

New study of San Marcos Springs begins

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Water is flowing out of the San Marcos Springs at less than half its historic average. That's why a new project has emerged to learn more about the springs in order to protect them.

River Systems Institute Director Andrew Sansom believes the water from the springs is the key to future growth.

"In the coming years, the entire economy of Central Texas will center on whether or not we have sufficient water supplies and this spring is the trigger," Sansom said.

Future growth of the springs was one reason the legislature dedicated \$1 million to the new San Marcos River Observing System Project.

"As Texans are living with a drought it is clear we must plan for the future," Rep. Patrick Rose, D-Dripping Springs, said.

The purpose of this project is to make sure the water in the springs continues to flow for generations to come, and that the water will continue to flow despite whatever development or future droughts may bring.

The project will be overseen by Thomas Hardy, an internationally recognized leader in river systems.

"The better we understand those relationships the better we can inform the decision makers and the policy makers about the implications of flows and water withdrawals for the long term sustainability of the system," Hardy said.

The program will allow for a long-term study of the how the springs are being affected and what steps should be taken to preserve the springs and aquifer that feeds them.

"As we continue to grow and economically prosper in Central Texas, these springs will continue to flow," Sansom said.

The springs may hopefully provide the water needed to sustain the area's future growth.



Springs in San Marcos are flowing at less than half its historic average.



The new project will allow for a long term study on how the springs are being affected.

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