



**EDWARDS AQUIFER**  
A U T H O R I T Y

**Groundwater Conservation Plan**  
(as Adopted December 2008)

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## SUMMARY

The Edwards Aquifer Authority (Authority) requires certain groundwater withdrawal permit holders to develop and implement individual groundwater conservation plans as specified in ch. 715 (Comprehensive Water Management), subch. C (Groundwater Conservation and Reuse) of the EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY RULES and in accordance with the Aquifer Authority Act (Act). In order to assist permit holders in completing their groundwater conservation plans, the Authority developed a regional Groundwater Conservation Plan (GCP) to act as a guidance document to encourage, promote, and document year-round conservation measures. This GCP is comprised of several components: a discussion of purpose, approach, applicability and requirements, Authority conservation programs, best management practices, GCP forms, water savings assumptions, and acronyms and definitions. The Act also requires the Authority to submit the GCP to the Texas State Legislature by January 1 of each odd-numbered year.

Due to increasing water demands, extreme weather variability, and mandated water usage reductions, regional and individual groundwater conservation planning has become an essential element to the region's overall water management. Thus, the Authority has implemented numerous regional conservation programs designed to promote water conservation and to educate and assist all Edwards Aquifer users. A complete listing of the Authority's conservation programs is provided in Appendix A.

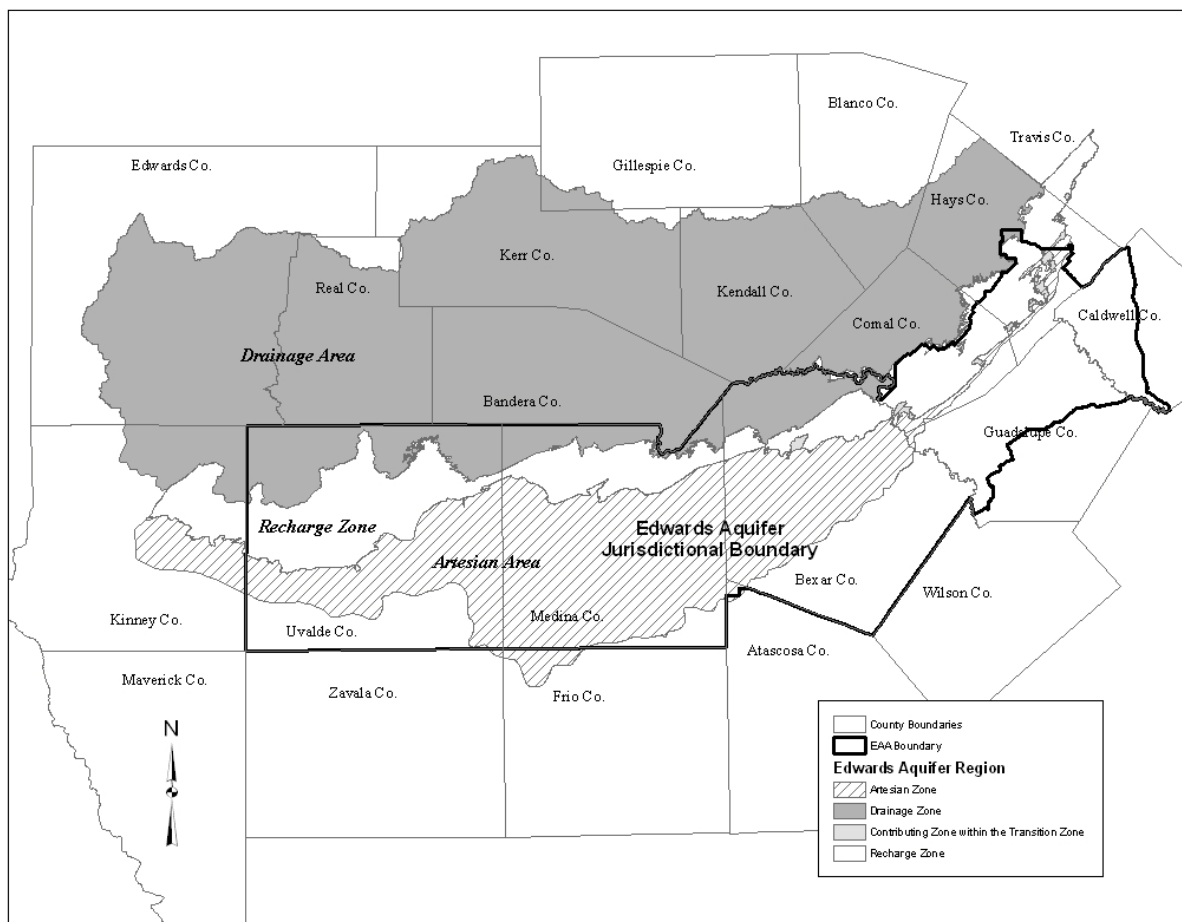
According to the Act and Authority rules, each municipal, industrial, and irrigation user within the Authority's jurisdictional boundaries must implement a minimum number of conservation practices within specified time frames to improve water-use efficiency. Owners of permitted wells authorized to withdraw no more than three acre-feet of groundwater annually and irrigation users with an application efficiency of 60% efficiency or greater are not required to implement a groundwater conservation plan. These conservation programs are to be documented through the preparation of individual GCPs. Conservation is to be achieved through the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs), which are defined as practices that have shown documented improvements in water-use efficiency. Specific BMP information for municipal, industrial, and irrigation users is provided in Appendices B, C, and D respectively. Appendix E provides a complete listing of acronyms and definitions to help explain the terminology used throughout the GCP. Forms for individual GCPs and standard water saving assumptions are available from the Authority to assist users in preparing their GCPs.

# INTRODUCTION

The Edwards Aquifer is one of the most permeable and productive limestone aquifers in the United States. The San Antonio segment extends from the groundwater divide near Brackettville in Kinney County to the groundwater divide near Kyle in Hays County. The aquifer provides water to approximately 1.7 million people in the region.

The Authority's jurisdictional area covers all or parts of an eight-county region located in south central Texas, including Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, Atascosa, Comal, Hays, Guadalupe, and Caldwell counties (Figure 1.1). The Authority was created in 1993 by the Texas Legislature as a "conservation and reclamation district" to replace the Edwards Underground Water District and to manage, preserve, and protect the San Antonio segment of the Balcones Fault Zone Edwards Aquifer. The Authority is governed by a 17-member board of directors, including voting members elected to represent the 15 districts across the region, and two non-voting members appointed by other entities. Directors represent agricultural, industrial, municipal, environmental, and downstream user groups.

**Figure 1.1: The Edwards Aquifer Authority Boundary Within the Edwards Aquifer Region.**



The Texas Legislature mandated the Authority to take all reasonable measures to effectively control the resource in order to protect domestic and municipal water supplies, the operation of existing agriculture and industries, terrestrial and aquatic life, and the economic development of the region. To accomplish these goals, the Authority is vested with all of the powers, rights, and privileges necessary to manage, conserve, preserve, and protect the Edwards Aquifer. The Texas Legislature, in enacting the Edwards Aquifer Authority Act (the Act), directed the Authority to:

- protect the water quality of the aquifer;
- protect the water quality of the surface streams to which the aquifer provides streamflow;
- achieve water conservation;
- maximize the beneficial use of water available for withdrawal from the aquifer;
- recognize the extent of the hydro-geologic connection and interaction between surface water and groundwater;
- protect aquatic and wildlife habitat;
- protect species that are designated as threatened or endangered under state or federal law;
- provide for instream uses, bays and estuaries;
- protect domestic and municipal water supplies;
- protect the operation of existing industries;
- protect the economic development of the State;
- prevent the waste of water from the aquifer; and
- increase recharge of water to the aquifer.

In order to meet these objectives, the Act, as originally enacted in 1996, directed permitted withdrawals from the Edwards Aquifer be limited to no more than 450,000 acre-feet per calendar year through year 2007. In 2007, the Texas Legislature modified the Act to allow permitted withdrawals to be increased to 572,000 acre-feet per year beginning January 1, 2008. The Texas Legislature also modified the Act to include a “Critical Period Management Plan” for the period January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2012, to address aquifer usage during times of drought as shown in Table 1.2. Furthermore, the Act prescribed a consensus-based process for developing a Recovery Implementation Program (RIP) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other stakeholders for the preservation of the threatened and endangered species and to comply with the federal Endangered Species Act. Recommendations of the RIP are to be approved and executed by the Authority, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Department of Agriculture, the Texas Water Development Board, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service no later than September 1, 2012, to take effect December 31, 2012. All recommendations from the RIP will be presented to the Authority for consideration.

**Table 1.2 – Critical Period Triggers, Stages, and Withdrawal Reductions\***

<b>SAN ANTONIO POOL</b>				
<b>COMAL SPRINGS FLOW (CFS)</b>	<b>SAN MARCOS SPRINGS FLOW (CFS)</b>	<b>INDEX WELL J-17 LEVEL (MSL)</b>	<b>CRITICAL PERIOD STAGE</b>	<b>WITHDRAWAL REDUCTION – SAN ANTONIO POOL</b>
< 225	< 96	< 660	I	20%
< 200	< 80	< 650	II	30%
< 150	N/A	< 640	III	35%
< 100	N/A	< 630	IV	40%

<b>UVALDE POOL</b>				
<b>COMAL SPRINGS FLOW (CFS)</b>	<b>SAN MARCOS SPRINGS FLOW (CFS)</b>	<b>INDEX WELL J-27 LEVEL (MSL)</b>	<b>CRITICAL PERIOD STAGE</b>	<b>WITHDRAWAL REDUCTION – UVALDE POOL</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	I	N/A
N/A	N/A	< 850	II	5%
N/A	N/A	< 845	III	20%
N/A	N/A	< 842	IV	35%

\* A change to a critical period stage with higher withdrawal reduction percentages, including initially into Stage I for the San Antonio Pool and Stage II for the Uvalde Pool, is triggered if the 10-day average of daily springflows at the Comal Springs or the San Marcos Springs or the 10-day average of daily aquifer levels at the J-17 or J-27 Index Wells, as applicable, drop below the lowest number of any of the trigger levels for that stage. A change from any critical period stage to a critical period stage with lower withdrawal reduction percentages, including exiting from Stage I for the San Antonio Pool and Stage II for the Uvalde Pool, is triggered only when the 10-day average of daily springflows at the Comal Springs and the San Marcos Springs and the 10-day average of daily aquifer levels at the J-17 or J-27 Index Wells, as applicable, are all above the same stage trigger level.

In addition to its specific powers, the Authority is granted the rule making and enforcement powers of other Texas groundwater districts created under Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code. However, it should be noted that the Authority's responsibilities only apply to the use and management of the Edwards Aquifer within the Authority's boundaries. Water quality protection programs may be enforced up to five miles outside the Authority's boundaries. Other than water quality powers, the Authority has no regulatory powers over portions of the Edwards Aquifer that lie outside of its boundaries, or over any other groundwater or surface water resources within its boundaries.

## PURPOSE

The development and implementation of the Authority’s GCP and individual GCPs will help both the Authority and applicants improve water-use efficiency in order to: meet statutory Edwards Aquifer withdrawal limitations, address increasing regional water demands, account for weather variability, and prepare for critical period water-use reductions.

The Act makes numerous references to conservation, and clearly conveys that all parties must make reasonable efforts to be conservative in water use. Conservation is defined in the Act as “any measure that would sustain or enhance water supply.” The Authority Board of Directors is given the duty to conserve Edwards Aquifer groundwater, and is granted the general power to manage and conserve the aquifer and to prevent waste. The Authority is directed by the Act to take all reasonable measures to ensure efficient water use. Consequently, each applicant is required to “take all reasonable measures to be conservative in water use.”

Water demand is the total volume of water required to meet the needs of specified user groups within the Edwards Aquifer region. Total water demand is computed as the sum of municipal, manufacturing, irrigation, steam electric power generation, mining, and livestock water demands. Water demand projections for the region are based on the Texas Water Development Board’s (TWDB) “most likely case” of below normal rainfall and an “advanced water conservation” scenario. The “advanced conservation” scenario assumes levels of water savings that are likely to occur as a result of both market forces and regulatory requirements. As shown in Table 2.1, water demands in the Authority’s jurisdictional area are projected to increase approximately 35 percent over the period from 2000 to 2030.

**Table 2.1: Total Water Demand Projections for the Planning Area<sup>1</sup>**

Edwards Aquifer Area County	Total Project Water Demand (ac-ft/yr)				Percent Change** (%)
	2000	2010	2020	2030	
<b>Atascosa*</b>	1,437	1,612	1,607	1,598	11.20
<b>Bexar</b>	288,431	325,540	356,724	388,873	34.82
<b>Caldwell*</b>	3,774	5,035	6,268	7,365	95.15
<b>Comal*</b>	17,891	23,761	28,881	34,456	92.59
<b>Guadalupe*</b>	9,100	20,642	26,906	31,581	247.04
<b>Hays*</b>	9,001	19,320	27,381	33,248	269.39
<b>Medina</b>	64,510	63,521	62,347	61,178	-5.17
<b>Uvalde</b>	67,741	65,886	64,087	62,286	-8.05
Edwards Aquifer Area *** <b>TOTAL</b>	<b>461,885</b>	<b>525,419</b>	<b>574,298</b>	<b>620,713</b>	<b>34.39</b>
* denotes portion of county within Edwards Aquifer Authority boundaries ** percent increase is calculated from the total projected change in water demand between 2000 and 2030 *** Edwards Aquifer area as specified in Senate Bill 1477, Texas Legislature, 73 <sup>rd</sup> Session, 1993, as amended Source: 2006 SCTRWPB Revisions to Population and Water Demand Projections; Water Demand Scenario: most likely case, below normal rainfall, advanced water conservation					

<sup>1</sup> Water demand information is excerpted from the Authority’s Groundwater Management Plan.

Precipitation is the primary source of recharge to the Edwards Aquifer. Variability in regional precipitation has a direct influence on aquifer levels and springflows, and therefore affects all aquifer users.

In order to maintain business operations during times of drought, aquifer users must be prepared to utilize groundwater resources as efficiently as possible. Year-round conservation measures implemented through GCPs will help prepare aquifer users for water-use reductions in dry years.

## **APPROACH**

Article 1, Section 1.23 (c) of the Act states “the Authority biennially shall prepare and update enforceable and effective conservation and reuse plans.” The Authority must deliver these plans to the Legislature no later than January 1 of each odd-numbered year.

The Authority’s GCP serves as a management and guidance document to assist applicants in the preparation and implementation of individual GCPs. In this regard, the Authority conducted workshops in March, June, and September of 2004 to assist applicants in preparing individual GCPs. Municipal GCPs were to be submitted to the Authority by March 31, 2004, industrial GCPs by June 30, 2004, and irrigation GCPs by September 30, 2004. In July 2008, the Authority changed the GCP status report requirement from annual to triennial. As a result, municipal GCP status reports are now due by March 31 of every third year beginning 2009, industrial GCP status reports by June 30 of every third year beginning 2010, and irrigation GCP status reports by September 30 of every third year beginning 2011.

Applicants are to achieve year-round conservation through the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs are conservation practices that have been shown through research and documented implementation to achieve measurable water savings. Each BMP includes four sections: 1. Description section - defines and sets the scope of each practice. 2. Coverage Requirements section - sets forth actions that must be accomplished in order to properly complete BMP implementation. 3. Documentation Requirements section - outlines the information that must be submitted to the Authority to confirm BMP implementation. 4. Water Savings Assumptions section - provides water savings estimates and demonstrates how savings should be calculated.

Specific information concerning individual GCP requirements may be found under the General Plan Requirements section of this document. Applicants must also comply with the appropriate requirements set forth under Municipal Plan Requirements, Industrial Plan Requirements, or Irrigation Plan Requirements.

## **APPLICABILITY**

The need to use aquifer water for beneficial purposes and to prevent waste extends to all uses and users of Edwards groundwater with an initial regular permit greater than three acre-feet that are directly regulated by the Authority. Thus, the requirement to develop and implement a GCP applies to permit applicants, permit holders, and transferees of permitted water rights with an initial regular permit greater than three acre-feet including the following:

- Applicants for an initial regular permit except those irrigation applicants that demonstrate the required application efficiency;
- Applicants for a term permit;
- Users of recharge permits;
- Holders of an initial regular permit; except those irrigation applicants that demonstrate the required application efficiency; and
- Transferees of groundwater rights from an applicant or a permittee with an initial regular permit.

## **GENERAL PLAN REQUIREMENTS**

1. Irrigation applicants are required to have an on-farm application efficiency of no less than 60% and shall submit an Agricultural Irrigation Assessment Form to determine the on-farm application efficiency. Applicants failing to exhibit the required efficiency are required to submit a GCP.
2. Applicants, except those irrigation applicants that demonstrate the required application efficiency; must prepare and submit one GCP for each groundwater withdrawal permit.
3. Applicants required to submit a GCP must provide the following general information:
  - a. name of applicant, permittee, or transferee;
  - b. address, telephone number, and fax number of the applicant, permittee, or transferee;
  - c. application, initial regular permit number, or transfer number assigned by the Authority;
  - d. name of the contact person or individual completing the applicant's GCP;
  - e. address, telephone number, and fax number of the contact person; and
  - f. type of water use (municipal, industrial, or irrigation) and brief description of water use (golf course, feed lot, athletic field, etc.).
4. Applicants required to submit a GCP must provide a list of BMPs that are being implemented, and an implementation schedule.
5. Applicants required to submit a GCP must submit a triennial status report summarizing the status or implementation of BMPs.

6. Applicants proposing an alternative to a BMP must submit a variance request application to the Authority. The alternative to the BMP must include the following elements: description, implementation schedule, coverage requirements, documentation, and water savings assumptions.
7. Applicants may work with the Authority or with other applicants or agencies to achieve BMP implementation. When implementing BMPs through cooperative programs with other applicants, water savings must be calculated for each applicant separately, so as not to double count savings.
8. Applicants utilizing alternative water in conjunction with Edwards Aquifer water may be eligible to reduce BMP requirements. Municipal applicants may achieve smaller system status by replacing Edwards usage with usage of alternative water and thus reduce the number of required BMPs. This will be measured by the number of connections that are converted to an alternative water supplies. For example, a municipality with 12,000 connections is considered a large system and must meet large system GCP requirements; if that municipality converts half of its connections to alternative water, it now has 6,000 Edwards connections and is considered a medium system. Municipal applicants that mix alternative water supplies with Edwards water may quantify conversion by calculating a ratio of total water usage versus water supplied by the alternative source. To determine the number of qualifying connections, multiply the ratio by the total number of connections.
9. Applicants may submit equivalent Groundwater Conservation Plans and related status reports which have been prepared for other public entities to the Authority.

## **MUNICIPAL PLAN REQUIREMENTS**

1. In addition to the information enumerated under General Plan Requirements, all municipal applicants must provide the following information:
  - a. projected annual water usage for the next 10 year period;
  - b. types of accounts ( residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, etc.) and number of each, and use by volume and by percent for each type of account;
  - c. estimated per capita water usage in gallons per person per day; and
  - d. water conservation enforcement measures.
2. All municipal applicants must implement Muni-1 through Muni-3 and Muni-4, if applicable.
3. Municipal applicants with less than 500 connections ( very small systems) must, at a minimum, provide programs to accomplish BMPs Muni-1 through Muni-3 and Muni-4, if applicable.

4. Municipal applicants with 500 to 3,300 connections (small systems) must provide programs to accomplish BMPs Muni-5 through Muni-7.
5. Municipal applicants with 3,300 to 10,000 connections (medium systems) must provide programs to accomplish BMPs Muni-5 through Muni-8.
6. Municipal applicants with more than 10,000 connections (large systems) must provide programs to accomplish BMPs Muni-5 through Muni-10.
7. Municipal applicants with 3,300 connections or more may submit an approved Texas Water Development Board Water Conservation Plan in place of an Authority required GCP. However, these applicants must also include the appropriate BMPs 5-10 as specified in the Authority's GCP.
8. All municipal applicants must implement BMPs according to the following schedule, unless specific implementation schedules are provided under Section B of the BMP:
  - a. applicants must commence BMP operation 120 days after GCP approval; and
  - b. applicants must complete all BMP operation within six years after plan approval.

**Appendix B - Municipal BMPs**

Muni-1	System Water Audits, Leak Detection and Repair
Muni-2	Metering of All New Connections and Retrofit of Existing Connections
Muni-3	Water Waste Prohibition
Muni-4	Conservation Pricing for Purveyors Only
Muni-5	Public Information and School Education Programs
Muni-6	Landscape Conservation Programs
Muni-7	Conservation Coordinator
Muni-8	Water Use Survey Programs
Muni-9	Residential Plumbing Retrofit, Rebate and Replacement Programs
Muni-10	Reuse of Treated Effluent

**INDUSTRIAL PLAN REQUIREMENTS**

1. In addition to the information enumerated under General Plan Requirements, all industrial applicants must provide information on the types (processes) of water use, and use by volume and by percent for each type of use.
2. All industrial applicants must provide programs to accomplish BMPs Ind-1 and Ind-2.
3. Applicants with greater than five connections must accomplish BMP Ind-3.
4. When applicable, all industrial applicants must provide programs to accomplish BMPs Ind-4 through Ind-9.

5. All industrial applicants must implement BMPs according to the following schedule, unless specific implementation schedules are provided under Section B of the BMP:
  - a. applicants must commence BMP operation 120 days after GCP approval; and
  - b. applicants must complete BMP operation six years after plan approval.

**Appendix C - Industrial BMPs**

- Ind-1 System Water Audits, Leak Detection and Repair
- Ind-2 Water Waste Prohibition
- Ind-3 Sub-Metering
- Ind-4 Landscape Conservation Programs
- Ind-5 Golf Course Conservation
- Ind-6 Athletic Field Conservation
- Ind-7 Nursery Conservation
- Ind-8 Cooling Tower Conservation
- Ind-9 Conservation Programs for Industrial Applicants

**IRRIGATION PLAN REQUIREMENTS**

1. All irrigation applicants must complete an Agricultural Irrigation Assessment Form (AIAF) supplied by the Authority and provide the following information:
  - a. current number of irrigated acres per farm;
  - b. current irrigation methods; and
  - c. number of acres for each respective irrigation method, if more than one irrigation method is utilized for the farm.
2. All irrigation applicants, except those that demonstrate an irrigation application efficiency of 60% or greater on the AIAF, are required to prepare a GCP that will improve the application efficiency to 60%. All information supplied on the AIAF is subject to verification.
3. All irrigation applicants required to submit a GCP must generally describe how leaks are detected and repaired. All uses of unlined ditches are prohibited as of December 31, 2004.
4. All irrigation applicants must utilize one of the irrigation methods described under BMPs Irr-1 and/or Irr-2. All irrigation applicants must, at a minimum, utilize surge flow irrigation systems, or a sprinkler or micro irrigation system described in BMP Irr-2 that overall achieves at least 60% application efficiency. If other irrigation systems are used, the applicant must provide results of efficiency evaluations confirming that the systems achieve at least 60% application efficiency. Efficiency evaluations must have been

conducted no more than five years prior to the date the GCP is submitted to the Authority.

5. Irrigation applicants installing new equipment on multiple fields may stagger implementation over the course of several years.
6. Portable equipment, such as surge systems, may be utilized on multiple fields.
7. All irrigation applicants required to submit a GCP must implement BMPs according to the following schedule, unless specific implementation schedules are provided under Section B (Coverage Requirements) of the BMP:
  - a. applicants must commence BMP operation 120 days after GCP approval; and
  - b. applicants must complete BMP implementation six years after plan approval.
8. Irrigation applicants must calculate water savings according to the water savings documentation form found in the irrigation GCP application.

#### **Appendix D - Irrigation BMPs**

Irr-1 Surge Flow Irrigation System

Irr-2 Sprinkler and Micro Irrigation Systems

## **VARIANCES**

Applicants may submit requests for variances from GCP requirements to the Authority's Board of Directors. Variances from individual GCP requirements may include, but are not limited to, the following: substitution of BMPs, proposal of new BMPs, and alteration or elimination of existing BMPs.

Requests for variances should include the following information:

- a. Name, address, telephone number, and permit/application number of applicant requesting the variance;
- b. A statement identifying the specific request from which a variance is sought;
- c. A detailed explanation of why the variance should be granted, including an explanation of how granting the variance will promote conservation;
- d. If requesting to use a new BMP, a full description of the BMP, including information on how it will be implemented, and documented or estimated water savings; and
- e. A statement indicating that alternatives to the variance have been considered and an explanation of why no other reasonable alternative is available.

In granting variances, the Authority Board may impose any terms and conditions that are deemed appropriate, and may require additional information relevant to monitoring the terms and conditions of the variance. Variances may be rescinded at any time.

**APPENDIX A:**

**EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY  
CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**

## **EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**

The Authority has developed numerous conservation programs to promote conservative and efficient water-use throughout the region. These programs are designed to educate, inform, and assist all users of Edwards Aquifer groundwater.

### **Rebate Program for Unused Permitted Water**

The Authority currently offers a rebate program whereby it offers fee rebates for contracted water that has not been used by the end of the year. This program is open to municipal and industrial users of Edwards Aquifer groundwater.

### **Middle School Curriculum: The Edwards Aquifer: Understand. Conserve. Protect.**

This middle school instructional program correlates to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Program materials are designed to engage students in learning about the Edwards Aquifer system, water conservation, and the importance of the aquifer as our region's primary water resource. These materials include a teacher's guide and full-color student books containing photos, illustrations, diagrams, maps and charts, and take-home conservation kits. The teacher's guide offers chapter discussion questions, student activities, chapter quizzes, and program assessments.

### **Educational Conservation Materials**

The Authority makes several pamphlets and publications available to the public, including the following:

*Water Conservation Water Wheel:* Provides information on average water usage of household appliances and methods of conserving water.

*Xeriscape - Water Conservation Through Creative Landscaping:* A brief discussion of the seven basic principles of Xeriscape; includes a list of Xeriscape plants.

In addition, the Authority continues to develop other residential conservation materials as necessary.

### **Public Outreach Efforts**

The Authority currently participates in a variety of activities designed to increase public awareness of the Authority's role and purpose. A common theme of many of the Authority's outreach efforts is the importance and necessity of water conservation.

The Authority maintains a close relationship with area news media who are instrumental in conveying information to the public, especially during periods when drought conditions are likely. The Authority participates in numerous public events, including water fairs, community meetings, and Earth Day celebrations. Management and staff frequently fulfill requests for public information and speaking engagements.

**Rainwater Harvesting Demonstration Site**

A Rainwater Harvesting Demonstration site at the Authority's main offices provides a working model for applicants and individuals interested in using rainwater to reduce their dependence on the Edwards Aquifer. The demonstration includes components for the capture, distribution, storage, and use of harvested rainwater. The demonstration site harvests rainwater, which is used to maintain xeriscaped landscape. The demonstration is available for viewing and educational purposes.

**Rainwater Harvesting Conservation Program**

The Authority is currently offering opportunities for developing rainwater harvesting systems throughout the Authority's jurisdiction. Funds for these rainwater harvesting systems are provided in the Authority's Aquifer Conservation Fund.

**Water Conservation Grants Program**

The Authority has established and maintains a water conservation grant fund. Water conservation grants are made for capital equipment or materials, labor, preparation cost, and installation costs to improve the efficiency of water delivery, use, or application for existing systems. The grant program is open to municipal and industrial users of Edwards Aquifer groundwater.

**APPENDIX B:**  
**MUNICIPAL BMPs**

## **Muni-1: SYSTEM WATER AUDITS, LEAK DETECTION AND REPAIR**

### **A. DESCRIPTION**

System Water Audit, Leak Detection and Repair programs are effective methods of accounting for all water usage within a service area, and are essential to a sound water management program.

#### **System Water Audit**

Under this BMP, all purveyors and non-purveyors with greater than 10 connections and mobile home communities with greater than 50 connections must conduct annual pre-screening system audits to determine if full-scale system audits are necessary. If an applicant fails to account for a minimum of 85% of a system's water use, the applicant must conduct a full distribution system audit.

#### **Leak Detection and Repair Program**

In order to reduce water losses due to leakage, all applicants must maintain a Leak Detection and Repair Program, and must repair leaks when detected. Unaccounted water losses must be no more than 15% of total water in the system. The applicant must make every effort to inform customers when leaks exist on the customer's side of the meter.

### **B. COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must accomplish the following:

1. System Water Audit: Annually complete a pre-screening system water audit to determine the need for a full-scale system water audit. The pre-screening system water audit must be calculated as follows:
  - a. determine metered sales and other system verifiable uses;
  - b. determine total supply into the system; and
  - c. if metered sales plus other verifiable uses represent less than 85% of total supply into the system, a full-scale system audit is necessary.
2. Annually conduct a distribution system water audit using methodology consistent with TWDB water loss audit requirements (if applicable);
3. Leak Detection and Repair Program: Perform distribution system leak detection, and repair identified leaks; and
4. Advise customers when it appears that leaks exist on the customer's side of the meter.

### **C. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must provide the following documentation:

1. Pre-screening audit results along with supporting documentation;
2. Records of audit results or the completed TWDB Audit Worksheets for each completed audit period; and
3. Description of the Leak Detection and Repair Program.

### **D. WATER SAVINGS ASSUMPTIONS**

If available, provide calculated water savings and calculation methodology.

## **Muni-2: METERING OF ALL NEW CONNECTIONS AND RETROFIT OF EXISTING CONNECTIONS**

### **A. DESCRIPTION**

Metering of all connections within a service area is an effective method of accounting for all water usage, and is essential to a sound water management program. Under this BMP, all purveyors must meter all new connections within the service area, and must develop and implement a program to install meters on existing unmetered accounts within the service area. All non-purveyors with greater than 10 connections and mobile home communities with greater than 50 connections must install meters by zone(s) for all connections within the service area.

Many purveyors have industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) accounts that use significant amounts of water for landscape irrigation. Unless these accounts have dedicated landscape irrigation meters, it is difficult to track and control landscape water usage. For this reason, the applicant must determine the feasibility of adding dedicated landscape irrigation meters. If it is determined that adding dedicated landscape irrigation meters is a feasible method of reducing landscape water usage, the applicant must develop a plan to install dedicated landscape irrigation meters, either through incentive programs or mandates.

For purveyors and non-purveyors, meters may begin to provide inaccurate readings of water usage with age and use. To ensure meters are reading accurately, the applicant must develop and implement a program to timely replace water meters within the service area. The applicant must install pressure regulators on replaced meters when needed.

For purveyors, many multi-family and ICI accounts require large meters that cannot measure water usage during low-flow periods. In order to account for all water usage for large users, the applicant must determine the feasibility of retrofitting multi-family and ICI accounts with turbo meters or similar technology.

### **B. COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

To receive credit for this BMP, purveyors must accomplish the following:

1. Install meters on all new connections within service area;
2. Within one year of implementation date, develop and implement a plan to install meters on all existing unmetered connections within the service area;
3. Within one year of implementation date, determine the feasibility of adding dedicated landscape irrigation meters on ICI accounts;
4. Within three years of implementation date, develop a plan to install dedicated landscape irrigation meters on ICI accounts;
5. Within three years of implementation date, develop a plan to establish a schedule for testing and replacing meters within the service area;
6. Install pressure regulators on replaced meters, when needed; and
7. Within one year of implementation date, determine feasibility of retrofitting multi-family and ICI accounts with turbo meters or similar technology.

To receive credit for this BMP, non-purveyors must accomplish the following:

1. Within one year of implementation date, if greater than 10 connections exist or if more than 50 connections exist within a mobile home community, install meters by zone(s) for all connections within the service area. Connections per zone cannot exceed ten connections; and
2. Within two years of implementation date, develop a plan to establish a schedule for testing and replacing meters.

**C. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION**

To receive credit for this BMP, a purveyor must provide the following documentation:

1. Number of new connections metered during the reporting period;
2. Number of unmetered accounts in the service area;
3. Results of feasibility study to add dedicated landscape meters;
4. Number of ICI accounts with installed dedicated landscape irrigation meters, and number of dedicated landscape irrigation meters installed on ICI accounts during the reporting period;
5. Number of meters tested and replaced during the reporting period;
6. Number of pressure regulators installed on replacement meters; and
7. Results of the study assessing the feasibility of retrofitting multi-family and ICI accounts with turbo meters or similar technology.

To receive credit for this BMP, a non-purveyor must provide the following documentation:

1. Number of new connections metered during the reporting period;
2. Number of existing unmetered connections in the service area;
3. Number of meters tested and replaced during reporting period; and
4. Number of pressure regulators installed on replacement meters.

**D. WATER SAVINGS ASSUMPTIONS**

Assume meter retrofits will result in a 20% reduction in demand by retrofitted accounts.

### **Muni-3: WATER WASTE PROHIBITION**

#### **A. DESCRIPTIONS**

Water Waste Prohibition measures are enforceable actions intended to prohibit specific wasteful activities.

Under this BMP, municipalities with the ability to adopt and implement ordinances must enact and enforce ordinances to prohibit wasteful activities including: runoff from property, landscape watering between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., single-pass cooling systems in new connections, non-recirculating systems in new conveyer car washes, non-recirculating systems in new commercial laundry systems, non-recycling decorative water fountains, and other wasteful activities.

Under this BMP, privately owned utilities must enact and enforce policies and tariffs to prohibit wasteful activities including: runoff from property, landscape watering between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., single-pass cooling systems in new connections, non-recirculating systems in new conveyer car washes, non-recirculating systems in new commercial laundry systems, non-recycling decorative water fountains, and other wasteful activities.

Under this BMP, non-purveyors must enact policies to prohibit wasteful activities including: runoff from property, landscape watering between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., single-pass cooling systems in new connections, non-recirculating systems in new conveyer car washes, non-recirculating systems in new commercial laundry systems, non-recycling decorative water fountains, and other wasteful activities.

The applicant should encourage customers to water each landscape zone no more than one day a week except by means of a hand-held bucket, hand-held hose, or properly installed micro irrigation system. The applicant should require that restaurants serve water upon request only.

#### **B. COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must accomplish the following:

1. Within six months of implementation date, adopt and enforce water waste prohibitions consistent with the descriptions above.

#### **C. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must provide the following documentation:

1. Copy of water waste prohibition ordinances, policies or tariffs enacted in the service area.

#### **D. WATER SAVINGS ASSUMPTIONS**

If available, provide calculated water savings and calculation methodology.

**Muni-4: CONSERVATION PRICING (FOR PURVEYORS ONLY)**

**A. DESCRIPTION**

Conservation Pricing is a method of encouraging efficient water use through quantity-based pricing structures. In order to provide economic incentives for efficient water use, the applicant must bill by metered volume of use, and must use an Increasing Block Rate pricing structure. An Increasing Block Rate Structure provides for an increase in the unit price of water as the volume of water used increases.

The applicant should also impose seasonal or excess-use surcharges to reduce demand during summer months. Applicants should establish rates based upon long-run marginal costs, or the cost of adding the next unit of capacity to the system.

Applicants that supply water but not sewer service should work with sewer agencies so that those sewer agencies adopt conservation pricing for sewer service.

The adoption of lifeline rates for low-income customers will neither qualify nor disqualify a rate structure as meeting the requirements of this BMP.

**B. COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must accomplish the following:

1. Within one year of implementation date, establish and maintain a year-round Increasing Block Rate pricing structure;
2. Impose seasonal or excess-use surcharges to reduce demand during summer months; and
3. If you do not supply sewer service, work with sewer agencies so they may adopt conservation pricing for sewer service.

**C. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must provide the following information:

1. Copy of rate structure used for each customer class; and
2. A copy of the rates charged in order to reduce demand during summer months.

**D. WATER SAVINGS ASSUMPTIONS**

If available, provide calculated water savings and calculation methodology.

## **Muni-5: PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

### **A. DESCRIPTION**

**Public Information Programs** are effective methods of promoting water conservation and informing the public of the necessity to use water efficiently. Under this BMP, the applicant must establish and maintain an active public information program to educate and inform the public about water conservation.

An effective public information program should include, but is not limited to: providing speakers to employees, community groups, and the media; using paid and public service advertising; using bill inserts; providing trend and comparison information on bills; and providing informational pamphlets, flyers, and manuals. In order to maximize available resources, the applicant should coordinate with government agencies, industry groups, public interest groups, and the media.

**School Education Programs** are a proven and widely accepted method of achieving water conservation. Under this BMP, the applicant must establish and maintain an active school education program to inform and educate students within the service area of the importance of efficient water use.

An effective school education program should include, but is not limited to, classroom presentations, instructional assistance, and distribution of educational materials. Grade-appropriate materials and presentations should be available for grade levels K-12. The applicant is encouraged to coordinate with government agencies, industry groups, public interest groups, and the media to maximize available educational resources. Education materials must meet the state education framework requirements.

The applicant may receive credit for this BMP by utilizing resources available through the Authority.

### **B. COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must accomplish the following:

1. Within one year of implementation date, establish and maintain active public information and school education programs to promote and educate the public about water conservation.

### **C. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must provide the following documentation:

1. Number and type of public speaking events related to conservation during the reporting period, and approximate attendance for each;
2. Number and type of media events relating to conservation during reporting period;

3. Number and type of paid or public service announcements relating to conservation produced or sponsored during reporting period; and
4. Types of written information (bill inserts, flyers, pamphlets, etc.) relating to conservation provided to customers during the reporting period;
5. Number of school presentations made during the reporting period;
6. Number of in-service presentations or teacher's workshops conducted during the reporting period; and
7. Number and type of curriculum materials developed or provided by the applicant.

**D. WATER SAVINGS ASSUMPTION**

If available, provide calculated water savings and calculation methodology.

## **Muni-6: LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**

### **A. DESCRIPTION**

Landscape conservation programs are an effective method of accounting for and reducing outdoor water usage. Under this BMP, the applicant must provide non-residential and residential customers with methods for improving landscape water-use efficiency, customer support and education.

The applicant must identify accounts with dedicated irrigation meters and assign reference evapotranspiration (ET<sub>o</sub>) based irrigation schedules equal to no more than 80% of reference evapotranspiration per square foot of landscape area.

The applicant must develop and implement a plan to market landscape water-use surveys to ICI and residential accounts. The water-use surveys must, at a minimum, include: measurement of the total irrigable area; irrigation system checks and distribution uniformity analysis; review and development of irrigation schedules; provision of a customer survey report and information packet. When cost-effective, the applicant should offer the following: financial incentives to convert landscape material to Xeriscape; landscape water-use analyses and surveys; installation of dedicated landscape meters; and follow-up to water-use analyses and surveys.

For new customers and change-of-service customer accounts, the applicant must provide information on climate-appropriate landscape design, and efficient irrigation equipment and management. The applicant must install climate-appropriate water-efficient landscaping at water agency facilities, and install landscape meters where appropriate. Applicants with ordinance-making powers may consider adopting ordinances that require all new homes, and all new apartment complexes and commercial buildings to install a water conserving landscape.

The applicant may consider offering the following services:

1. Training in landscape maintenance and irrigation system maintenance and design;
2. Financial incentives to convert landscape material to Xeriscape;
3. Rebates and incentives to purchase conservation equipment to improve efficiency including rain sensors or soil-moisture sensors;
4. Notices at the start and end of the irrigation season alerting customers to check irrigation systems and to make repairs and adjustments as necessary.

### **B. COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must accomplish the following:

1. Within one year of implementation date, identify accounts with dedicated irrigation meters and assign reference ET<sub>o</sub> based irrigation schedules equal to no more than 80% of reference evapotranspiration per square foot of landscape area;
2. Within two years of implementation date, develop and implement a plan to market water-use surveys to customers;
3. Within one year of implementation date, develop and implement a customer incentive program to include financial incentives, converting landscape material

- to xeriscape; landscape water-use analyses and surveys; installation of dedicated landscape meters and follow-up to water use analyses and surveys;
4. If applicable, provide information on climate appropriate landscape design and efficient irrigation equipment and management; and
  5. If applicable, consider a dopting or dinance r equiring ne w hom e, apartment complexes and commercial buildings to install a water conserving landscape.

**C. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must provide the following documentation:

1. Number of accounts with dedicated irrigation meters and assigned reference ETo based schedules;
2. Number of water-use s urveys o ffered a nd num ber o f w ater-use s urveys completed;
3. Number, type, and dollar value of incentives, rebates, and loans offered to and completed by customers;
4. If applicable, results from climate appropriate landscape design and efficient irrigation; and
5. If applicable, number of new homes, apartment complexes or commercial buildings to install water conserving landscape.

**D. WATER SAVINGS ASSUMPTIONS**

Assume landscape surveys will result in a 15% reduction in demand for landscape uses by surveyed accounts.

**Muni-7: CONSERVATION COORDINATOR**

**A. DESCRIPTION**

A conservation coordinator is an individual designated to oversee and coordinate conservation efforts within an applicant's service area. Under this BMP, the applicant is required to designate a conservation coordinator who will be responsible for preparation and implementation of the applicant's Groundwater Conservation Plan, preparation and submittal of annual conservation status reports, and implementation of BMPs.

**B. COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must accomplish the following:

1. Within six months of implementation date, designate a conservation coordinator to oversee conservation activities;
2. Provide the conservation coordinator with the necessary resources to prepare and implement the Groundwater Conservation Plan; and
3. Provide support staff if necessary.

**C. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must provide the following documentation:

1. Conservation coordinator name, staff position, address, and phone number;
2. Date the conservation coordinator was identified by the purveyor;
3. Duties of the conservation coordinator; and
4. Number of conservation coordinator staff (if applicable).

**D. WATER SAVINGS ASSUMPTIONS**

If available, provide calculated water savings and calculation methodology.

## **Muni-8: WATER USE SURVEY PROGRAMS**

### **A. DESCRIPTION**

Water use survey programs are an effective method of tracking and controlling water usage. To accurately evaluate current water-use efficiency by account, applicants must develop and market water-use surveys and customer incentive programs.

Water use surveys for ICI customers must include: a site visit; an evaluation of all water-using equipment and processes; a report identifying recommended conservation measures and their expected payback; and available agency incentives. The applicant should conduct annual follow-up visits to evaluate the status of recommended water-saving improvements.

Water use surveys for residential customers must include: meter checks; leak checks for toilets and faucets; determination of flow rates for showerheads, aerators, and toilets; irrigation system and timer checks; and review or development of irrigation schedules. Residential water-use surveys should also include measurement of currently landscaped and total irrigable areas. The applicant must provide the customer with an information packet including evaluation results and water saving recommendations.

### **B. COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must accomplish the following:

1. Within two years of implementation date, contact and offer water-use surveys and customer incentives; and
2. Within three years of implementation date, begin surveying.

### **C. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must provide the following documentation:

1. A description of the plan to market water-use surveys per customer class;
2. The number of customers offered water-use surveys per customer class during the reporting period and the number of water-use surveys completed during the reporting period; and
3. The number of follow-ups completed per customer class during the reporting period.

### **D. WATER SAVINGS ASSUMPTIONS**

Calculate water savings as follows:

Water Savings = Number of Surveys [No. of Customers] \* Estimated Savings \* Water Used [Gal/Yr Per Customer]

Where: Estimated Savings = 20% or percentage determined through survey results

Water Used = Average (5 year) annual water use by ICI customers receiving the survey

Source: A&N Technical Services, Inc. (1999)

## **Muni-9: RESIDENTIAL PLUMBING RETROFIT, AND REBATE PROGRAMS**

### **A. DESCRIPTION**

Plumbing retrofits and high efficiency washing machines are an effective method of achieving conservation in the residential sector. Under this BMP, the applicant must identify single-family and multi-family residences constructed prior to 1992, and must develop a plan to distribute or directly install high-quality, low-flow plumbing devices as needed. High-quality, low-flow plumbing devices include: showerheads rated at 2.5 gpm or less, faucet aerators rated at 2.2 gpm or less, toilet displacement devices, toilet flappers, and ultra-low-flush toilets that use 1.6 gallons per flush or less. The applicant must maintain the distribution or installation programs so as to achieve retrofits on at least 10% of single-family residences and 10% of multi-family residences each reporting period. The applicant may meet the requirements of this BMP through enforceable ordinances requiring replacement of inefficient plumbing fixtures.

Under this BMP, the applicant must offer cost-effective financial incentives to encourage the purchase and use of high-efficiency washing machines. Incentive levels should be calculated using methods found in *A Guide to Customer Incentives for Water Conservation*, prepared by Barakat and Chamberlain (February 1994). Incentives and rebates may be offered in conjunction with rebate programs sponsored by local energy providers.

### **B. COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must accomplish the following:

1. Within six months of implementation date, identify single-family and multi-family residences constructed prior to 1992;
2. Within one year of implementation date, develop and implement a plan to distribute or directly install high-quality, low-flow plumbing devices to single-family and multi-family residential customers and/or rebates for high efficiency washing machines;
3. Within three years of implementation date, distribute and retrofit at least 10% single-family and multi-family accounts constructed prior to 1992 with high-quality, low-flow plumbing devices, and/or provide rebates for high efficiency washing machines; and
4. Within three years of implementation date, offer cost-effective financial incentives to encourage purchase and use of high efficiency washing machines.

### **C. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must provide the following documentation:

1. The number of pre-1992 single-family and multi-family accounts in the service area;
2. The number and type of low-flow plumbing devices distributed to single-family and multi-family residences during the reporting period;
3. The number and type of low-flow plumbing devices retrofitted to single-family and multi-family residences during the reporting period; and

4. The number of high-efficiency washing machine rebates given each reporting period.

**D. WATER SAVINGS ASSUMPTIONS**

Calculate water savings as follows:

1. Water savings assumptions for retrofitted devices  

$$\text{Annual Water Savings} = \text{Number of Devices Retrofitted} * \text{Device Savings} * 365$$

Probability of Installation may be determined by the purveyor using the following guidelines, or may be determined by the purveyor:

- a. 100% for retrofits conducted by the purveyor;
- b. 80% for retrofits resulting from customer requests for survey kits; and
- c. 50% for retrofits resulting from survey kit distributed to the public.

Where: Device Savings may be found in the Retrofit Device Savings table found in the municipal GCP application.

2. Water savings assumptions for high-efficiency washing machines

For single-family machines:

$$\text{Annual Water Savings} = \text{Savings per Load in gallons} * \text{Water use per Load} * [\text{Loads per Person} * \text{Persons per Household}] * 365 * \text{Number of Machines}$$

For multi-family machines:

$$\text{Annual Water Savings} = \text{Savings per Load in gallons} * \text{Water use per Load} * [\text{Loads per Person} * \text{Persons per Household} * \text{Units per Machine}] * 365 * \text{Number of Machines}$$

$$\text{Water Savings per Load in gallons} = 37.8\% * \text{Water Use per Load in gallons}$$

Where: Water Savings = Gallons per Year

Water Use per Load = 48.5 Gallons

Loads per Person = 0.45

3. Water savings assumptions for ultra-low-flush toilets

For single-family dwellings:

$$\text{Annual Water Savings} = [6.693 * \text{Persons per Dwelling} - 0.529 * (\text{Persons per Dwelling})^2 + 7.826] * 365 * \text{Number of Toilets}$$

**OR**

$$\text{Annual Water Savings} = [29.9 * \text{Number of First Toilets Replaced} + 20.6 * \text{Number of Second Toilets Replaced} + 19.1 * \text{Number of third (or higher) Toilets Replaced}] * 365$$

For multi-family dwellings:

$$\text{Annual Water Savings} = [19.138 * \text{Persons per Unit} - 0.942 * (\text{Persons per Unit})^2 + 2.181] * 365 * \text{Number of Toilets}$$

**OR**

Annual Water Savings = [44 \* Number of First Toilets Replaced + 34 \* Number of Second Toilets Replaced] \* 365

Where: Water Savings = Gallons per Year

## **Muni-10: REUSE OF TREATED EFFLUENT**

### **A. DESCRIPTION**

The use of treated effluent is an effective method of reducing groundwater usage. Use of treated municipal effluent is regulated by the TCEQ under Chapter 210 of the TAC. Use of treated effluent is considered an alternative source of water, and is therefore free from restriction during the Authority's critical periods. For Groundwater Conservation Plan purposes, the reuse water should be clearly related to a decrease in reliance on the aquifer. For water quality protection purposes, the use of treated effluent on the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone is discouraged.

Under this BMP, the applicant must identify ICI customers according to use, and must investigate the feasibility of replacing their Edwards Aquifer groundwater use with treated effluent. The applicant must provide a description of effluent treatment facilities.

The applicant must implement programs to provide as much treated effluent to as many customers as possible.

### **B. COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must accomplish the following:

1. To the extent that treated effluent is available for reuse, replace the use of Edwards Aquifer groundwater on golf courses, in large cooling plants, and in other industrial or landscape processes identified by the applicant.

### **C. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must provide the following documentation:

1. Description of effluent treatment facilities.
2. Number of gallons or acre-feet of previous average groundwater use for customers served by reuse water.
3. Number of gallons or acre-feet of current groundwater use.
4. Number of gallons or acre-feet of current treated effluent use.

### **D. WATER SAVINGS ASSUMPTIONS**

Water savings are estimated at 100% of total amount that would have been used with Edward's water.

**APPENDIX C:**  
**INDUSTRIAL BMPs**

**Ind-1: SYSTEM WATER AUDITS, LEAK DETECTION AND REPAIR**

**A. DESCRIPTION**

System Water Audit and Leak Detection & Repair programs are effective methods of accounting for all water usage, and are essential to a sound water management program.

**System Water Audit**

Under this BMP, industrial users with greater than five connections must conduct annual pre-screening system audits to determine if full-scale system audits are necessary. If an applicant fails to account for a minimum of 85% of a system's water use, the applicant must conduct a full distribution system audit.

**Leak Detection and Repair Program**

In order to reduce water losses due to leakage, applicants must maintain a Leak Detection and Repair Program, and must repair leaks when detected. Unaccounted water losses must be no more than 15% of total water in the system.

**B. COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must accomplish the following:

1. System Water Audit: Annually complete a pre-screening system water audit to determine the need for a full-scale system water audit. The pre-screening system water audit must be calculated as follows:
  - a. determine metered end-uses and other verifiable uses;
  - b. determine total supply; and
  - c. if metered end-uses plus other verifiable uses represent less than 85% of total supply, a full-scale audit is necessary.
2. Leak Detection and Repair Program: Perform distribution system leak detection and repair identified leaks when cost-effective.

**C. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must provide the following documentation:

1. Pre-screening audit results along with supporting documentation;
2. Records of audit results; and
3. Description of the leak detection and repair program; and

**D. WATER SAVINGS ASSUMPTIONS**

If available, provide calculated water savings and calculation methodology.

**Ind-2: WATER WASTE PROHIBITION**

**A. DESCRIPTION**

Water Waste Prohibition measures are actions intended to prohibit specific wasteful activities. Under this BMP, the applicant must implement and enforce measures to prohibit wasteful activities including: runoff from property, landscape watering between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., single pass cooling systems in new connections, non-recirculating systems in new conveyer car washes, non-recirculating systems in new commercial laundry systems, non-recycling decorative water fountains, and other wasteful activities.

**B. COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must accomplish the following:

1. Within six months of implementation date, implement and enforce water waste prohibition measures consistent with the description above.

**C. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must provide the following documentation:

1. Description of water waste prohibition measures implemented by the applicant.

**D. WATER SAVINGS ASSUMPTIONS**

If available, provide calculated water savings and calculation methodology.

**Ind-3: SUB-METERING**

**A. DESCRIPTION**

Sub-metering is an effective method of tracking water usage when water is used in multiple and distinctly different processes. Under this BMP, applicants with greater than five connections must perform a feasibility study to determine the benefits of installing sub-meters on facilities or equipment which comprise 20% or more of the applicant's total water use, and have a distinctly different end-use. The applicant must also conduct a study to determine the feasibility of installing dedicated landscape sub-meters.

Many industrial uses require large meters that cannot measure water usage during low-flow periods. In order to account for all water usage, the applicant should determine the feasibility of converting to turbo water meters or similar technology.

**B. COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must accomplish the following:

1. Within one year of implementation date, conduct a feasibility study to determine the benefits of installing sub-meters on facilities or equipment that comprise at least 20% of the applicant's total water usage; and
2. Within two years of implementation date, conduct a feasibility study to determine the benefits of installing dedicated landscape sub-meters.

**C. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must provide the following documentation:

1. Results of feasibility study to determine the benefits of installing sub-meters on facilities or equipment that comprise at least 20% of the applicant's total water usage; and
2. Results of feasibility study to determine the benefits of installing dedicated landscape sub-meters.

**D. WATER SAVINGS ASSUMPTIONS**

Assume meter retrofits will result in a 20% reduction in demand by retrofitted equipment.

## **Ind-4: LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**

### **A. DESCRIPTION**

Landscape conservation programs are an effective method of accounting for and reducing outdoor water usage. Under this BMP, the applicant must conduct a landscape water-use survey. The landscape water-use survey must at a minimum include: measurement of the total irrigable area; irrigation system checks and distribution uniformity analysis; and review or development of irrigation schedules.

The applicant must also develop reference evapotranspiration (ET<sub>o</sub>)-based irrigation schedules equal to no more than 80% of ET<sub>o</sub>. If landscape use is determined to exceed 20% of total use, the applicant must install a dedicated irrigation meter.

The applicant should develop and implement a program to maintain irrigation systems. Maintenance programs should include pre-irrigation system checks, adjustment of irrigation timers when necessary, installation of rain sensors, and regular review of irrigation schedules.

When cost effective, the applicant should provide the following: training personnel in landscape maintenance, irrigation system maintenance, and irrigation system design; installation of climate-appropriate water efficient landscaping; and dual metering where appropriate.

### **B. COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must accomplish the following:

1. Within one year of implementation date, conduct a landscape water-use survey;
2. Within two years of implementation date, develop ET<sub>o</sub>-based irrigation schedules equal to no more than 80% of evapotranspiration;
3. Within three years of implementation date, install a dedicated landscape meter if landscape use is determined to exceed 20% of total use; and
4. Within three years of implementation date, implement and maintain an irrigation system.

### **C. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must provide the following documentation:

1. Results of landscape survey with estimated ET<sub>o</sub>-based irrigation schedule and annual water savings; and
2. Results of program to maintain irrigation system.

### **D. WATER SAVINGS ASSUMPTIONS**

Assume landscape surveys will result in a 15% reduction in demand for landscape uses.

**Ind-5: GOLF COURSE CONSERVATION****A. DESCRIPTION**

Golf course conservation is an effective method of reducing regional groundwater demands. Under this BMP, the applicant must conduct a landscape survey to determine reference evapotranspiration (ET<sub>o</sub>)-based irrigation schedules. The applicant must also implement a watering regimen that uses only the amount of groundwater necessary to maintain the viability of the course and maintain the course in a safe condition. Groundwater must only be applied to areas that are essential to the use of the course. Roughs should not be irrigated at any time, and water hazards using potable water should be eliminated when economically or environmentally feasible.

The applicant must provide methods of achieving enhanced groundwater conservation through utilization of a computer controlled irrigation system (CCIS), or similar technology. In order to achieve maximum efficiency a CCIS should include at least the following components: computer controller (digital operating system), software, interface modules, satellite field controller, soil sensors, and weather station. A CCIS should be designed so as to prevent over-watering, flooding, pooling, evaporation, and run-off of water, and should prevent sprinkler heads from applying water at an intake rate exceeding the soil holding capacity. The plan shall provide an analysis of the cost effectiveness of utilizing a CCIS.

If non-Edwards aquifer water is available, or may be available to the course within three years of the effective date of the applicant's groundwater conservation plan, the applicant must convert to use of such non-Edwards aquifer water as soon as is practicable. The applicant must include projected implementation dates to convert to alternative water supplies. Use of reclaimed, reused, and/or recycled water by golf courses located on the Recharge Zone is discouraged.

**B. COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must accomplish the following:

1. Within one year of implementation date, perform a landscape survey to determine ET<sub>o</sub>-based irrigation schedules;
2. Within one year of implementation date, establish a watering regimen that uses only the amount of groundwater necessary to maintain the viability of the course and maintain it in a safe condition;
3. Within two years of implementation date, install and operate a CCIS using ET<sub>o</sub>-based irrigation schedules; and
4. Within three years of implementation date, convert to a non-Edwards water supply if available and if environmentally feasible.

**C. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must provide the following documentation:

1. A description of the location and dimensions of the golf course, and type(s) of turf;

2. Results of the landscape survey with estimated ETo-based irrigation schedule and annual water savings;
3. A description of the watering regimen used to maintain the viability of the course and maintain it in a safe condition;
4. A description of the water-delivery system and CCIS (or similar irrigation control system) used, and how and when it is used;
5. A description of management practices employed to control the amount of water applied to the golf course;
6. A statement of any actions or plans to obtain alternative water source(s), and a copy of the letter of commitment from the appropriate agency; and
7. Copy of TCEQ permit to use treated effluent (if applicable).

**D. WATER SAVINGS ASSUMPTIONS**

Assume landscape surveys and CCIS will result in a reduction in demand for landscape uses. Replacement of Edwards groundwater with an alternative water source(s) may result in up to 100% reduction in Edwards groundwater demand.

**Ind-6: ATHLETIC FIELD CONSERVATION****A. DESCRIPTION**

Athletic field conservation is an effective method of reducing regional groundwater demands. Under this BMP, the applicant must implement a watering regimen that uses only the amount of groundwater necessary to maintain the viability of the turf and maintain the turf in a safe condition. Groundwater must only be applied to areas that are essential to the use of the field.

The applicant must also conduct a landscape water-use survey and develop reference evapotranspiration (ET<sub>o</sub>)-based irrigation schedules equal to no more than 80% of reference evapotranspiration. The survey must include the following elements: measurement of total irrigable area; irrigation system checks and distribution uniformity analysis; and review or development of irrigation schedules. If landscape use is determined to exceed 20% of total water use, the applicant must install a dedicated landscape meter.

When cost-effective, the applicant should provide methods for achieving enhanced groundwater conservation through utilization of a computer controlled irrigation system (CCIS), or similar technology. In order to achieve maximum efficiency a CCIS should include at least the following components: computer controller (digital operating system), software, interface modules, satellite field controller, soil sensors, and weather station. A CCIS should be designed so as to prevent over-watering, flooding, pooling, evaporation, and run-off of water, and should prevent sprinkler heads from applying water at an intake rate exceeding the soil holding capacity. The plan shall provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of utilizing a CCIS.

**B. COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must accomplish the following:

1. Within one year of implementation date, establish a water regimen that uses only the amount of groundwater necessary to maintain the turf in a safe condition;
2. Within one year of implementation date, perform a landscape survey to determine ET<sub>o</sub>-based irrigation schedules;
3. Within two years of implementation date, install a dedicated landscape meter if landscape use is determined to exceed 20% of total use; and
4. If cost-effective, within one year of implementation date, install and operate a computer controlled irrigation system (CCIS) to achieve enhanced groundwater conservation.

**C. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must provide the following documentation:

1. A description of the location and dimensions of the athletic field, and type of turf;
2. A description of the water regimen for maintaining the viability of the turf and maintaining it in a safe condition;
3. Results of landscape survey with estimated ET<sub>o</sub>-based irrigation schedule and annual water savings; and

4. If applicable, a description of the water delivery system and CIS (or similar irrigation control system) used, and how and when it is used.

**D. WATER SAVINGS ASSUMPTIONS**

Assume landscape surveys will result in a 15% reduction in demand for landscape uses.

**Ind-7: NURSERY CONSERVATION**

**A. DESCRIPTION**

Nursery conservation is an effective method of reducing regional groundwater demands. Under this BMP, the applicant must implement a watering regimen that uses only the amount of groundwater necessary to replace evapotranspiration and to maintain the viability of plants. To accommodate a variety of crops with different water requirements, the applicant must create and maintain use of multiple watering zones. Groundwater must be applied through usage of current irrigation techniques such as low-pressure sprinklers and/or micro irrigation systems.

To increase the moisture holding capacity of soils, the applicant should use soil amendments such as wetting agents, polymers/gels, peat moss, or compost. To reduce evaporative losses, the applicant should utilize mulch on plants in large containers.

When appropriate, the applicant must utilize recycling ponds to capture and reuse runoff water. Recycling ponds must be lined or sealed to prevent water losses to percolation.

**B. COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must accomplish the following:

1. Within one year of implementation date, implement and maintain use of multiple watering zones;
2. Maintain use of current irrigation techniques; and
3. When appropriate, install and maintain use of a water recovery and reuse system.

**C. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must provide the following documentation:

1. Description of irrigation techniques and watering zones;
2. Description of mulching practices and soil amendments used; and
3. Description of water recovery and reuse system.

**D. WATER SAVINGS ASSUMPTIONS**

If available, provide calculated water savings and calculation methodology.

**Ind-8: COOLING TOWER CONSERVATION****A. DESCRIPTION**

Cooling towers can be among the largest water using systems in industrial processes. The greatest opportunity to conserve water in cooling tower applications can be realized by controlling the amount of bleed-off and make-up water required by the system.

Under this BMP, industrial users are encouraged to utilize processes or equipment that increases cooling tower efficiency by minimizing the amount of required make-up water, while still meeting the operating parameters of the cooling system. Applicants may institute, but are not limited to the following:

- perform an efficiency audit on each cooling tower to identify areas of improvement;
- use shielding to minimize evaporative loss;
- utilize safe chemical additives to control scaling and corrosion and extend useable “life” of water in cooling tower;
- run system with increased cycles of concentration;
- install filtration systems to remove solids and biological matter;
- install conductivity or pH monitoring systems to control bleed-off;
- install meters to monitor amount of bleed-off and make up water;
- if feasible, install an automatic shut-off system to power-down cooling tower when not in use;
- collect water from other on site uses that is suitable for make-up water or can be treated for such use;
- if feasible, utilize recycled water for cooling tower make-up water;
- harvest rainwater as available to use as make-up water; and
- reuse bleed-off water for other processes on site.

**B. COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must accomplish the following:

1. Within two years of implementation date, reduce the amount of make-up water required by the cooling tower by increasing the cycles of concentration to the maximum level the cooling system can handle; and
2. Utilize any other method available to reduce the amount of make-up water required by the cooling tower.

**C. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must provide the following documentation:

1. Number of cooling towers, and cooling capacity (in tons) for each tower;
2. Description of the process the cooling tower is used for;
3. System requirements for cooling including temperature, volume, and duration of flows (hr/day);
4. Water use records for each tower that include the number of gallons of bleed-off water and the number of gallons of make-up water used daily;

5. Number of cycles of concentration;
6. Description of conductivity or pH sensors used to control bleed-off;
7. Description of chemical compounds and amounts used to amend water quality for cooling tower use; and
8. Description of any alternate water source or system used for composing make-up water.

**D. WATER SAVINGS ASSUMPTIONS**

If available, provide calculated water savings and calculation methodology.

## **Ind-9: CONSERVATION PROGRAMS FOR INDUSTRIAL APPLICANTS**

### **A. DESCRIPTION**

Conservation programs for industrial applicants are essential for reducing water usage in the industrial sector. Under this BMP, the applicant must conduct an industrial water-use survey. The water-use survey must include an evaluation of all water-using equipment and processes, and must result in a report identifying potential conservation measures and their expected payback.

In lieu of the water-use survey, the applicant may choose to implement other programs to reduce water usage. The applicant must reduce water usage by an amount equal to 10% of baseline usage. Baseline usage is defined as the applicant's total verified maximum historical water use.

### **B. COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must accomplish the following:

1. Within one year of implementation date, conduct an industrial water-use survey consistent with the guidelines above; and
2. Within three years of implementation date, implement an alternative program, in lieu of the water-use survey, that reduces water by 10% of baseline usage.

### **C. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must provide the following documentation:

1. Water-use survey results and potential conservation measures identified through the survey; and
2. If utilizing other programs in lieu of the water-use survey and customer incentives program, a description of the programs and estimated water use equal to 10% of baseline use must be documented.

### **D. WATER SAVINGS ASSUMPTIONS**

Calculate water savings as follows:

Water Savings = Estimated Savings \* Water Used

**APPENDIX D:**  
**IRRIGATION BMPs**

**Irr-1: SURGE FLOW IRRIGATION SYSTEM**

**A. DESCRIPTION**

A surge irrigation system applies water intermittently to furrows so as to create a series of on-off periods of either constant or variable time intervals. Under this BMP, the applicant must install and maintain use of a surge irrigation system. The system, must, at a minimum, include butterfly valves or similar equipment that provides equivalent alternating flows with adjustable time periods, and a solar or battery powered timer. The applicant should consider soil types and infiltration rates to maximize effectiveness of the system. The system must also include tailwater recovery and reuse equipment, or measures to prevent tailwater accumulations.

Surge flow irrigation systems, or other systems that achieve documented application efficiencies of at least 60% will be considered the minimum irrigation method for all irrigators within the Edwards Aquifer region.

**B. COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must accomplish the following:

1. Within one year of implementation date, install and maintain a surge irrigation system consistent with the description above.

**C. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must provide the following documentation:

1. Copies of equipment invoices or other evidence for equipment purchase.

**D. WATER SAVINGS ASSUMPTION**

See water savings calculations attached to the irrigation GCP application.

**Irr-2: SPRINKLER AND MICRO IRRIGATION SYSTEMS****A. DESCRIPTIONS**

A side roll sprinkler system consists of a lateral pipe that serves as the axle for a series of wheels (usually 3' in diameter or larger). The sprinkler heads are located along the length of the lateral pipe. The system is powered mechanically, generally by a power unit located at the center of the lateral pipeline. Under this BMP, the applicant must install and maintain use of a side-roll sprinkler system. When necessary, the applicant should utilize low pressure heads (25-35 psi operating pressure) and install pressure or flow regulators to maintain low pressures.

A linear move sprinkler system consists of a continuous, self-moving, straight lateral that irrigates a rectangular field. Low-pressure and dropped spray heads are generally used with a linear system to reduce wind and evaporative losses. Under this BMP, the applicant must install and maintain use of a linear move irrigation system.

A center pivot sprinkler system consists of a continuously moving, horizontal rotating lateral that is supported by towers and anchored at a fixed pivot point at the center of the field. Under this BMP, the applicant must install and maintain use of a center pivot sprinkler system.

Optimum water efficiency can be obtained by using either a Low Energy Precision Application (LEPA) or Low Pressure In-Canopy (LPIC) pivot system. Both systems have dropped sprinkler heads to reduce evaporative losses resulting from spray. The LEPA system has pressure-regulated dropped nozzles that hang from 8-18 inches above the ground. Socks or furrow dikes are often used with the LEPA system to further prevent evaporative water loss and to improve water infiltration to the root zone. A LPIC or Low Elevation Spray Application (LESA) system has dropped sprinkler heads that hang approximately four feet above the ground surface.

A micro irrigation system consists of hoses that are placed above or below the ground surface. Emitters are spaced evenly along the hoses to apply water optimally to the plant. These emitters deliver water in three different modes, drip, bubbler and micro-sprinkler. Micro irrigation systems drastically reduce water losses to evaporation and percolation, and have been shown to be applicable in some vegetable and cotton crops. Under this BMP, the applicant must install and maintain use of a sprinkler and/or micro irrigation system.

**B. COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must accomplish the following:

1. Within two years of implementation date, install and maintain a sprinkler and/or micro irrigation system.

**C. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION**

To receive credit for this BMP, the applicant must provide the following documentation:

1. Copies of equipment invoices or other evidence of equipment purchase.

**D. WATER SAVINGS ASSUMPTIONS**

See water savings calculations attached to the irrigation GCP application.

**APPENDIX E:**  
**ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS**

**Terms and Abbreviations Used in the Authority's GCP are Defined as Follows:**

**Applicant** - any user of Edwards Aquifer groundwater that is regulated by the Authority, including the following: applicants for an initial regular permit with interim authorization status; applicants for a term permit; applicants for initial regular permits; users of recharge permits; permittees of an initial regular permit; and transferees of groundwater rights from an applicant with interim authorization or a permittee with an initial regular permit.

**BMPs** - Best Management Practices

**Bleed-Off** – the circulating water in the tower which is discharged to waste to help keep the dissolved solids concentration of the water below a maximum allowable limit. As a result of evaporation, dissolved solids concentration will continually increase unless reduced by bleed off.

**CCIS** - Computer Controlled Irrigation System

**Commercial Customers** - municipal water customers that provide or distribute a product or a service, such as hotels, restaurants, office buildings, commercial businesses, or other places of commerce. These do not include multi-family residences, agricultural users, or customers that fall within the industrial or institutional classifications.

**Credit** - acknowledgment that a BMP has been implemented correctly and completely.

**Distribution Uniformity (DU)** - a measure of the uniformity of irrigation water distribution over a field.

**ET<sub>o</sub> - Reference Evapotranspiration or PET** - the quantity of water evaporated and transpired from a reference crop (cool season turf grass), if water supplies are not limiting.

**ICI** - Industrial, Commercial, Institutional

**Industrial Customers** - municipal water customers that are primarily manufacturers or processors of materials as defined by the Standard Industrial Classifications (SIC) Code, numbers 2000 through 3999.

**Institutional Customers** - municipal water customers that use water for public service facilities. These include schools, courts, churches, hospitals, and government facilities.

**Irrigation Ditch/Canal** - any ditch or canal that supplies water to an irrigated crop.

**Marginal Cost Pricing** - the incremental cost of producing or acquiring additional supplies including conserved water; the cost of providing more water service. Long-run marginal costing methods can identify costs that can be avoided through more efficient use or non-use (conservation).

**Multi-Family Accounts** - municipal water accounts where one water meter serves more than one dwelling unit, as in apartment complexes.

**Non-Purveyor** – Any entity other than a public utility, mutual water company, county water district or municipality that delivers drinking water.

**Per Capita Water Usage** - the sum total of water diverted into a water supply system for residential, commercial, and public and institutional uses divided by actual population served.

**Purveyor** – A public utility, mutual water company, county water district or municipality that delivers drinking water to customers.

**Retrofit** - the replacement of water using fixtures or equipment with more efficient equipment.

**TCEQ** - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

**TWDB** - Texas Water Development Board

**ULFT** - Ultra-Low-Flush Toilet