



**EDWARDS
UNDERGROUND
WATER
DISTRICT
STRATEGIC
PLAN
(1994-2004)**

FOREWARD

On February 11, 1994, the Edwards Underground Water District embarked upon a journey to develop a strategic plan to ensure a sustainable supply of high quality water for the Edwards Aquifer. The journey was taken in the spirit of regional cooperation. It involved many long hours of discussion and helped the Board of Directors improve its ability to focus on and consider the broad public policy issues regarding aquifer management. On June 2, 1994, the Board completed the last of its strategic planning workshops, concluding a process which had lasted four and one-half months.

The Edwards Board of Directors is proud of the effort that culminated in a written public policy direction which they believe will enable and encourage efforts to develop regional planning opportunities through participation and consensus building.

The Edwards Underground Water District Board of Directors and staff are resolute in their commitment to conserve, preserve, protect and recharge the waters of the Edwards Aquifer, and shall continue in their scientific and professional endeavors toward that end.

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Directors
Edwards Underground Water District

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Edwards Underground Water District is to ensure a sustainable supply of high quality water with a spirit of regional cooperation.

GOALS

- **Regional Cooperation**
To bring together all who rely upon water from the Edwards Aquifer for achieving a sustainable supply of high quality water.
 - **Quality**
To prevent degradation of water quality to meet the needs of the Edwards Aquifer region.
 - **Demand**
To manage the water resources of the Edwards Aquifer region to meet the needs of all users and uses.
 - **Supply**
To increase the water supply of the region by implementing a management system that involves the coordinated, cost-effective and planned operation of both surface water and groundwater resources.
 - **Public Service**
To provide leadership to the citizens of the region for the successful management of the Edwards Aquifer.
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REGIONAL COOPERATION

GOAL

To bring together all who rely upon water from the Edwards Aquifer for achieving a sustainable supply of high quality water.

Strategic Objectives

- ◆ To create a regional cooperative agreement by October 15, 1994, among the underground water authorities in Bexar, Comal, Hays, Medina and Uvalde Counties, to provide region-wide, interim demand or drought management plans and interim springflow protection.
 - ◆ To create a regional cooperative agreement by June 1, 1994 among the underground water authorities in Bexar, Comal, Hays, Medina and Uvalde Counties, leading to a regionally-supported water management plan.
 - ◆ To sponsor three forums of regional community leaders and political and water-related entities by the end of December 1994, for the discussion of concerns and participation in the development of a Regional Water Management Plan.
 - ◆ To create a Regional Water Management Plan for the Aquifer, to be enacted during 1995, that (a) imposes the least amount of restrictions on all regional users, (b) is limited in scope to the Edwards Aquifer region, and (c) will maintain a supply of water at a fair and equitable cost to meet the needs of municipalities,
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environment and dependent species, downstream industrial users and downstream municipalities, regional water utilities, purveyors and river authorities, and rural users, all of whom rely on the Edwards Aquifer.

- ◆ To solve the endangered species problems at Comal Springs and San Marcos Springs on or before the year 2000.

QUALITY GOAL

To prevent degradation of water quality to meet the needs of the Edwards Aquifer region.

Strategic Objective

- ◆ To maintain the high quality of Edwards Aquifer water as measured by the 1994 historical water quality trend indices.
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DEMAND GOAL

To manage the water resources of the Edwards Aquifer region to meet the needs of all users and uses.

Strategic Objectives

- ◆ To reduce regional average municipal per capita usage from 170 to 153 gallons per day, in least-restrictive ways, by 2004, through waste reduction, incentive, education and subsidy programs.
 - ◆ To reduce current industrial MGD pumpage by 5% in least-restrictive ways, by 2004, by offering water use audits.
 - ◆ To increase by 4,000 the number of irrigated acres where standard conservation irrigation techniques are used in Bexar, Comal and Hays Counties, by 2004, through voluntary efficiency evaluations and devices, loans and contracts.
 - ◆ To reduce current recreational MGD pumpage by 5%, in least-restrictive ways, by 2004, by developing water use efficiency strategies with the users.
 - ◆ To maintain natural spring flow from the Edwards Aquifer by meeting minimum discharge levels necessary to protect species that are designated as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, in least-restrictive ways.
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- ◆ To reduce current non-municipal water suppliers' MGD pumpage by 5%, in least-restrictive ways, by 2004, through leak surveys and best management practices.

SUPPLY GOAL

To increase the water supply of the region by implementing a management system that involves the coordinated, cost-effective and planned operation of both surface water and groundwater resources.

Strategic Objectives

- ◆ To increase the amount of annual recharge to the Edwards Aquifer by an average of 50,000 - 75,000 acre feet by 2004, through coordinated and efficient use of recharge dams, injection wells, inter-basin transfers, recirculation and surface water diversions.
 - ◆ To increase by 19,500 - 50,000 acre feet the region's water supplies, by 2004, through alternative water projects that do not primarily recharge the aquifer, including surface water projects, recirculation, wastewater re-use and inter-basin transfers, in the most cost-effective way.
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PUBLIC SERVICE GOAL

To provide leadership to the citizens of the region for the successful management of the Edwards Aquifer.

Strategic Objectives

- ◆ To maintain an elected board that serves the needs of the District and is publicly accountable to the citizens.
 - ◆ To continue to serve as a reliable information, technical and educational resource on the Edwards Aquifer.
 - ◆ To improve policy-making through research which forms a scientific framework for Regional Water Management Planning.
 - ◆ To improve relationships with all publics the District relies upon for its success.
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EDWARDS AQUIFER

