

WEATHER



Water covers established vegetation near a floating dock well below the established water line at Medina Lake on Thursday, July 25, 2024. The lake is currently 3.5% full with a mean water level of 975.75 feet above sea level according to Water Data for Texas. Water levels have risen 5.47 feet in the last two days due to recent rains though the lake is still 88.46 feet below conservation pool level.

Marvin Pfeiffer/Staff Photographer

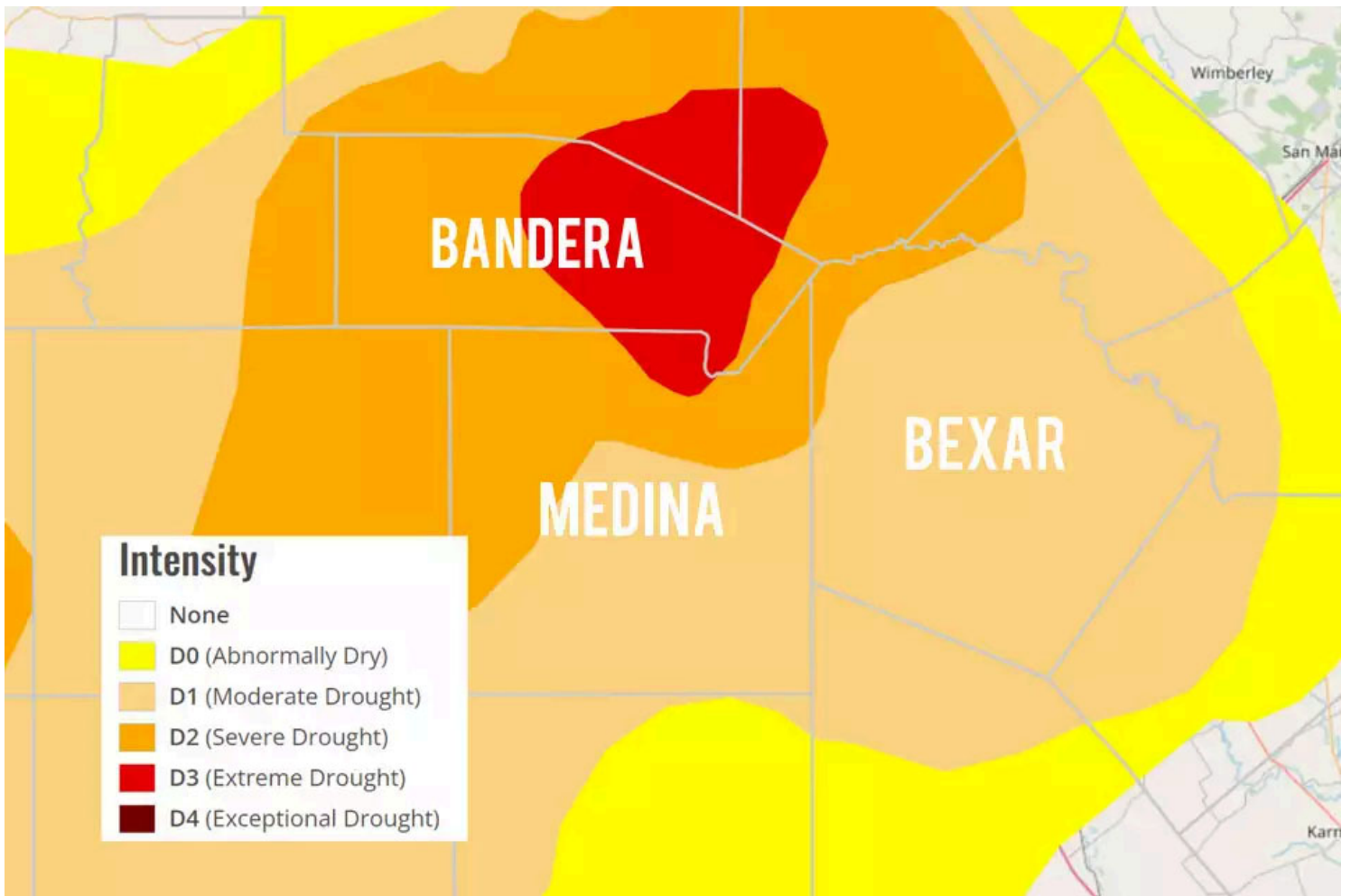
By **Anthony Franze**, *newsroom meteorologist*

Aug 15, 2024



After heavy rainfall soaked much of South Texas in late July, Medina Lake started to finally show some signs of life. But dry weather returned in August, and the progress the lake was making has ground to a halt.

The surface elevation of the lake, which sits on the border of Bandera and Medina counties, had fallen to a record low 970.05 feet above mean sea level on July 22. In the week that followed, Medina Lake's elevation rose by about 6 feet, reaching 976.02 feet on July 29. Even though the lake was only considered 3.6% full at the time, the rise in water levels was the highest since October 2018.



Shown are the drought levels across part of South Texas, as of Thursday, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

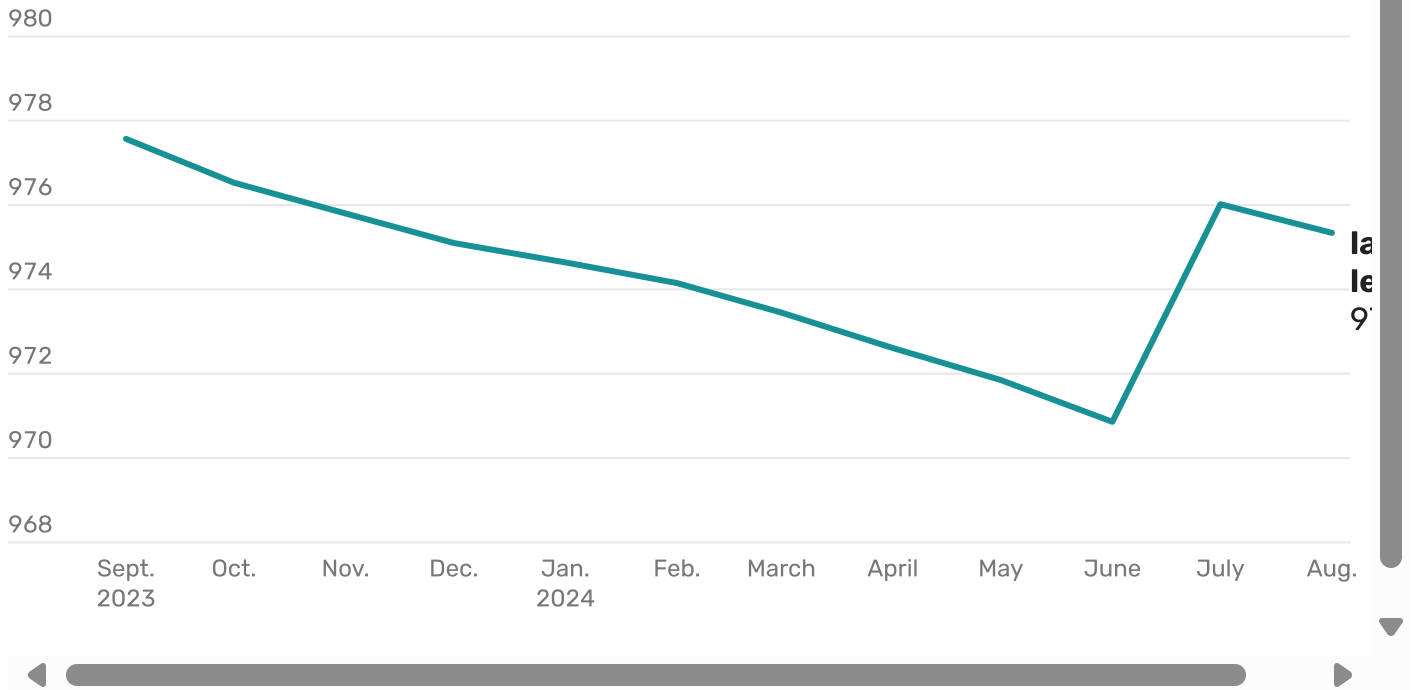
National Drought Mitigation Center

All improvement has stopped. A strong regime of high atmospheric pressure has developed in the upper-level weather pattern, halting rain chances across the region. As of Thursday, the lake's surface elevation has dropped back to 975.34 feet, which means the lake is only 3.5% full.

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Lake Medina water level

Below is Lake Medina's water level, shown in feet above sea level, over the last year.



With dry weather in the forecast, the dropping of lake levels shows no signs of stopping. The surface elevation is decreasing at about a half-inch per day. At that rate, the lake will likely drop an additional foot over the next three weeks if we don't pick up substantial rainfall.

Drought conditions

San Antonio had an exceptionally wet July, recording 4.25 inches of rain during the month. But since July 29, San Antonio has only measured 0.03 inch of rain, and conditions are likely to stay dry as we head into the second half of August.



A floating dock sits in the water below a home just north of the dam at Medina Lake on Thursday, July 25, 2024. The lake is currently 3.5% full with a mean water level of 975.75 feet above sea level according to Water Data for Texas. Water levels have risen 5.47 feet in the last two days due to recent rains though the lake is still 88.46 feet below conservation pool level.

Marvin Pfeiffer/Staff Photographer

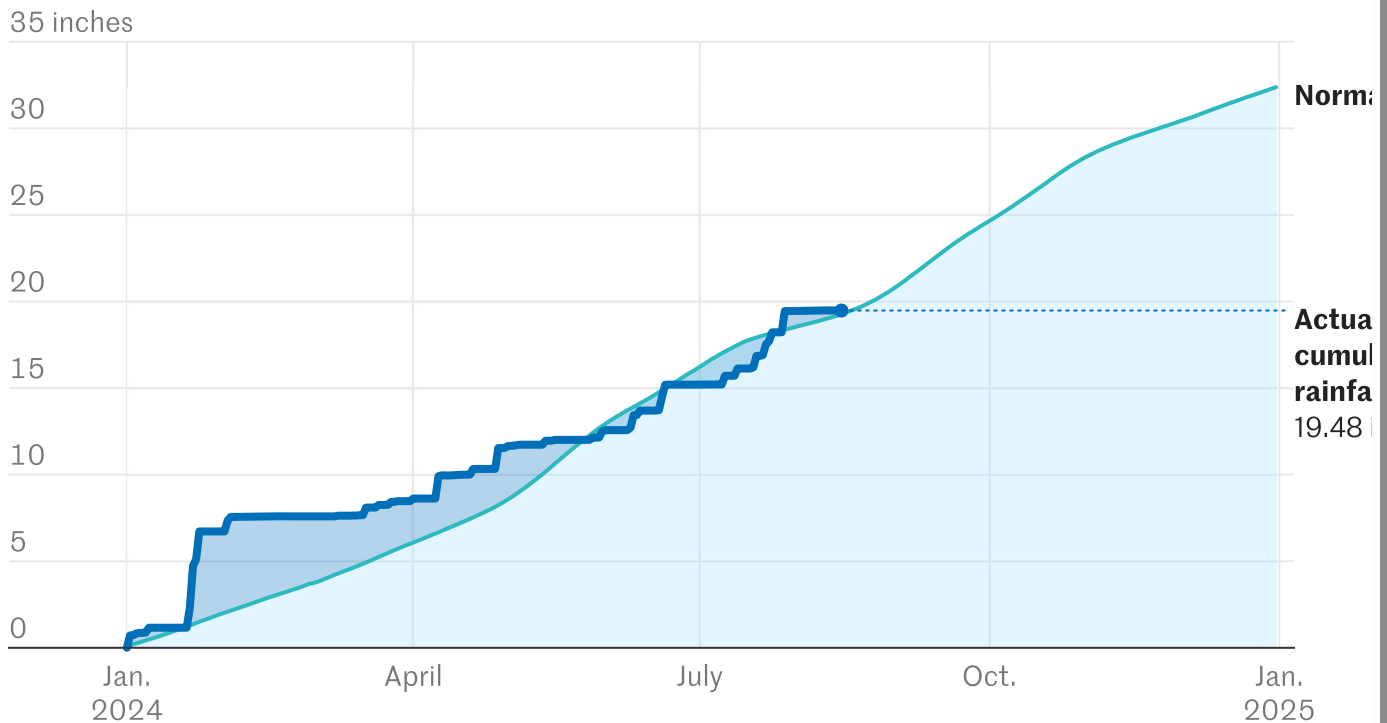
For the year, San Antonio has recorded 19.48 inches of rain. Technically, that's slightly above average for the Alamo City through Aug. 15. However, even though our 2024 rainfall totals are looking good, The National Drought Mitigation Center still has San Antonio placed in a moderate drought, which is typified by local water restrictions and low levels at creeks and streams. Why is that?

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San Antonio 2024 rainfall: How much have we gotten?

This year, San Antonio recorded its second-wettest January, and has logged almost 20 inches of rain, which is about normal for the year to date. Flatness in the chart indicates trace amounts or no rain. Figures are from San Antonio International Airport, the city's official climate observation site.



Normal values are based on averages taken from 30 years of observed data from 1991 to 2020.

Here's why: During 2022 and 2023, San Antonio averaged just above 15 inches of rain each year, less than half of what is normal. The extreme lack of rain caused long-term drought and historically low lake levels across the region. While the higher rainfall this year has helped, we're still trying to dig ourselves out of the years-long rainfall deficit.

Upcoming rain forecast

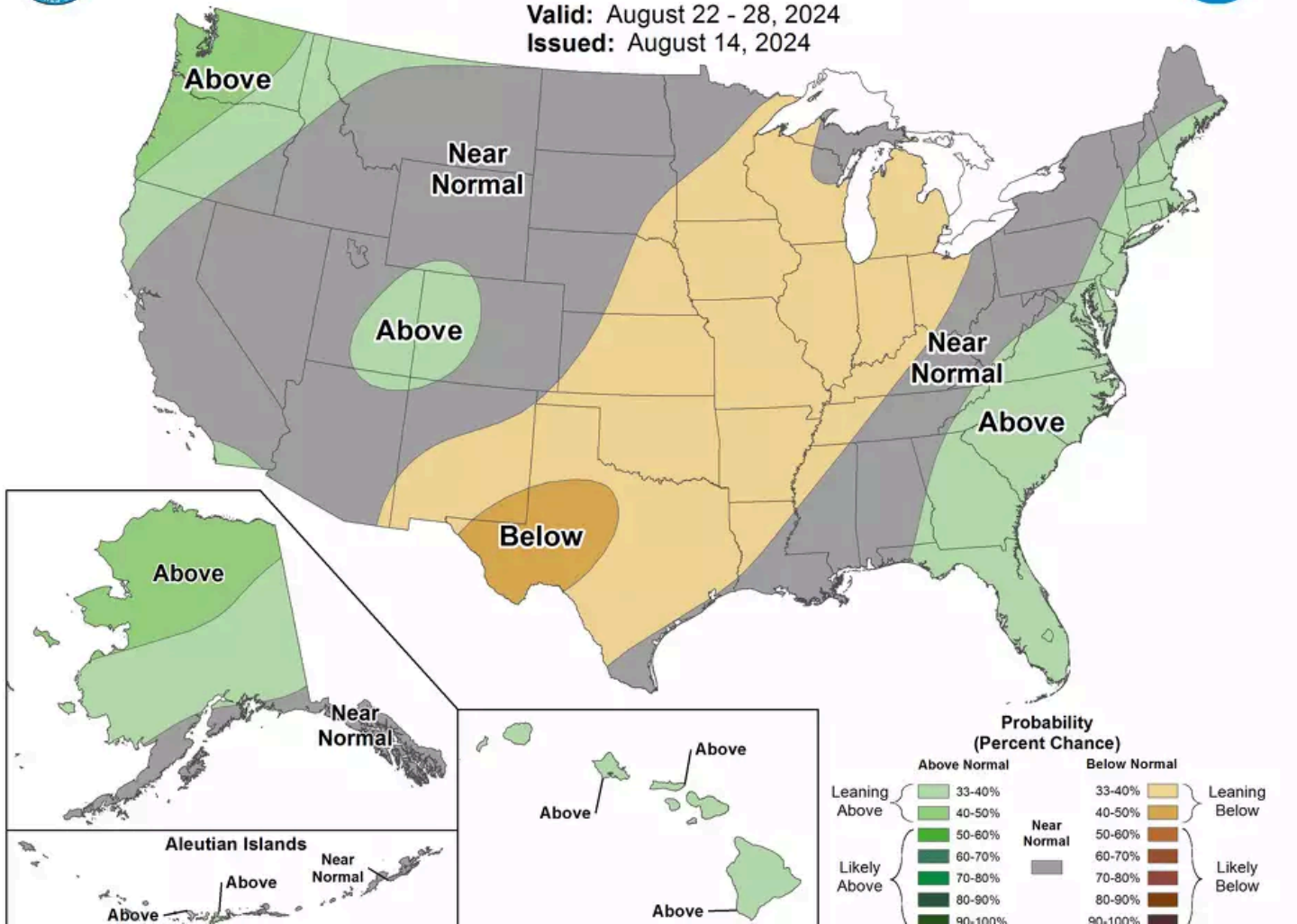
With high pressure and extreme heat expected across the Lone Star State over the next week, the chance of rain here in South Texas is looking extremely slim. An isolated shower or storm cannot be ruled out by the second half of next week, but overall chances are not good.



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook



Valid: August 22 - 28, 2024
Issued: August 14, 2024



The outlook for Aug. 22-28 from the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center calls for a high probability of below-average rainfall across Texas.

Climate Prediction Center

The weather pattern is expected to remain unfavorable into the final week of the month as well. According to the Climate Prediction Center's outlook for Aug. 22-28,

below-normal precipitation is anticipated for South Texas. Drought conditions are likely to worsen and lake levels will decrease further.

What about Canyon Lake?

Just like Medina Lake, Canyon Lake is experiencing a drop in water levels this month. After rising to 885.95 feet above sea level at the end of July, the surface elevation of the lake has fallen by more than 5 inches so far this month, down to 885.54 feet. The reservoir is only 57.1% full, its surface elevation more than 23 feet below the conservation pool height.

Aug 15, 2024



Anthony Franze
NEWSROOM METEOROLOGIST



Anthony Franze is a native Texan and very passionate about covering any weather that is thrown at him. He can be reached at anthony.franze@express-news.net.

Anthony earned a degree in Meteorology from Valparaiso University in 2017. He has worked as a broadcast meteorologist for six years, one at NBC Montana and the next five at NewsWest 9 in Midland before joining the Express-News in July 2023.

In his free time, Anthony enjoys watching sports, checking out local restaurants and breweries, and getting outside whenever the heat allows for it. If you have any story ideas, questions about the weather or restaurant suggestions, drop him a line.

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