



# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Drought Continues to Affect Lower Guadalupe Basin Water Resources**

### ***Comal and San Marcos Springflows Crucial to Victoria's Water Supply GBRA Encourages Water Conservation***

**SEGUIN**..... Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) general manager Bill West expressed concern today about diminishing river flows reaching Victoria due to the current drought. He emphasized that springflows from the Comal Springs in New Braunfels and the San Marcos Springs in San Marcos are "absolutely crucial" to maintaining the amount of water in the Guadalupe River at Victoria.

The springs, which flow from the Edwards Aquifer, are the two largest springs west of the Mississippi. Normally, they contribute approximately 30% of the base flow of the Guadalupe River at Victoria. But in a drought, they may supply as much as 80% of the water flowing past the city.

Beginning last spring, GBRA has provided river flow graphics to local media every two weeks. "Most people who live downstream from the Comal and San Marcos Springs depend on the Guadalupe River for their basic water supply. This includes municipal, industrial and agricultural users who withdraw water from the Guadalupe River using state water rights and permits, as well as those who divert water for domestic and livestock purposes," West said. "We want them to understand and appreciate how important springflows are to their water supply."

The GBRA graphics display the flow rate of the Guadalupe River measured at the Victoria USGS gauge, and the percent of that flow coming from Canyon Reservoir, the Comal and San Marcos springflows, and natural runoff.

In the most recent August 9 graphic:

- The river flow at Victoria measured 326 cubic feet per second, or 31% of the normal flow rate for the month of August.
- Springflows on that date totaled 277 cfs, or 85% of the Victoria flow.

**Without springflows, the Guadalupe River at Victoria would have much less water than we see today.**

To view the most current river graphics and water conservation suggestions, visit the Drought and Conservation home page link at [www.gbra.org](http://www.gbra.org).