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For Immediate Release

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San Antonio City Council Approves Transfer of Conservation Easement Land Ownership to the Edwards Aquifer Conservancy

San Antonio, TX – Today, The Edwards Aquifer Conservancy (EAC), the supporting non-profit organization for the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA), was granted the deeds to 150+ acres of land known as the Cibolo Vista Tracts 1 and 2 by the San Antonio City Council at its November 14th meeting.

The EAA is proposing to operate a field research observatory on the properties, which will include a thorough science-based initiative to collect groundwater levels, water quality data, soil sampling and mapping of karst features like springs or seeps in the area. The integrity of the city's easements, agreements in place set to preserve and protect the natural area from waste or residential, industrial, or commercial development, will remain in effect for these properties.

Furthermore, the EAA will be responsible for the field research observatory and maintenance of the properties in accordance with the City of San Antonio's requirements. The principal benefit of the EAA Field Research Observatory is to develop, research, and implement practices that lead to enhanced water quality and quantity for the region.

The acquisition of this property demonstrates the value of the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP) in incentivizing conservation of lands within the most environmentally sensitive areas of the recharge and contributing zones of the aquifer. The transfer of these particular tracts of land to the Edwards Aquifer Conservancy further raises the return on investment of the program because these properties will not only be conserved, they will now provide us a new and meaningful platform to conduct long term scientific, field research along a critical stretch of the recharge zone,

which can ultimately have a generational impact on our understanding and management of the Edwards Aquifer. It gives us a 150-acre learning laboratory that will enable us, for example, to better quantify impacts of adjacent aquifers and surface water influences, and to evaluate creative best management practices that could lead to better water quality through improved retention and infiltration techniques that will ultimately result in a more sustainable aquifer.

Roland Ruiz, EAA General Manager

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.