



August 2 ,2022

For Immediate Release

Ann-Margaret Gonzalez

210.222.2204

210.383.3315

agonzalez@edwardsaquifer.org

Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan Hosting Listen and Learn Workshops for Permit Renewal Process

San Antonio, TX – The Edwards Aquifer Authority’s (EAA) Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) hosted its first of four listen and learn workshops at the Norris Conference Center in San Antonio for its Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program Incidental Take Permit (ITP) renewal process as the current permit expires March 31, 2028. These workshops are the first step of the permit renewal process and are designed to provide the public with information, and to gather feedback from interested parties on the approach to the permit renewal.

We definitely want these four meetings to be extra interactive, so we will be setting up the meeting space to be more of an open house setting. We are planning to set up displays around the room where visitors can come and learn about specific topics and ask questions of the subject matter experts. There may be a presentation or two from staff along the way, but we’re really wanting to give our stakeholders those one-on-one opportunities which we think will provide a more valuable experience for both attendees and our staff as well. We’ve been working closely with our new consultant team from ICF to help us not only get the experience right but also ensure that we cover the appropriate topics which will be central to what the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages our permit, wants us to adequately cover in our renewal document.

- **Scott Storment EAHCP Program Manager**

About The EAHCP

The Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) defines how we protect federally listed species that live in the Edwards Aquifer and the Comal and San Marcos springs. The program’s *Incidental Take Permit* was granted to the Edwards Aquifer Authority, City of San Marcos, City of New Braunfels, Texas State University, and the City of San Antonio acting by and through the San Antonio Water System (collectively



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known as the EAHCP Permittees) to protect federally listed species from specific activities, Covered Activities, like groundwater pumping.

An *Incidental Take Permit* is a permit issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). To protect the species identified by the ESA, the ITP requires a habitat conservation plan.

For more information, please visit <https://www.edwardsaquifer.org/habitat-conservation-plan/>. All workshop materials, including online feedback forms, will be available online at <https://www.eahcprenewal.org/>

Future EAHCP Permit Renewal Listen & Learn Workshops

Workshop 2: Biological Goals and Objectives

Tuesday, August 30, 2022, 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Medina County Fair Hall

733 FM 462 North, Hondo, TX 78861

Workshop 3: Climate Change and System Vulnerability

Thursday, September 22, 2022, 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Dunbar Recreation Center

801 W. MLK, San Marcos, TX 78666

Workshop 4: Conservation Measures

Tuesday, October 4, 2022, 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM

New Braunfels Civic Center – Garden Room

375 S Castell Ave, New Braunfels, TX 78130