

# Drought Status Chart Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District

## NO DROUGHT

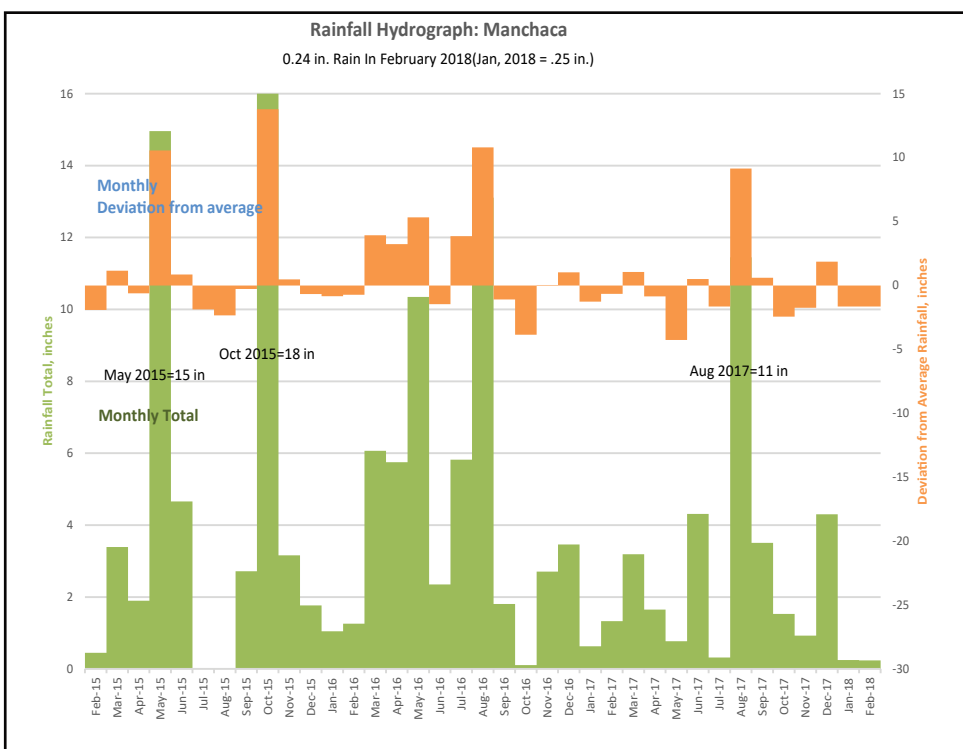
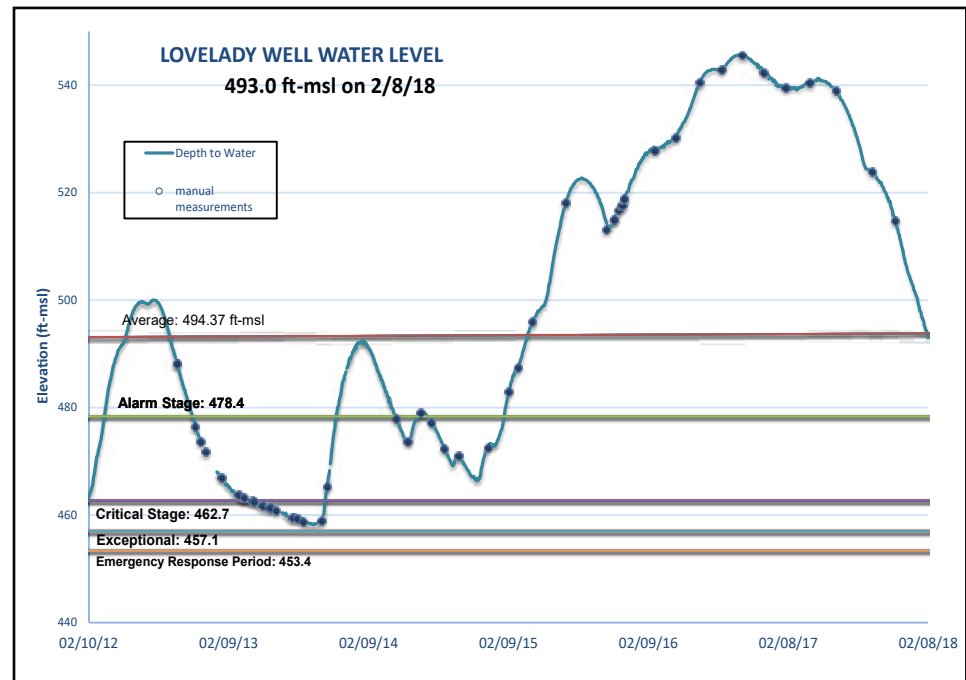
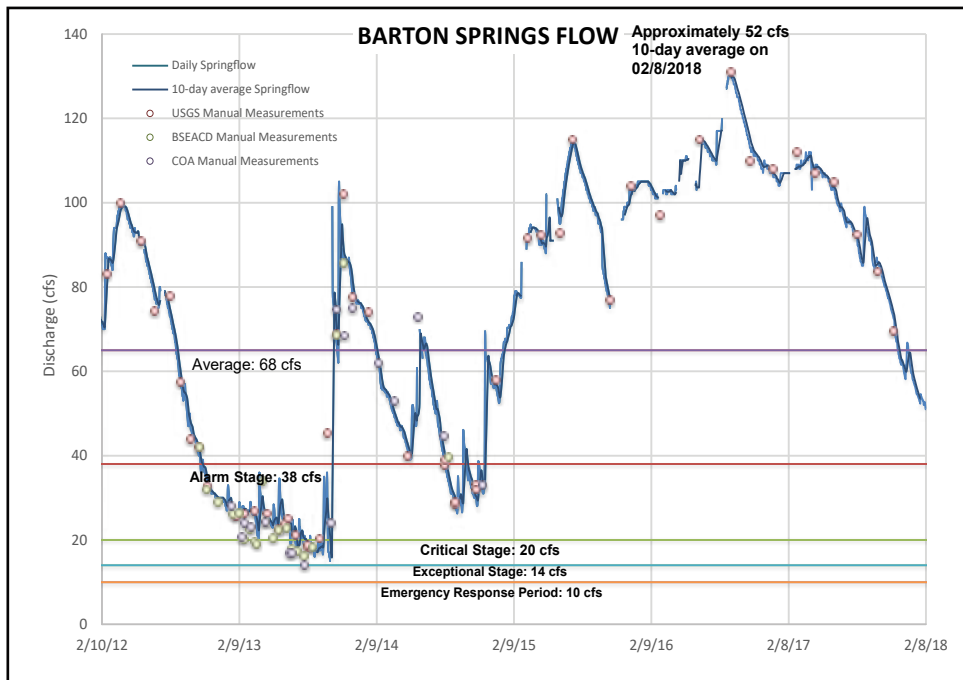
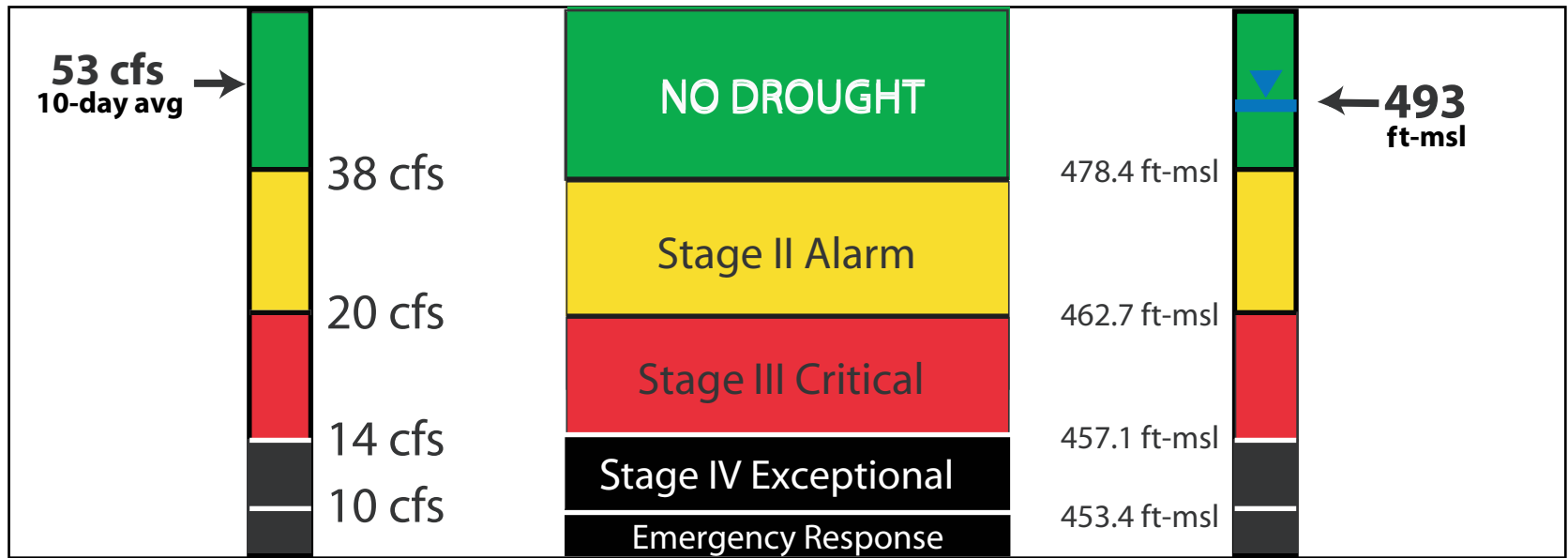


February 8, 2018



**Barton Springs Discharge**  
(cubic feet per second)  
Previous value: 53 cfs on 1/25/18

**Lovelady Well Water Level Elevation**  
(feet above mean sea level)  
Previous value: 500.4 ft-msl on 1/25/18



**U.S. Drought Monitor Texas**  
February 6, 2018  
(Revised Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

The BSEACD drought outlook valid from January 25, 2018, to February 8, 2018 remains in "NO DROUGHT" as aquifer levels at the Lovelady well remain above average levels and Barton Springs flow is at 53 cubic feet per second, though declining fast.

Lovelady water levels too continue to decline with little under 4 inches of rain in the last 90 days (late October) Currently at 493 ft-msl and following a trend mimicking the drought of 2009, BSEACD predicts Lovelady water levels dipping into Alarm Stage Drought (levels < 478.4) by late April to early June.

Barton Springs flow has also been declining since April 2017. Hurricane Harvey rains (11 in.) did little to slow down the downward trend of BS flow. BS flow is currently 52 cfs. If trends at Barton Springs continue, which resemble trends seen during the drought of 2011, BSEACD predicts flow to drop below Alarm Stage (<38cfs) by early April.

January rainfall totals are shaping up to below normal across Central Texas.

It's now been just over a month since our region has seen significant rain and the landscape is beginning to dry out. The weather pattern which brought above normal rain to much of the area in December diminished late month as cold, arctic air overwhelmed the central US. Since that time, rainfall has been light and limited.

This recent spell of drier than normal weather appears to be part of more long-term pattern of drier than normal weather which began shortly after hurricane Harvey in early September. In Austin, rainfall was more than 8 inches above normal in August but trended below normal September through November.

-Bob Rose, LCRA

**U.S. Drought Monitor**  
February 6, 2018  
(Revised Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST