

NBU NEWS RELEASE

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New Braunfels returns to Stage 1 drought restrictions

NEW BRAUNFELS—Summer heat and increased water usage have dropped the Edwards Aquifer below the trigger level of 660 feet, resulting in a return to Stage 1 drought restrictions for New Braunfels. The restrictions will go in effect starting Tuesday, July 11, 2017.

“Once the rains tapered off and the summer heat kicked in, the levels of the aquifer began falling at a rate of .5 to 1 foot per day,” NBU Environmental Affairs Manager Suzanne Williams says. “The aquifer has been at or below 660 feet for 24 hours, which triggers Stage 1 watering restrictions for NBU customers and New Braunfels.”

New Braunfels can also enter Stage 1 when the rate of the Comal Springs is at or below 225 cfs for a 24-hour period. The springflow was 313 cfs on Monday. As for other parts of the region, the Edwards Aquifer Authority declares Stage 1 for permit holders of the San Antonio Pool when the 10 day average of the rate of springflow at either the Comal Springs drops below 225 cfs, the San Marcos springs drops below 96 cfs, or the reading at the J-17 well drops below 660 ft. mean sea level.

“The 10-day average for the J-17 well was 661.4 ft. on Monday, so the entire region is also approaching Stage 1,” Williams says. “Because of the large impact that reductions in landscape watering can have for maintaining the spring levels and critical habitat for our endangered and threatened species, the decision to declare Stage 1 when the J-17 actually reached or went below 660 ft. was incorporated in the New Braunfels Conservation and Drought Management Plan several years ago.”

About 12,500 acre feet of NBU’s water supply (approximately 40%) are subject to mandated reductions in use from regulating agencies when specific trigger levels are reached. Fortunately, NBU has a robust and diverse water supply that enables these mandates to be met simply through reductions in non-essential use of water.

“We ask that customers be attentive with their landscape watering to ensure that they are not watering outside the allowable times and that they are not creating water waste, which can lead to citations or fines,” Williams adds. “By observing the current water requirements, we will be able to manage through this dry period and any agency mandated reductions with our current, less expensive water supply.”

During Stage 1 drought restrictions, customers are allowed to use a sprinkler or irrigation system one day per week based on the last digit of their address as long as they do so

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before 10 a.m. and after 8 p.m. These restrictions apply to both residential and commercial customers alike. The requirements for landscape water and other outdoor water use are as follows:

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

Watering with a hand-held hose, bucket, soaker hose, or a drip irrigation system is allowed any time on any day during Stage 1. The ordinance also prohibits outdoor fountains and waterfalls, requires a variance confirmation from the NBU Environmental Affairs Division for watering new landscaping, and limits vehicle washing at home to watering days and times over a pervious surface.

The latest watering information can be accessed 24-hours a day by calling the NBU Water Hot Line at (830) 608-8925 or by visiting www.nbutexas.com. New Braunfels water usage guides are available at the NBU Main Office as well as the NBU web site under the Conservation tab.