

FACT SHEET

UPDATED OCTOBER 2023



GENERAL MANAGER:

Roland Ruiz

MISSION:

The Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) manages, enhances, and protects the Edwards Aquifer system.

HISTORY:

Created in 1993 by the Texas Legislature's passage of the EAA Act. Began operations on June 28, 1996, succeeding the former Edwards Underground Water District.

2023 ADOPTED OPERATING BUDGET:

The 2023 Adopted Operating Budget supports two major programmatic areas: A General Fund of \$23.35 million in projected expenses, supported by revenues generated through the assessment of a general aquifer management fee of \$54 per acre-foot; and an Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) fund of \$22.36 million in projected expenses, supported by revenues generated through the assessment of a \$30 per acre-foot program aquifer management fee. Combined, this makes for a \$45.71 million comprehensive budget funded by a combined aquifer management fee of \$84 per acre-foot, which is unchanged from the 2012 rate.

JURISDICTION:

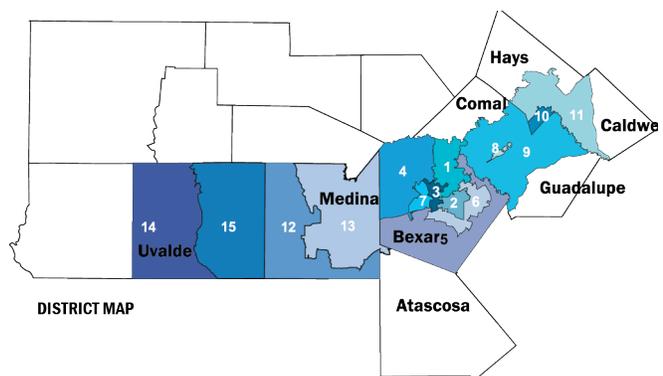
All of Uvalde, Medina, and Bexar counties and portions of Atascosa, Comal, Guadalupe, Caldwell, and Hays counties.

PERMITTED WITHDRAWALS:

572,000 acre-feet of groundwater withdrawal permits are currently authorized for municipal, industrial, and irrigation purposes. This permitted amount does not include withdrawals from exempt wells.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The EAA is a political subdivision of the State of Texas and is governed by a 17 member board of directors. Fifteen of the board positions are elected by popular vote from single-member districts and two are appointed - one on an alternating basis by the Commissioners Courts of Medina and Uvalde counties, and the other by the South Central Texas Water Advisory Committee (SCTWAC). SCTWAC advises the EAA's board of directors on downstream water rights and issues. The EAA is a member of the Texas Water Development Board Region L Planning Group.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Enrique Valdivia, Chairman
Bexar County- District 7

Rachel Allyn Sanborn, Vice-Chair
Hays/Caldwell Counties - District 11

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Bexar County- District 4

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Comal/Guadalupe Counties - District 9

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Uvalde County- District 14

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Gary Middleton
SCTWAC - Appointed Director

Bruce Alexander
Medina/Uvalde Counties- Appointed Director

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THE NEXT GENERATION OF THE EAA MISSION

This concept is a two-pronged approach between the **Edwards Aquifer Authority {EAA}** and its supporting non-profit, **The Edwards Aquifer Conservancy {EAC}**, in which both entities play significant roles in managing this new program for the purpose of aquifer protection, enhancement, and conservation.

This comprehensive legacy program will support the next generation around the mission of managing, enhancing and protecting the Edwards Aquifer system. In turn, demonstrating the innovation, imagination and inclusion it will continue to take to preserve the Edwards Aquifer.

SIGNATURE PROJECTS FIELD RESEARCH PARK (FRP)



Less than a mile from the Education Outreach Center, The Field Research Park (FRP) features multiple land management and field research activities designed to uncover and glean insights into the Edwards Aquifer. The research currently being conducted is revealing data that creates conversations for possibilities regarding aquifer sustainability and viability in the face of growing demands.

SIGNATURE PROJECTS EDUCATION OUTREACH CENTER (EOC)

Designed for students of all ages and abilities, The EOC offers one-of-a-kind STEAM experiences for Edwards Aquifer public outreach, education, and innovation. Along with these offerings the center houses native and endangered species aquariums where visitors can learn about the species that live in the Edwards Aquifer.

The EOC is nestled on Morgan's Wonderland Camp, and an accessible multi-day camp experience located on the northern outskirts of San Antonio, Texas. The center features an award-winning Native Plant Demonstration Garden, which features 20 distinct Texas native plants that receive irrigation via the garden's rainwater harvesting system.

By the end of 2023, some 7,500 visitors will have toured the Education Outreach Center! The center is the premiere aquifer education destination, and the ideal setting for educators to bring their students for a field trip experience. To learn more, please visit www.eaaeoc.org



One of the primary land management strategies being studied at the FRP is the berm and swale system. The intent of the berm and swale is to slow surface runoff and improve soil health by holding moisture in it for a longer period of time. This potentially improves both filtration and infiltration of surface water runoff – possibly leading to an increase in the quantity and quality of Edwards Aquifer water. These and other methods are being meticulously observed and measured, and the results will be used to advance techniques and practices that bring about increased confidence and certainty in the Edwards Aquifer, for generations to come.

