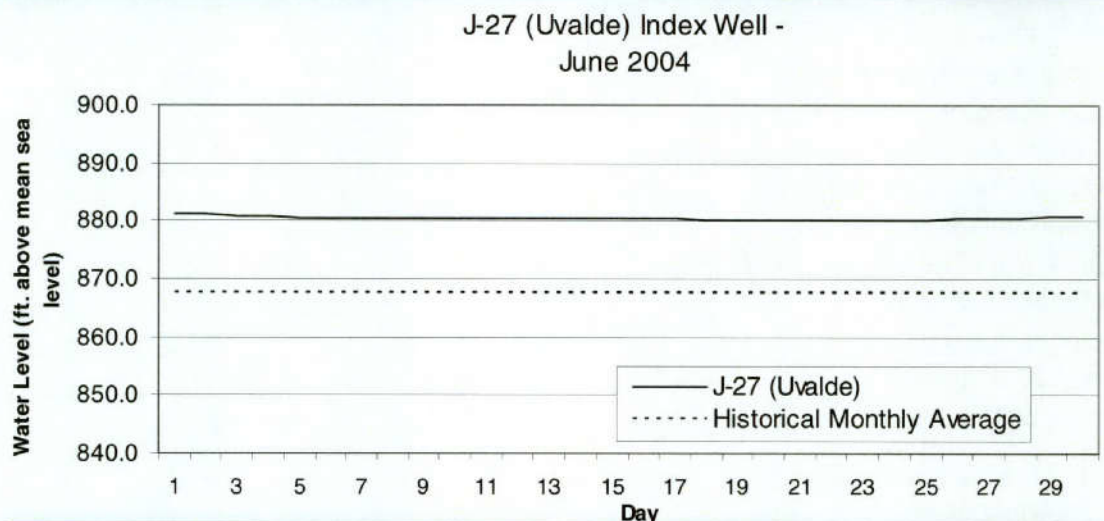


Hondo Index Well – Historic Record: 1986-2003				
	June 2004	June 2003	Historical Record	
Maximum	756.8	738.6	June 14, 1992	779.0
Minimum	732.1	719.5	June 29, 1990	651.0
Average	744.3	732.0	June (1986-2003)	706.7

J-27 (Uvalde) Index Well – June 2004

The J-27 index well level average in June 2004 was 880.5' above mean sea level (msl) - down 1.3 feet from last month's average of 881.8' msl. The June 2004 high was 881.2' (June 1) and the low was 880.1' (last occurring on June 24), a range of 1.1 feet.

The June 2004 average is 12.9 feet above the J-27 historical monthly average for June of 867.6' msl.

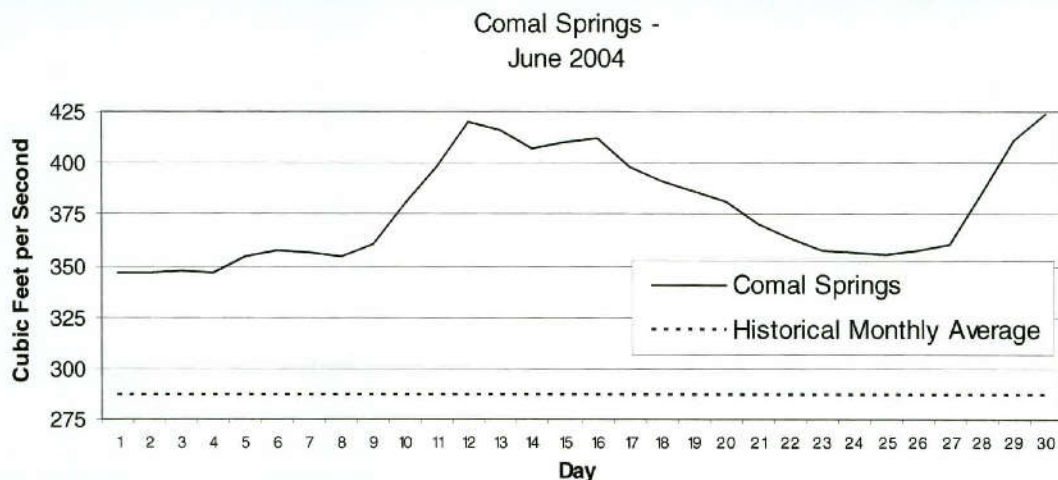


J-27 (Uvalde) Index Well – Historic Record: 1940-2003				
	June 2004	June 2003	Historical Record	
Maximum	881.2	880.5	June 15, 1987	889.0
Minimum	880.1	878.5	April 13, 1957	811.0
Average	881.8	879.4	June (1940-2003)	868.1

Comal Springs – June 2004

Comal springflow averaged 376 cubic feet per second (cfs) in June 2004 - up 2 cfs from last month's average of 374 cfs. Comal springflow ranged from a maximum of 420 cfs (June 12) to a minimum of 347 cfs (last occurring on June 4), a range of 73 cfs.

The June 2004 average was 88.6 cfs above the historical monthly average of 287.4 cfs.



Comal Springs Historic Record: 1927-2003

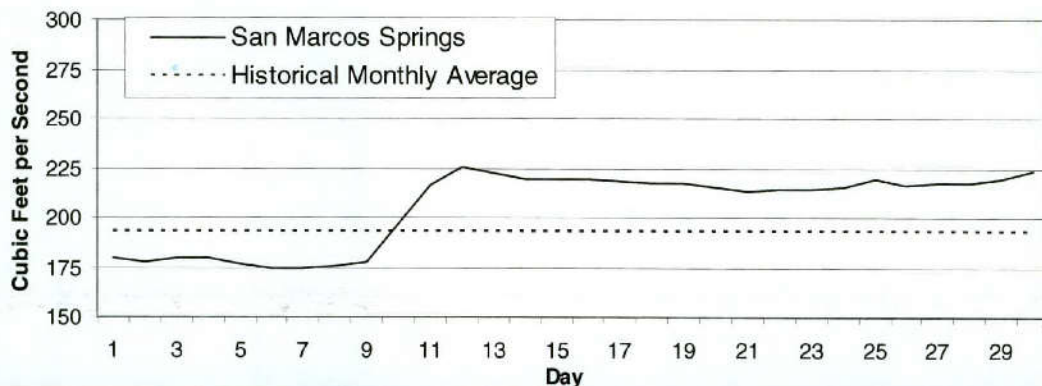
	June 2004	June 2003	Historical Record	
Maximum	424	377	October 14, 1973	534.0
Minimum	347	355	August 8, 1956	0.0
Average	377	368	June (1927-2003)	287.4

San Marcos Springs – June 2004

San Marcos springflow averaged 205 cfs in June 2004 - up 29 cfs from last month's average of 176 cfs. San Marcos springflow ranged from a maximum of 226 cfs (June 12) to a minimum of 174 cfs (last occurring on June 7), a range of 52 cfs.

The June 2004 average was 12.5 cfs above the historical monthly average of 192.5 cfs.

San Marcos Springs - June 2004



San Marcos Springs Historic Record: 1956-2003

	June 2004	June 2003	Historical Record	
Maximum	226	248	March 12, 1992	451.0
Minimum	174	221	August 15, 1956	46.0
Average	205	232	June (1956-2003)	192.5



EDWARDS AQUIFER
AUTHORITY

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www.edwardsaquifer.org

BE AQUIFER AWARE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JULY & AUGUST

JULY

Tues. 7/13	3 PM	Board Meeting, New Braunfels Civic Center, 380 S. Seguin Ave., New Braunfels, Texas
Tues. 7/27	11 AM 1 PM 2 PM	Aquifer Management Planning Committee Legislative Committee Permits Committee
Wed. 7/28	11AM 2 PM	Finance/Administrative Committee R&T Committee
Tues. 8/2	12 PM	Executive Committee

AUGUST

Tues. 8/10	3 PM	Board Meeting, Edwards Aquifer Authority, Conference Center, 1615 N. St. Mary's St., San Antonio, Texas
Tues. 8/24	11 AM 1 PM 1 PM 2 PM	Aquifer Management Planning Committee Legislative Committee (Cancelled) Permits Committee Joint EAA/SAWS Board Meeting, Marriott Plaza San Antonio Hotel 555 S. Alamo, San Antonio, Texas
Wed. 8/25	11AM 2 PM	Finance/Administrative Committee R&T Committee

Authority meeting times & dates are subject to change.

Visit our website at www.edwardsaquifer.org for up-to-the minute information on meeting times and dates.