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**SAN ANTONIO NEWS**

REPORT US

# San Antonio data centers guzzled 463 million gallons of water as area faced drought

The heavy usage, equivalent to tens of thousands of households, comes as residents are told to conserve water.

By [Stephanie Koithan](#) on Wed, Jul 30, 2025 at 2:44 pm

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*Wikimedia Commons / Unidentified NOAA photographer*

A cotton field in Ropesville, Texas experiencing extreme drought conditions in 2014.

Despite five years of below-average rainfall and longterm drought gripping the region, a pair of San Antonio data centers used a combined 463 million gallons of water in 2023 and 2024, [Techie + Gamers magazine reports](#), citing a recent study.

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The data in the analysis, compiled by San Antonio Water System, revealed that the Alamo City facilities run by Microsoft and the Army Corps guzzled water equivalent to the usage of tens of thousands of households.

The revelation comes as SAWS enforces Stage 3 watering rules, meaning San Antonio residents are only allowed to water lawns once per week and on a specially designated day. Homes that use more than 20,000 gallons of water also are subject to additional surcharges.

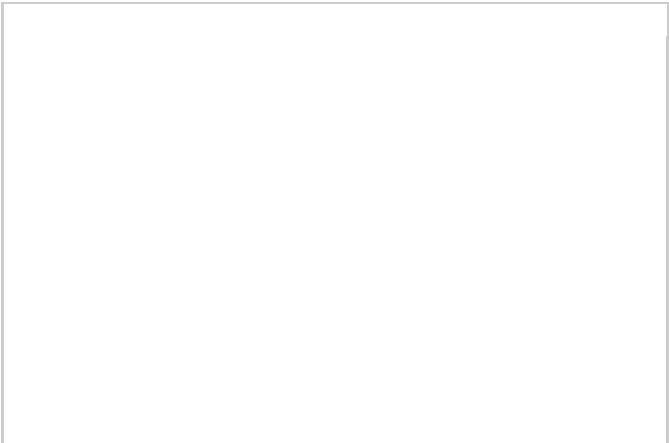
"While surprise rains generated some green around San Antonio, they did not bring us out of drought," a [July 1 blog](#) on the SAWS website states. "It will take many more steady rainfalls to overcome the last five years of less-than-adequate rain."

However, data centers have been under no such restrictions as they power their generative AI models. While the Texas Legislature passed a bipartisan bill in its most recent regular session to divert energy from data centers during extreme weather outages, lawmakers passed no bills regulating how much water the centers can use.

Central Texas data centers consume millions of gallons of water daily, [according to an Austin Chronicle investigation published last week](#). Midsized data centers use approximately 300,000 gallons daily while large data centers can use as many as 4.5 million gallons per day, the Chronicle reports. Austin alone has 47 data centers while Dallas-Fort Worth has the most in the state at 189 facilities.

A report by the Houston Advanced Research Center estimates data centers statewide will use 49 billion gallons of water this year. The facilities use the water to cool their powerful computers, which generate significant heat.

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Further exacerbating the strain on natural resources, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman broke ground last year on Abilene's Stargate Texas data center, a \$500 billion project announced by President Donald Trump in January.

With a size 60 acres larger than Central Park, Stargate is soon to be the largest data center in the world, whether the parched landscape — or its electrical grid — can handle it or not. The facility is expected to use enough energy to power 750,000 homes, the Chronicle reports, while also being a massive drain on the water supply.

"These centers are showing up in places that are very water-stressed," Margaret Cook, a water policy analyst at the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC), told Techie + Gamers. "There's no requirement for them to have conversations with communities about how much water they'll use."

By 2030, data centers are expected to multiply tenfold across the Lone Star State, according to the Chronicle. HARC estimates that by then, data center water consumption could total 399 billion gallons annually, or 6.6% of Texas' total water use.

Data centers' seemingly unquenchable thirst, combined with the resource demands of a rapidly increasing population, could deplete reserves intended for future generations, Cook said.

"So, any of these communities that are allowing data centers in their community are gambling against being able to get new water from future state water plans, from future funding cycles," Cook told the Chronicle. "They're using up the water that was allocated to their population for the future."

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### **SAN ANTONIO NEWS**

## **Bexar County Jail found noncompliant during state inspection — again**

The inspection came days after an inmate committed suicide at the jail, the eighth to die while in custody there this year.

By [Michael Karlis](#) on Wed, Jul 30, 2025 at 2:05 pm

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*Courtesy Photo / Bexar County Sheriff's Office*

A deputy at the Bexar County Jail checks in on inmates.

During a recent inspection, the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS) found Bexar County Jail in violation of a state law requiring inmates to have daily access to common areas, known as "dayrooms," along with other infractions.

A letter sent Tuesday to Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar and Judge Peter Sakai and obtained by the Current gives jail officials 30 days to create a plan of action to meet state standards.

It's the second time this year TCJS has found the jail in violation.

Inspectors visited the Bexar County Jail this month after an inmate committed suicide on July 15 -- the eighth death at the holding facility this year.

In a statement to TV station KSAT, Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar said his department has "already taken our first of several steps" to fix violations pointed out by TCJS officials.

"We look forward to continuing to work with TCJS until it is completed," she sheriff added.

During the July inspection, TCJS officials discovered that documents, selected at random, failed to provide evidence that inmate Patrick Washington received access to the jail's dayroom for 22 of the 97 days he was held in the facility. Under TCJS code, inmates housed in multi-person cells are entitled to daily access to common area.

Documents reviewed by the TCJS also showed that 56 other inmates were denied access to the common area during the first week of June.

Inspectors also discovered other infractions including mirrors in a cell that were too scratched up for a person to see their reflection and a "purge fan" used to remove smoke during a fire that wasn't working. However, the jail's maintenance crew replaced the fan's motor during the inspection.

The inspection report comes as the rate of deaths at the Bexar County jail has exceeded last year's. In 2024, 13 people inmates at the lockup died while in custody, [according to the Texas Attorney General's Custodial Death Report database](#).

Of those deaths, three were ruled suicides and two were caused by complications from substance abuse, according to jail officials.

Two other deaths were the result of assaults, one of which was [allegedly orchestrated](#) by a sheriff's deputy.

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



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Michael Karlis is a Staff Writer at the San Antonio Current. He is a graduate of American University in Washington, D.C., whose work has been featured in Salon, Alternet, Creative Loafing Tampa Bay, Orlando Weekly, NewsBreak, 420 Magazine and Mexico Travel Today. He reports primarily on breaking news, politics...

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**SAN ANTONIO NEWS**

# San Antonio-based Fred's Fish Fry wins trademark lawsuit over joke Spurs jersey

A district judge ordered designer Adrian Galvan and store owner Michael Baez to pay the fast food chain \$8,320 plus interest.

By [Michael Karlis](#) on Wed, Jul 30, 2025 at 12:03 pm

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Adrian Galvan

Although artist Adrian Galvan never denied designing the jersey in question, pictured above, which he said was created as an online meme, he's maintained in conversations with the Current that he never made any money from it.

U.S. District Judge Xavier Rodriguez on Tuesday ordered San Antonio graphic designer Adrian Galvan and apparel store owner Michael Baez to pay fast food chain Fred's Fish Fry \$8,320 plus interest, for their involvement in the creation and sale of a sports jersey featuring the company's trademark, [the Express-News reports](#).

The San Antonio court's judgment against Galvan and Baez closes out a two-year saga that [grabbed headlines](#) and stirred fierce online debate.

In 2023, Fred's Fish Fry filed a trademark infringement suit against a dozen defendants over their alleged role in creating and selling a parody San Antonio Spurs jersey with the homegrown restaurant chain as the team's name sponsor. The shirt was initially designed by Galvan as an online meme.

In conversations with the Current, Galvan admitted to creating the design. However, he maintained he never made money from it.

Baez, the owner of online clothing shop Bexar County Social Apparel, sold jerseys modeled on Galvan's design on his website for a brief time in 2023 before taking down the merchandise.

As part of Tuesday's judgment, Fred's Fish Fry dropped its case against Victor Galvan, the owner of the Rancho 181 Food Truck park. Victor Galvan isn't related to Adrian Galvan. However, Adrian Galvan was [employed at Rancho 181](#) when the jersey was created.

Adrian Galvan maintained in previous conversations with the Current that his former boss never had anything to do with the design or the sale of the apparel.

"We feel that the lawsuit has put an end to the unauthorized use of the marks," Fred's Fish Fry attorney Brandon Cook told the Express-News. "We've accomplished that goal."

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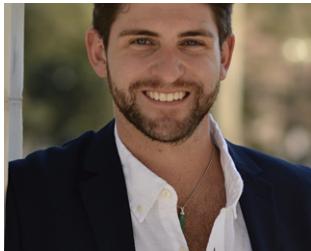
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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**Michael Karlis**





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Michael Karlis is a Staff Writer at the San Antonio Current. He is a graduate of American University in Washington, D.C., whose work has been featured in Salon, Alternet, Creative Loafing Tampa Bay, Orlando Weekly, NewsBreak, 420 Magazine and Mexico Travel Today. He reports primarily on breaking news, politics...

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