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EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2002

inside

AUTHORITY BOARD APPOINTS TWO NEW DIRECTORS

BY MARGARET GARCIA, PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM MANAGER

- August 2002 Board Meeting
- 2002 Aquifer Management Fees
- 2003 Proposed Budget
- Groundwater Withdrawal Transfers
- Edwards Aquifer Optimization
Program Update
- Well Construction Program
- New Faces at the Authority
- General Manager Celebrates 5
Years of Service
- Be Aquifer Aware!
- Monthly Water Level & Springflow
Report

Editor: Margaret Garcia
Graphic Design: Lisa Llamas

The General Manager's Report
is published monthly.

Our Mission:

The Authority is committed to manage and protect the Edwards Aquifer system and work with others to ensure the entire region of a sustainable, adequate, high quality and cost effective supply of water, now, and in the future.

At the regular monthly board meeting held Tuesday, August 20, 2002, swearing in ceremonies were held for two new members of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors.

Col. Gil Coronado, USAF (Ret.) was selected by the board to serve the constituents of District 3 at the July board meeting held in New Braunfels. Authority directors interviewed two candidates for the Bexar County Director District 3 position vacated by Mr. Weir Labatt after his appointment to the Texas Water Development Board. After a brief interview with each candidate, Col. Gil



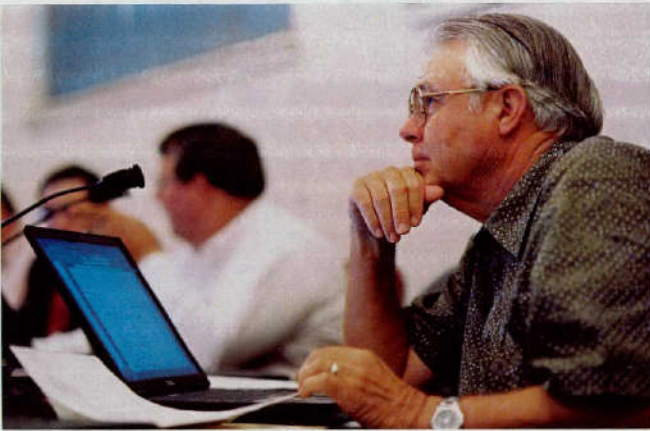
Coronado, USAF (Ret.) was selected by the board to serve District 3 until the next general election in November 2002. Col. Coronado is a native of San Antonio and retired from the military in 1989. Col. Coronado served as Director of the United States Selective Service from 1992 through 2001. President Bill Clinton appointed him to this position.



Mr. Gary Henry of New Braunfels was appointed by the board to serve as Comal County Director - District 8. Mrs. Rita Banda recently vacated the position. Mr. Henry will serve the constituents of District 8 until the November 2002 general election. Mr. Henry is a 21-year resident of New Braunfels, and is the President of Waterpark Management, Inc. (Schlitterbahn).

August 2002 Board Meeting

by Margaret Garcia, Public Affair Program Manager



At their regular monthly meeting held Tuesday, August 20, 2002, Authority directors approved a compromise and settlement agreement for Ronnie Pucek Jr., Living Waters Artesian Springs, Ltd., (the catfish farm). The agreement is for an initial regular permit in the amount of 22,500 acre-feet of Edwards groundwater. Living Waters Artesian Springs, Ltd., had claimed maximum historical use of 46,483 acre-feet per year. The board also approved initial regular permits for twelve other applicants who previously filed protests on their proposed permits. After further review of the applicants' files, all parties agreed the applicants

provided additional documentation to substantiate their claims for more Edwards groundwater than originally proposed by staff. These permits represent approximately 30,039 acre-feet of Edwards groundwater. Authority directors also adopted an omnibus final order approving four initial regular permits representing approximately 1,934 acre-feet of Edwards Aquifer groundwater withdrawal rights.

The board also approved Proposed Rules for EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY RULES ch. 711 subch. N. (Groundwater Trust). These rules would allow the Authority to purchase or lease groundwater withdrawal rights, and either make them available to small industries or hold them in trust as a means to reduce aquifer demand. The Groundwater Trust is an account of groundwater withdrawal permits held in trust and administered by the Authority. Public Hearings regarding the Groundwater Trust will take place in October.

In addition, the board received a technical briefing from Authority Chief Technical Officer, Geary Schindel, regarding On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSF). Mr. Schindel presented the board with a description of OSSF's and an overview of current regulatory programs in the Authority's region.

In other action the board selected the team of LBG-Guyton Associates to perform further evaluation of the concept of springflow augmentation. LBG-Guyton Associates was also selected to prepare recharge models of seven drainage basins that flow across the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone.



2002 Aquifer Management Fees

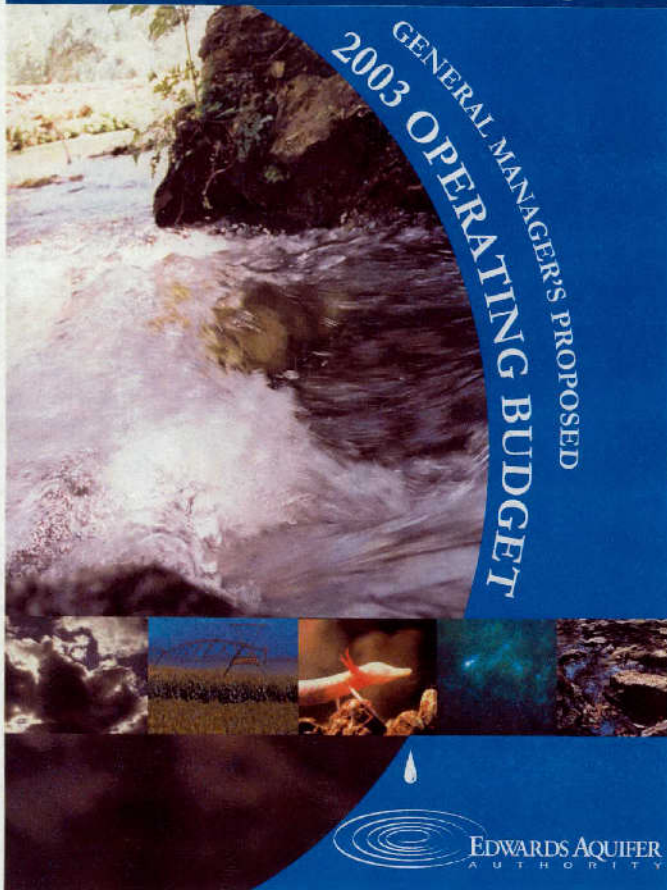
by Brock Curry, Administrative Program Manager

In August, the Authority collected \$204,752 in aquifer management fees from non-agricultural users. As of August 31, 47 accounts representing \$71,630 are considered delinquent.

To date, the Authority received payments from agricultural users in the amount of \$226,938 for groundwater used in 2001. This revenue represents 113% of the amount budgeted for 2002.

2003 Proposed Budget

by Brock Curry, Administrative Program Manager



The General Manager will present his proposed budget for 2003 to the Finance/Administrative Committee and Board on September 10 kicking off the Authority's budget adoption process.

The Authority will hold three public meetings on the proposed budget in mid-October with final adoption of the budget scheduled for November. These public meetings are slated for October 9 in San Marcos, October 14 in Hondo, and October 16 in San Antonio. For more information on the locations for these meetings, please contact the Authority office.

Staff distributed annual use contracts to all non-agricultural users on August 30. These contracts help encourage conservation by enabling non-agricultural users to reduce their authorized use for 2003. These contracts also help staff determine how much groundwater will be used by non-agricultural users in 2003. Staff then bases the 2003 aquifer management fee rate on the total volume of groundwater authorized to be used next year.

Groundwater Withdrawal Transfers

by Steve Walthour, Permitting & Enforcement Program Manager

Authority staff continues to receive notices of Edwards Aquifer Groundwater water right transfers from Initial Regular Permit (IRP) holders, and applicants of an Initial Regular Permit, authorized with interim authorization status. In August, Authority staff processed 29 transfers representing 6,551.608 acre-feet in Edwards Aquifer groundwater withdrawal rights. Included in this month's transfer report are 4 change of ownership or miscellaneous transfers processed by Authority staff. Since the inception of the transfer program, Authority staff has processed 637 transfers representing 119,510.277 acre-feet of groundwater withdrawal rights. Staff anticipates the activity regarding the transfer of groundwater withdrawal rights to increase as municipal and industrial pumpers continue to acquire enough groundwater withdrawal rights to meet their growing needs.

Edwards Aquifer Optimization Program Update

by John Hoyt, Aquifer Science Program Manager

The basic description and purpose of the Edward 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 August 2002, the board of directors authorized Authority staff to negotiate contracts for three OTS-related items. Authority staff will provide draft contracts for the work to the Research and Technology Committee in September and to the board in October. The three OTS-related items are:

1. Professional surveying of elevations at approximately 400 wells being used as Edwards Aquifer computer model calibration wells and synoptic water level project wells.
2. Further evaluation of the concept of springflow augmentation at Comal and San Marcos springs.
3. Development of an updated method for calculating recharge in seven drainage basins that flow across the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone.

(continued on next page)

Edwards Aquifer Optimization Program Update (continued)

Other OTS-related studies currently underway or completed include the following:

- 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).
- Edwards Aquifer computer model development.
- Improved aquifer parameter estimation for computer model in-put data sets (completed)
- Edwards Aquifer freshwater/saline water interface studies.
- Hydrologic budget analysis of Medina Lake and Diversion Lake for the North Medina County Flow Path Study.
- Analysis of structural controls on the Edwards and Trinity Aquifers interface in the Camp Bullis Quadrangle and surrounding area.
- Development of updated methods for calculating recharge to the Edwards Aquifer in the Blanco and Nueces River basins (completed).
- Statistical Analysis of Hydrologic Data (completed).
- Edwards Aquifer fracture/conduit study.
- Evaluation of water quality and water quantity benefits of woody species best management practices on selected watersheds in the Edwards Aquifer region.

If you have questions regarding the studies listed above, please call John Hoyt, Aquifer Science Program Manager, at (210) 222-2204.

Well Construction Program

by Steve Walthour, Permitting & Enforcement Program Manager

In August, Authority staff issued thirty-one well construction permits. This total includes eleven Edwards Aquifer domestic well permits, one Edwards Aquifer livestock well permit, one Edwards Aquifer domestic/livestock well permit, one monitoring well permit, one irrigation permit, and eleven Edwards Aquifer well plugging permits. In addition, seven permits were issued to drill through the Edwards Aquifer.

In addition, Authority staff completed the public hearing process for proposed EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY RULES 713 (Water Quality.) These rules will determine the construction, operation, maintenance, and abandonment on water wells within the Authority's jurisdictional boundary. Legal counsel will now review the comments received during the public hearing process.

New Faces at the Authority

by Raquel Garza, Human Resources Coordinator

The Authority welcomed two new employees in August.

Celestino "Dino" Rangel joined the Authority as Permits/Enforcement Coordinator. Dino has a bachelor's degree in Applied Science and Arts from Southwest Texas State University. Previously, Dino worked for SAWS for 35 years and for the last 21 years as an Assistant Manager where he coordinated the installation of new water services and mains. Dino was also responsible for issuing all permits for the installation of fire hydrants, fire lines, and large domestic water services.

Robert Burns also joined the Authority as Permits/Enforcement Coordinator in August. He holds a Bachelor of Science in geology from Kent State University and worked for Kendall County as a Development Management Administrator for four years. Robert also served as the Kendall County representative to the Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District. Robert has over 15 years experience of regulatory oversight in government and private industry.

Authority General Manager Celebrates 5 Years!

by Margaret Garcia, Public Affairs Program Manager



In September, Greg Ellis will celebrate 5 years of service with the Authority as General Manager. Greg came to the Authority from the Harris-Galveston Coastal Subsidence District where he served as General Counsel. Prior to coming to the Authority, Ellis was also the Legislative Liaison for the Texas Water Commission now the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

As General Manager, Greg is responsible for the day to day operations of the agency as well as legislative and legal issues that may face the Authority. While many milestones have been achieved during his tenure Greg is most proud of the re-building that has occurred among his staff. There are currently 55 staff members that make up the Executive, Administrative, Aquifer Science, Permitting, Planning & Conservation and Public Affairs Teams.



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THE EDWARDS AQUIFER



A TEXAS TREASURE

BE AQUIFER AWARE! The Edwards Aquifer Authority offers a variety of water conservation materials, free of charge. For more information, contact the Authority at 210.222.2204 or 1.800.292.1047. Visit us on the web at www.edwardsaquifer.org.

Monthly Water Level & Springflow Report

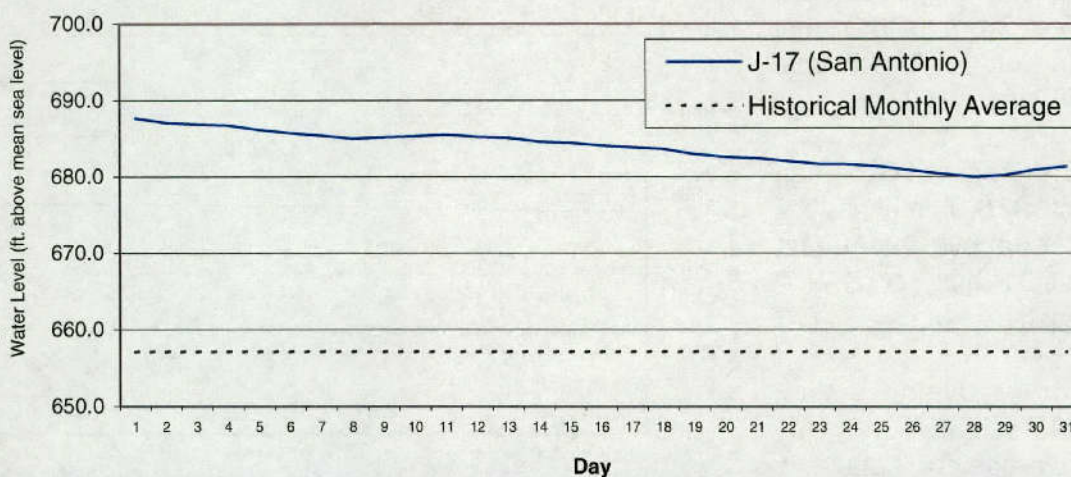
J-17 (San Antonio) Index Well—August 2002

The J-17 index well level average dropped 1.7 feet from 685.4' above mean sea level (msl) in July to 683.7' msl in August.

The August 2002 high of 687.7' is 21.1 feet above the August 2001 high of 666.6' msl.

The J-17 historical monthly average for August is 657.1' msl.

J-17 (San Antonio) Index Well -
August 2002



J-17 (San Antonio) Index Well—Combined Record for Two Wells: 1932-2002

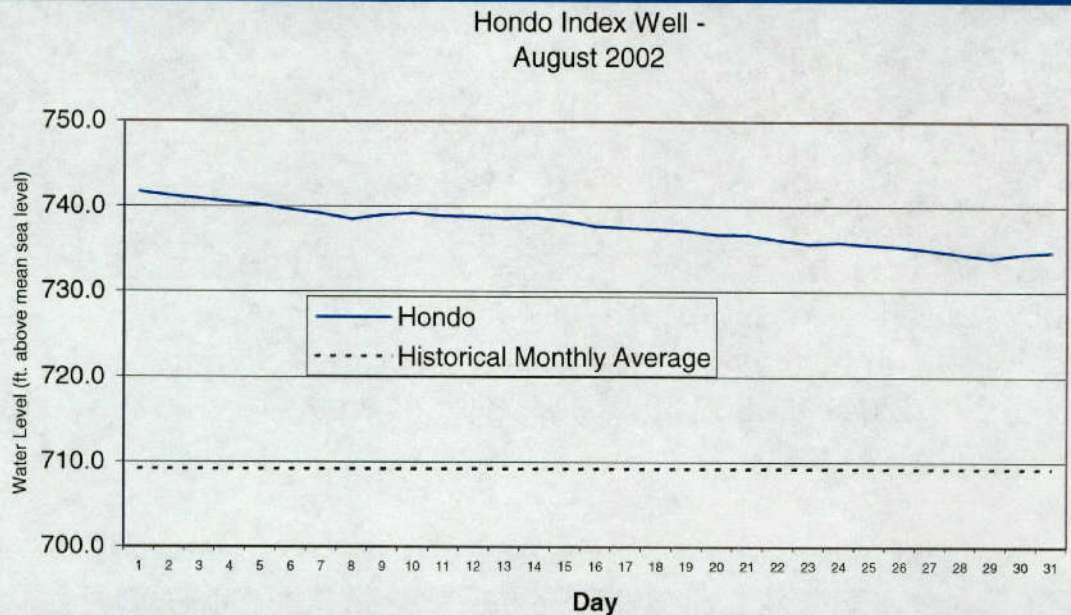
	August 2002	August 2001	Historical Record	
Maximum	687.7	666.6	June 14, 1992	703.3
Minimum	679.9	652.8	August 17, 1956	612.5
Average	683.7	655.0	August (1932-2001)	657.1

Hondo Index Well—July 2002

The Hondo index well level average rose 2.6 feet from 735.1' msl in July to 737.7' msl in August.

The August 2002 high of 741.7' msl is 30.8 feet above the August 2001 high of 710.9' msl.

The Hondo Well historical monthly average for August is 709.2' msl.



Hondo Index Well—Historical Record: 1986-2002

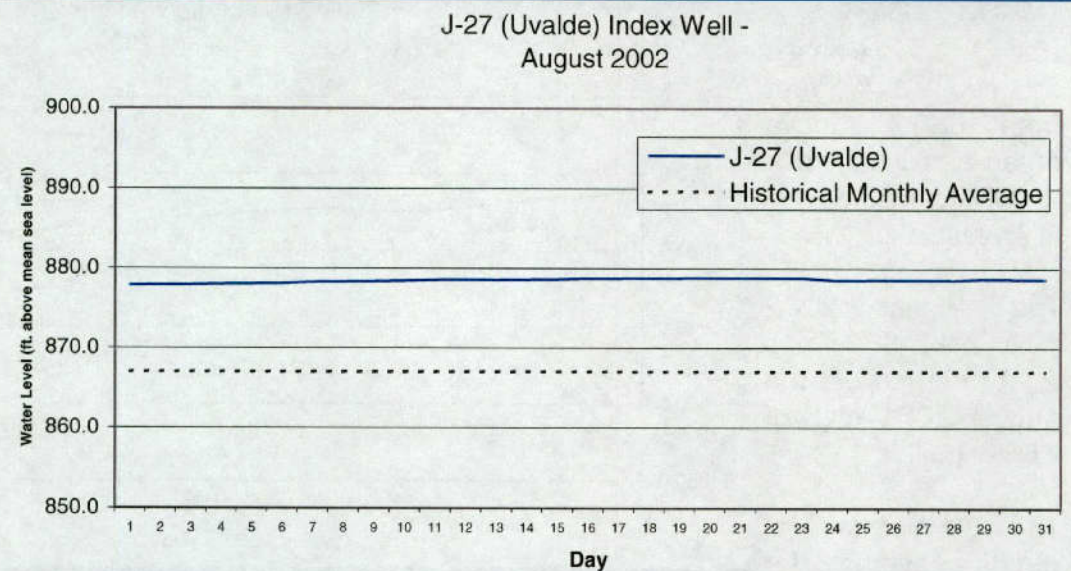
	August 2002	August 2001	Historical Record	
Maximum	741.7	710.9	June 14, 1992	779.0
Minimum	734.0	703.1	June 29, 1990	651.0
Average	737.7	705.5	August (1986-2001)	709.2

J-27 (Uvalde) Index Well—August 2002

The J-27 index well level average rose 2.5 feet from 876.0' msl in July to 878.5' msl in August.

The August 2002 high of 878.9' msl is 5.2 feet above the August 2001 high of 873.7' msl.

The Uvalde Well historical monthly average for August is 867.0' msl.



J-27 (Uvalde) Index Well Historical Record: 1940-2002

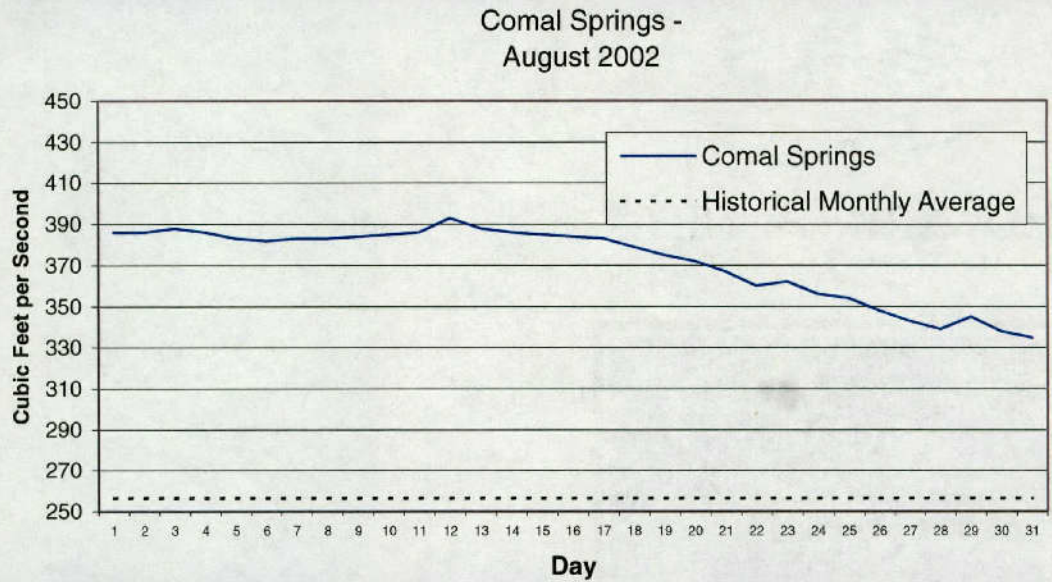
	August 2002	August 2001	Historical Record	
Maximum	878.9	873.7	June 15, 1987	889.0
Minimum	877.9	873.0	April 13, 1957	811.0
Average	878.5	873.1	August (1940-2001)	867.0

Comal Springs—August 2002

The Comal springflow reached a maximum flow of 393 cubic feet per second (cfs) on August 12th.

The minimum flow occurred on August 31st at 335 cfs.

The August 2002 average was 372 cfs, which was 115.5 cfs above the historical monthly average of 256.5 cfs.



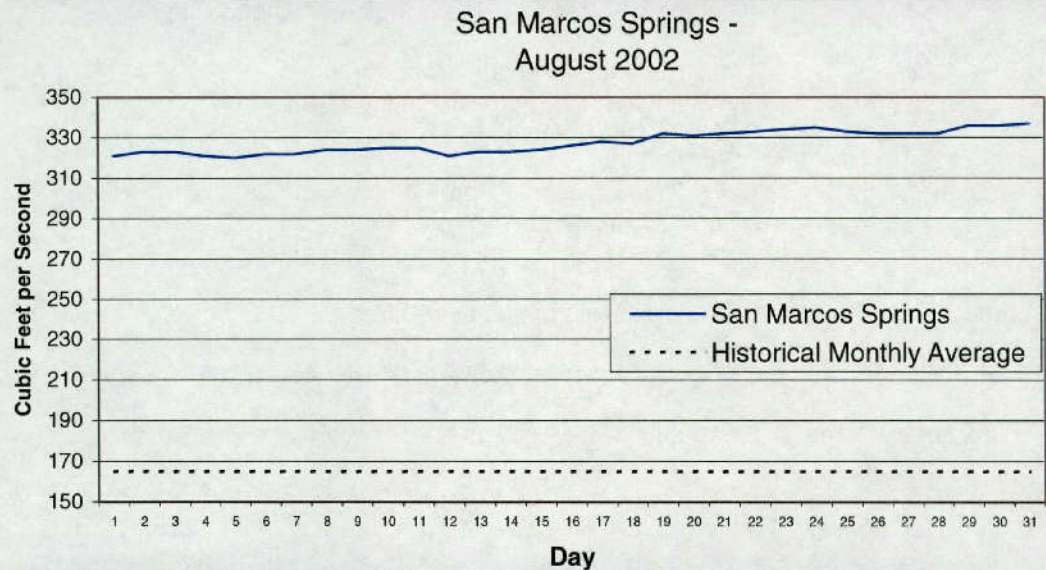
Comal Springs Historical Record: 1927-2002

	August 2002	August 2001	Historical Record	
Maximum	393	281	October 14, 1973	534.0
Minimum	335	243	August 8, 1956	0.0
Average	372	257	August (1927-2001)	256.5

San Marcos Springs—August 2002

The San Marcos springflow reached a maximum flow of 337 cfs on August 31st. The minimum flow occurred on August 5th at 320 cfs.

The August 2002 average was 328 cfs, which was 163.2 cfs above the historical monthly average of 164.8 cfs.



San Marcos Springs Historical Record: 1956-2002

	August 2002	August 2001	Historical Record	
Maximum	337	186	March 12, 1992	451.0
Minimum	320	167	August 15, 1956	46.0
Average	328	176	August (1956-2001)	164.8



EDWARDS AQUIFER A U T H O R I T Y

Questions regarding meeting times and dates, please contact the Authority at 210.222.2204 or visit our website at www.edwardsaquifer.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

SEPTEMBER

Tues. 9/10	1:30 PM Finance/Administrative Committee 3 PM Board Meeting, Edwards Aquifer Authority Conference Center, San Antonio, Texas
Tues. 9/24	10 AM Habitat Conservation Work Group 11 AM Aquifer Management Planning Committee 2 PM Permits Committee
Wed. 9/25	10 AM Finance/Administrative Committee 2 PM R&T Committee 4 PM Ad Hoc Committee on Land Acquisition
Tues. 9/30	2:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting

OCTOBER

Tues. 10/8	3 PM Board Meeting, Edwards Aquifer Authority Conference Center, San Antonio, Texas
Wed. 10/9	6 PM Public Meeting, San Marcos Activity Center, San Marcos, Texas
Mon. 10/14	6 PM Public Meeting, McDowell Middle School, Hondo, Texas
Wed. 10/16	6 PM Public Meeting, Edwards Aquifer Authority Conference Center, San Antonio, Texas
Tues. 10/22	10 AM Habitat Conservation Work Group 11 AM Aquifer Management Planning Committee 2 PM Permits Committee
Wed. 10/23	10 AM Finance/Administrative Committee 2 PM R&T Committee 4 PM Ad Hoc Committee on Land Acquisition