

ENTITY/INDIVIDUAL	STATEMENT OF INTEREST
AGUA	As a member of the RIP, AGUA will work to ensure that the quality of springflow required by aquatic species, as well as the quantity of springflow, is maintained.
JIM BOWER	We need facts and must get away from emotion and self interest. We have to determine the minimum spring flow for the endangered species, but also need information such as Edwards recharge data, the additions and losses downstream, and how flows from the Edwards interacts with the estuaries. You cannot successfully manage the water looking at only one aspect. And, yes, I think it possible that all parties can be satisfied if we all work toward that end.
CITIZENS UNITED FOR LAKE PLACID	As a member of the RIP, CULP will work to ensure that the quality of spring flow required by aquatic species, as well as the quantity of spring flow, is maintained
JOHN M. DONAHUE, PH.D. PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY, TRINITY UNIVERSITY	As a cultural anthropologist, observing and writing on water management issues in Central Texas, I have been struck by the variety of cultural definitions of water and its uses that stakeholders bring to the table. I would hope that the EARIP might define its mission and scope to include the entire ecosystem which depends on and benefits from the Edwards Aquifer. This would be a step in addressing two current cultural contradictions in Texas: the legal separation of groundwater from surface water and the defining of water management on political boundaries that often do not reflect hydrological reality. The EARIP will not resolve these contradictions by itself, but could provide a larger cultural framework in which to talk about the environment and its health on its own terms and not on our particular ones. Let the EARIP reflect the cultural principle that politics and economics are part of the environment and not vice versa.
THE EDWARDS AQUIFER RESEARCH & DATA CENTER	The Edwards Aquifer Research & Data Center is interested in the RIP, since we were established to focus on research on the Edwards Aquifer. We have done so since the late 1970's. Much of our research has dealt with the endangered species of the aquifer and springs and we continue to be interested in this Unique Ecosystem.

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THE GREATER EDWARDS AQUIFER ALLIANCE	<p>EAA's interest in participating in the EARIP can be summed up by the opening statement of our Edwards Aquifer Protection Plan: "The Edwards Aquifer Ecosystem of Central Texas is one of our most valuable, irreplaceable and endangered public treasures. It is our right and duty to preserve and protect the Aquifer, its contributing Hill Country watersheds, its great springs, and its native biodiversity for the benefit of all residents and all future generations." We believe that maintaining spring flows and insuring that only high quality water enters the aquifer should be among the issues of focus for the EARIP as they are central to preserving the threatened and endangered species.</p>
THE GUADALUPE BASIN COALITION	<p>Scientific review and, if warranted, refinement, of Comal and San Marcos spring flow levels needed to avoid taking of and jeopardy to protected species. Formulation of a fair, effective and enforceable critical period management plan that will ensure natural spring flow at Comal and San Marcos springs at levels needed for the protected species at all times, including during a repeat of the drought of record. Maximization of federal and cooperative grant funding for EARIP activities and research, and also for program implementation actions which require extensive capital investment, including expanded water conservation and reclaimed water use initiatives, and the development of alternative water supply solutions for the region.</p>
THE GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY	<p>Springs from the Edwards Aquifer are the sources of major tributary rivers to the Guadalupe River. The springflow is critical to the endangered species at the springs, the ecology of the Guadalupe River and San Antonio Bay, and the economy of the Guadalupe River Basin. While the contribution of the springs decreases during droughts as surface water runoff is unavailable, it actually increases in terms of the proportion of the flow in the river that is provided during droughts. Springflow is a vital component of the surface water rights in the Guadalupe River Basin that is relied upon by the municipal, agricultural and industrial water users of the basin</p>

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CON MIMS	<p>My primary interest will be in representing the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region L). Since the RIP process ultimately may determine Edwards Aquifer pumping limits, my interest is in having the principal water planning group in the region engaged in the process.</p> <p>As Executive Director of the Nueces River Authority (NRA), I am interested in knowing how pumping and recharge of the Edwards Aquifer, as considered in the RIP process, may affect spring flows and flood flows in the Nueces Basin and downstream surface water rights, including those held by NRA and the City of Corpus Christi in the Choke Canyon/Lake Corpus Christi reservoir system</p> <p>As a Director of the Texas Wildlife Association, I will have an interest in ensuring that private property rights are protected in the implementation of RIP measures; and, an interest in promoting voluntary land stewardship and riverbank protection practices as alternatives to increase water supplies, improve water quality, and recover targeted species.</p>
NEW BRAUNFELS UTILITIES	<p>The Edwards Aquifer is a major source of domestic water supply for the City of New Braunfels. The Comal Springs and the Comal River, which lie within the city limits of New Braunfels, are major economic generators and enhance the quality of life for all the citizens of New Braunfels. In addition the Comal Springs and Comal River are home to numerous federally threatened and endangered species. For these reasons, New Braunfels Utilities has great interest in the EARIP process and is hopeful that the ultimate outcome will provide a program for the protection of the species and their habitat and for the managed use of the Edwards Aquifer as a sustainable water supply for New Braunfels, downstream users and the entire Edwards region.</p>

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REGIONAL CLEAN AIR & WATER ASSOCIATION	<p>The primary "interests" that RCAWA seeks to represent are the "interests" of <u>all</u> the people in the region who need economic firm yield water supply from the Edwards Aquifer in time of severest drought, both now and in the future, while at the same time representing the "interests" involved in protecting and preserving the threatened and endangered species that are found in or near the springs at New Braunfels and San Marcos in time of severest drought.</p> <p>The RCAWA seeks ensure that the RIP process does not exclude any option for preserving threatened and endangered species at the springs in time of severest drought while also providing firm yield water supply for people from the Edwards Aquifer.</p>
THE RIVER SYSTEMS INSTITUTE AT TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY	<p>The River Systems Institute is responsible for managing and protecting Spring Lake, the headwaters of the San Marcos River. We are extremely interested in any policies or actions that impact the springflow of the San Marcos springs and the ecosystems found in Spring Lake and the San Marcos River.</p> <p>The River Systems Institute's mission is to develop, analyze, promote and facilitate the holistic management of rivers, including the springs, streams, aquifers and watersheds that feed them, as well as the lakes, bays, and estuaries into which they flow. The RIP is an important tool to assist the Institute in fulfilling its mission and being involved in the EARIP enables staff of the Institute to become familiar with this tool.</p>
SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY	<p>SARA is participating in the Edwards Aquifer RIP to further greater predictability of regulation of the Aquifer. The EA RIP may provide a vehicle for the consistent regulation of the Edwards Aquifer, allowing users of the aquifer to quantify their existing supply from the aquifer and better plan for additional water supplies. The EARIP may also help to identify and evaluate strategies to better manage the aquifer and such strategies could be included in future Region L water plans. Strategies developed and implemented through the EARIP could impact and benefit spring flow in the San Antonio River basin which in turn supports instream flows and bay and estuary inflow.</p>

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SAN ANTONIO WATER SYSTEM	<p>The San Antonio Water System is interested in identifying the appropriate requirements to protect target Comal and San Marcos springs endangered and threatened species, the development of a conservation plan which meets the needs of the regional community by providing regulatory certainty for permitted groundwater withdrawals from the Edwards Aquifer, and the determination of minimum yields for Edwards Aquifer withdrawal permits holders during Demand Management and Critical Period Management Periods</p>
SAN MARCOS RIVER FOUNDATION	<p>In the EARIP process, we hope to participate in a collaborative attempt to examine the scientific studies already done, plus those to come, to provide solutions needed to plan sustainable use of this aquifer. By sustainable we mean that springs should continue to flow. We are interested in several springs which need to flow to provide adequate habitat for several endangered species and serve many communities and farmers/ranchers with flowing rivers and creeks. We are also interested in the economic and ecological value of the springs to the coastal communities and wildlife, and hope that the EARIP will look at this water situation in a holistic way, including the needs of all those who depend on the aquifer springflow.</p>
SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE	<p>The South Central Texas Water Advisory Committee to represent interests in the Nueces, San Antonio, and Guadalupe river basins downstream from the Edwards Aquifer region. The Advisory Committee believes that a successful RIP must protect the endangered and threatened species in their natural habitat at all times, including during a repeat of the drought of record, and in time, recover the species and allow them to be delisted; provide for the Edwards Aquifer to continue to be a major source of municipal, industrial and agricultural water for the region; promote the development of water supplies from sources other than the Edwards Aquifer to meet regional needs; provide sustainable, healthy flows for the river systems and coastal bays and estuaries downstream of Comal and San Marcos Springs; and contribute to and sustain a healthy economic climate within the region.</p>

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TEXAS COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	<p>The TCEQ staff will provide scientific and technical expertise for the Recovery Implementation Plan process. Areas of expertise include developing and implementing programs for preserving the water quality of the Edwards Aquifer and hydrologically connected surface streams to protect existing and potential uses of groundwater and maintain Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, and administering the state's water rights permitting program for surface water, including running surface water availability models and processing applications for unappropriated storm water and floodwater that could be used to recharge the Edwards Aquifer.</p>
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	<p>The Texas Department of Agriculture's interest in participating in the Recovery Implementation Program is to highlight the agricultural perspective in the recovery of federally listed endangered species dependent upon springflow from the Comal and San Marcos springs and to support land stewardship and water management strategies that will provide for the recovery of the species while assuring the economic stability of production agriculture and agribusinesses.</p>
TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT	<p>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's primary goal in the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program is to aid in the recovery of federally listed endangered species dependent upon springflow from the Comal and San Marcos Springs. Additional objectives of TPWD are assisting efforts to conserve and efficiently manage Edwards Aquifer water resources, promoting voluntary private land stewardship and other sustainable water management practices and advancing actions that protect instream flows and freshwater inflows.</p>
TEXAS WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION	<p>TWA's interests in the Edwards Aquifer Region include encouraging recovery to down-list endangered species within the aquifer and associated water systems, while balancing the needs of other wildlife and responsible municipal, industrial, and agricultural water users, without compromising private property rights. We will encourage strategies for recovery that seek to improve the quality and quantity of water <u>entering</u> the aquifer and believe the best strategy for improving the quality and quantity of water in the Edwards Aquifer is to <i>KEEP PRIVATE LAND STEWARDS ON THE LAND!</i></p>

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U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY	<p>USGS actively promotes the use of this information by decision makers to (1) effectively manage ground-water and surface-water resources for domestic, agricultural, commercial, industrial, recreational, and ecological uses, (2) protect and enhance water resources for human health, aquatic health, and environmental quality., (3) contribute to wise physical and economic development of the Nation’s resources for the benefit of present and future generations and (4) minimize the loss of life and property as a result of water-related natural hazards, such as floods, droughts, and land movement.</p>
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE, Austin Ecological Services Office	<p>The interest of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin Ecological Services (ES) Office is, working with others, to conserve, enhance, and protect fish, wildlife, and plants and the ecosystems that support them throughout central and west Texas. Our objective for the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program is to participate in a collaborative process to address the competing needs for Edwards Aquifer water and the recovery of the species dependent on that water for their existence. Our goal is to conserve the threatened and endangered species of the Edwards Aquifer and to restore them to a secure status in the wild.</p>
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE, San Marcos National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center	<p>The San Marcos NFHTC is a refugium for Texas wild rice, Texas blind salamanders, San Marcos salamanders, fountain darters, and Comal Springs riffle beetles. Culture-related activities for these species are inherent to this mission. The San Marcos NFHTC’s Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program objectives include: providing information on the life history and environmental requirements of the Edwards Aquifer related listed species and the non-native species that affect the listed species; assisting with the development of plans to manage the Comal and San Marcos rivers’ critical habitats; and obtaining a scope of work for the role the NFHTC will play in the recovery and delisting of the Edwards Aquifer related listed species.</p>
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE, Uvalde National Fish Hatchery	<p>The Uvalde National Fish Hatchery’s mission is to assist in the recovery efforts of threatened and endangered fish species, and restore native aquatic fish populations within the State of Texas. This will include developing new husbandry techniques, and providing a refuge for imperiled flora and fauna within the Edwards Aquifer System. The Uvalde National Fish Hatchery is dedicated towards the protection of both the Edwards Aquifer and the species which rely upon it for their continued existence.</p>

Summarized Statements of Interest
Proposed Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program (RIP)
July 10, 2007