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The EAA and EAC: The Next Generation, Conceptual Overview: A Case for Regionwide Conservation

San Antonio, TX – Today, Tuesday, August 11, 2020, during the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) board meeting, EAA General Manager Roland Ruiz, presented a high-level summary of a concept titled, *The EAA and EAC: The Next Generation, Conceptual Overview: A Case for Regionwide Conservation*. The document details ways in which the EAA and The Edwards Aquifer Conservancy (EAC) could, over time, assume the management and operation of a program focused on conservation, aquifer protection and enhancement. The EAA board of directors unanimously voted to move forward in the pursuance of exploring this new conservation concept.

Previously, in 2008, the EAA joined with the City of San Antonio in an interlocal cooperation agreement to provide geological assessment and easement monitoring in support of a growing program conservation program, known as the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP).

"The EAPP is focused on doing its work in Bexar County and points West. Our program could then be focused East of Cibolo Creek in Comal and Hays counties. Where currently there isn't such a program that can go about and evaluate such properties and put easement on them. This would allow us to focus our work in the early stages there and link it to springflow protection, which would assist us in the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Program renewal process that awaits us as we look to 2028."

- **Roland Ruiz, EAA General Manager**

As envisioned, the proposed program would embrace the opportunity to complement and eventually stand on its own as the primary aquifer protection program for the Edwards region. Furthermore, the initiatives that could be encompassed within this program would proactively fund,

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enroll, manage, monitor, and maintain land and water conservation properties for the preservation and protection of the Edwards Aquifer and its spring systems, with a particular focus on the Contributing and Recharge Zones.

The EAA is a regional water management agency that manages, enhances and protects the Edwards Aquifer a major groundwater system serving approximately 2 million South Central Texans. The EAA jurisdiction spans across 8 counties including Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, and parts of Atascosa, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Comal and Hays counties.

More information can be found at www.edwardsaquifer.org