

# Edwards Aquifer rebounded after a hot, dry spring

Express-News staff report

Dec. 31, 2018 | Updated: Dec. 31, 2018 10:17 a.m.

## Edwards Aquifer seesawed in 2018

Rainfall this year went from one extreme to the other, and so did the Edwards Aquifer, which is the main source of drinking water for the region. The aquifer was falling fast until July when more than four inches of rain that month gave it a boost. That was nothing compared to September's record breaker — almost 17 inches of rain. The aquifer is finishing the year about 17 feet above average.



Source: Edwards Aquifer Authority

Mike Fisher/Staff artist

The aquifer stands at a healthy level after a record-setting wet fall.

Photo: Mike Fisher / Staff artist

Rainfall in San Antonio this year went from one extreme to the other, and the Edwards Aquifer mirrored those ups and downs.

But as 2018 comes to an end, the aquifer — the region's main drinking water source — is at a healthy level, about 17 feet above average, thanks primarily to a surprisingly soggy September.

Over the last decade, the aquifer's San Antonio pool has seldom topped 685 feet above sea level, as it has in November and December.

It was a grimmer situation in the spring and summer. Most months, rainfall was minuscule: 0.36 inches in April, 0.97 inches in May, 0.71 inches in June. Even worse was the heat. May and June were the third hottest on record for those months.

The aquifer was down to 641 feet and falling. The Edwards Aquifer Authority, which regulates the aquifer, declared Stage 2 drought restrictions, meaning a 30 percent cut in pumping.

Then came some relief, nearly 5 inches of rain in July.

But September was the standout: 16.86 inches. It was like a tropical storm but without the severe damage.

The total was the most rain in any September on record and 13.83 inches above average. It was also the third-wettest month since at least 1885, the first year of National Weather Service record keeping.

The aquifer was on the rebound when October delivered another 6.47 inches of rain.

Those two months set an all-time rainfall record for San Antonio. The same was true statewide.

All told, rainfall this year in San Antonio will top 41 inches, about a third more than average.

**San Antonio Express-News**

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