

May 6, 2009

Councilperson
Address
San Marcos, TX

Dear Councilperson:

On behalf of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, a coalition of concerned individuals and citizen groups from throughout the Edwards Aquifer Region, I urge you to keep the City of San Marcos' Stage 1 water conservation rules as they are currently written and enforced.

The Texas Hill Country is facing the worst drought that has occurred in the past 100 years, putting the San Marcos River, and the endangered species that depend upon it, in danger of permanent damage. Further reduction of spring flows would produce devastating effects for not only San Marcos, but for the entire Hill Country, as our water systems are intricately connected and interdependent.

The change of water conservation rules that you are considering would significantly hinder the City's ability to effectively curb water usage during this critical drought period. The current conservation rules for watering distribute watering evenly across the city and allow water conservation officers to efficiently enforce compliance. Giving citizens the option to choose an alternative day to water will make it nearly impossible for water conservation officers to determine whether citizens are actually limiting their watering to one day per week, as Stage 1 conservation rules mandate. The technology available to monitor watering frequency is not currently installed throughout the city; therefore, this proposed change to the Stage 1 watering rules would significantly reduce the city's water conservation success.

Timer mechanisms are readily available at local hardware stores for citizens who have requested expanded watering options. Weakening the Stage 1 water conservation rules during this critical drought period can do nothing but further damage the San Marcos River and the invaluable ecosystem that depends upon it.

We are working with citizens throughout the Edwards Aquifer region to encourage implementation of strict water conservation measures and effective management of this precious resource. Your vote to weaken San Marcos water conservation rules will send the wrong message to the public and may result in significantly more water use at this time when all of us must do our part to ensure adequate spring flow from the Comal and San Marcos springs.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Annalisa Peace
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance
Executive Director