

A scenic view of a river flowing through a dense forest. The water is turbulent, creating white rapids and small cascades over dark, mossy rocks. Large, thick tree trunks frame the scene, with lush green foliage filling the background. The overall atmosphere is natural and serene.

# ASRPP

Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pooling Program

***The ASRPP is another unique initiative of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan for permit holders who wish to help protect the aquifer.***

The Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) has developed a new component to the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) program in the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan. The ASRPP allows EAA groundwater permit holders to participate by “pooling” their unpumped groundwater together with other users’ unpumped groundwater to collectively offset annual authorized pumping.

The ASRPP is open to municipal, industrial, and unrestricted irrigation rights (base irrigation groundwater cannot be accepted into this program) with no limits or obligations on permit holders. Permit holders are still allowed to pump or market their groundwater withdrawal rights as usual. After the end of the year, the EAA will reimburse each participant a portion of their unpumped groundwater that was used to offset the amounts credited to ASR.

The EAA uses a proportional ratio calculation to administer payments to all pooling participants, so everyone who participates and contributes unpumped rights into the pool at the end of the year will receive a payment based on the amounts actually contributed to the ASR (see Example Calculation).



## HOW IT WORKS

In May of each year, the EAA will make a determination on how much groundwater SAWS is authorized to inject for the year — based on the number of participants in the pool. After year end, EAA staff will process all groundwater transfers, factor in any Critical Period Management reductions, and process annual groundwater use reports to determine the unused amounts each participant has contributed to the pool.

This total is then compared against the amounts of groundwater authorized for ASR injection within the same year to determine a “utilization ratio.” That ratio is then applied to the amounts contributed by each participant to determine the portion eligible for reimbursement at a rate of \$50 per acre-foot.

## HOW TO ENROLL

Joining the ASRPP is easy! Interested permit holders should submit an enrollment application to the EAA. Applications are processed and all eligible permit holders are contacted to sign an ASRPP agreement. Participation automatically renews each year without any further action on the part of the permit holder. If you decide to no longer participate in the program, simply file an Opt Out Notice before the next calendar year begins.

The ASRPP is one more unique EAA program that is a win/win for the region. It allows permit holders an opportunity to make money for effectively managing their groundwater permit and helps ensure sustainable water management for the benefit of springflow and species protection.

If you are an Edwards Aquifer groundwater permit holder, you should take some time to learn about the program’s benefits.

Contact Rick Illgner at 210-477-5140 or [rillgner@edwardsaquifer.org](mailto:rillgner@edwardsaquifer.org) or Earl Parker at 210-477-8518 or [eparker@edwardsaquifer.org](mailto:eparker@edwardsaquifer.org)

### Example Calculation:

EAA authorizes 500 acre-feet to be injected into the ASR against the projected Groundwater Pool. After the year is over, and all pooling participants’ unpumped rights are calculated and contributed, there are 1,200 acre-feet in the pool.

The pool utilization ratio for that year is equal to  $500/1,200$  or 41.67%.

Your personal contribution of unpumped rights into the pool was 20 acre-feet. The yearly ratio is applied to your 20 acre-feet of unpumped rights, meaning that 8.33 acre-feet of your remaining rights were injected into the ASR. You are reimbursed at \$50 per acre-foot for those injected rights giving you a payment of \$416.67 for your ASR contribution.

\* This is not a “rebate” program for unpumped rights, as there is no guarantee to how much of your contributed rights will be injected.



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