



Edwards Aquifer Authority

900 E. Quincy
San Antonio, TX 78215
EdwardsAquifer.org

NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

EAHCP Implementing Committee

Robert Mace (Texas State University) - Chair
Donovan Burton (SAWS) - Vice-Chair
Tom Taggart (San Marcos) - Secretary
Members: Mark Enders (New Braunfels), Chad Norris (GBRA), and
Roland Ruiz (EAA)
Scott Stormont - EAHCP Program Manager

Friday, September 9, 2022

10:00 AM

EAA Board Room

A meeting of the Implementing Committee of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan will be held on the date, time, and location stated above.

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Public Comment**
3. **EAHCP Program Manager Announcements**
 - 3.1
 - Hydrologic Update
 - EAHCP Budget Reports
 - EAHCP Program Management
 - Spring Communities Update
 - City of New Braunfels
 - City of San Marcos
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - 4.1 **Approval of previous Implementing Committee meeting minutes.**
 - May 19, 2022
5. **Reports**
 - 5.1 **Receive report from Zia Burns, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Program Manager, on the San Marcos River Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project.**
 - 5.2 **Receive report from Jamie Childers, EAHCP Director of Administration, on the Springflow Habitat Protection Work Group Prioritization of Technical Questions.**

- 5.3 Receive report from Scott Storment, EAHCP Program Manager, on the Incidental Take Permit Renewal Process.
- 5.4 Receive report from Omar Garcia, Water Resources Manager, regarding Edwards Aquifer 2021 Critical Period Management, permitted groundwater authorization and reported use.
6. **Individual Consideration**
- 6.1 Consider recommendations from the 2022 EAHCP Budget Work Group as described in the Budget Work Group Report for possible submittal to the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors.
7. **Future Meetings**
8. **Questions from the Public**
9. **Adjourn**

Olivia Ybarra
Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinator

This meeting of the Implementing Committee of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan complies with Section 7.7.4 of the Funding and Management Agreement (FMA), an interlocal agreement made pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter 791 by and among the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA), the City of New Braunfels (New Braunfels), the City of San Marcos (San Marcos), the City of San Antonio acting by and through its San Antonio Water System (SAWS), Texas State University, and the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA).



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Text File

File Number: REP 13-1727

Agenda Date: 9/9/2022

Version: 1

Status: Agenda Ready

In Control: EAHCP Implementing Committee

File Type: Staff Report

Agenda Number: 5.1

Receive report from Zia Burns, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Program Manager, on the San Marcos River Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

None. This item is for informational purposes only.

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this item is for the Implementing Committee to receive a report from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Program Manager Zia Burns on the San Marcos River Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project. Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, as amended, authorized the USACE to plan, design, and implement projects to restore aquatic ecosystems for fish and wildlife. The USACE and City of San Marcos partnered prior to the issuance of the EAHCP to identify potential aquatic ecosystem restoration alternatives for the San Marcos River. Over the past year, USACE has re-evaluated their alternatives based on work already completed by the EAHCP and is ready to construct their plans for aquatic ecosystem restoration in the San Marcos River with a focus on riparian restoration and removal of elephant ears. In this report, Ms. Burns will update the Implementing Committee on the selected alternative and project schedule.



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Text File

File Number: REP 13-1728

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Status: Agenda Ready

In Control: EAHCP Implementing Committee

File Type: Staff Report

Agenda Number: 5.2

Receive report from Jamie Childers, EAHCP Director of Administration, on the Springflow Habitat Protection Work Group Prioritization of Technical Questions.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

None. This item is for informational purposes only.

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this item is for the Implementing Committee to receive a report from Jamie Childers, EAHCP Director of Administration, on the Springflow Habitat Protection Work Group prioritization of technical questions. In October 2021, the Implementing Committee directed EAHCP staff to evaluate Work Group prioritization recommendations that were first priority for study and first priority for developing monitoring plans for data collection during future low-flow periods. Staff will provide a report on the results of their efforts including the development of monitoring plans for data collection during low-flow periods that are currently being implemented.



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Text File

File Number: REP 13-1729

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Status: Agenda Ready

In Control: EAHCP Implementing Committee

File Type: Staff Report

Agenda Number:

Receive report from Scott Storment, EAHCP Program Manager, on the Incidental Take Permit Renewal Process.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

None. This item is for informational purposes only.

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this item is for the Implementing Committee to receive a report from Scott Storment, EAHCP Program Manager, on program activities related to the Incidental Take Permit (ITP) Renewal Process. The current ITP expires March 31, 2028. The EAHCP Program staff have begun the process to plan for permit renewal.

The Listen and Learn workshops are the first step of the permit renewal process. The first of four workshops was held in San Antonio August 3rd and the second on August 30th. All workshop materials, including online feedback forms, will be available online at <https://www.eahcprenewal.org/>.

The next phase of the ITP Renewal Process-Analyze and Sign-off-will begin next year. Mr. Storment will provide the Implementing Committee an overview of the technical memos that will be produced and a schedule of Committee reviews.



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Text File

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In Control: EAHCP Implementing Committee

File Type: Staff Report

Agenda Number: 5.4

..Title

Receive report from Omar Garcia, Water Resources Manager, regarding Edwards Aquifer 2021 Critical Period Management, permitted groundwater authorization and reported use.

..Body

STAFF RECOMMENDED MOTION:

None. This item is for discussion purposes only.

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this agenda item is for the board to receive a report from Omar Garcia, Water Resources Manager, regarding 2021 groundwater withdrawal permits, reported usage by permit holders, and a review of 2021 critical period management (CPM), where groundwater withdrawal interruptions were made to applicable permit holders in the San Antonio pool of the Edwards Aquifer.

EAA rules require all non-exempt withdrawals to be metered and authorized for use within a calendar year. At the end of each year, permit holders are required to file annual use reports with the EAA, which must include as a minimum a beginning-year and an ending-year meter reading. From these readings, "annual use" is calculated. EAA staff reviews these reports, verifies the annual use calculation, and compares validated annual use to each permit holder's annual authorized withdrawal amount. Authorized withdrawal amounts were affected by CPM reductions in 2021 in the San Antonio Pool of the Edwards Aquifer.

2021 Critical Period Management:

In 2021, declining water levels as measured at the Bexar County Index Well (J-17) and springflow measurements at Comal springs combined to trigger EAA's CPM program for a total of 99 days in the San Antonio pool of the Edwards Aquifer. CPM conditions entered Stage 1 during four periods, from February 21 to March 3 (11 days); from March 24 to April 18 (26 days); April 30 to May 6 (7 days); and September 1 to October 14 (44 days); and entered Stage 2 during one period, from April 19 - to April 29 (11 days) resulting in an overall reduction of 5.71% to applicable permit holders (Municipal and Industrial permit holders, and Irrigation permits holders who did not file Notices of Intent to

Finish Out a Crop).

Water levels at the Uvalde Index Well (J-27) remained above CPM thresholds during all of 2021. Therefore, no CPM conditions were declared in the Uvalde Pool of the Edwards Aquifer.

2021 Groundwater Use Permits:

In 2021, EAA records show 1,232 groundwater permit holders held 2,121 individual permits to withdraw a total of 571,599 acre-feet from the Edwards Aquifer. Based on CPM conditions, reductions were made to applicable permits, resulting in a reduction of 27,232 acre-feet, thus a total of 544,36 acre-feet were available for use. A breakdown, by permitted use in acre-feet (rounded), is as follows:

<u>Use</u>	<u># of Permits</u>	<u>Permitted</u>	<u>CPM Reduced</u>	<u>Available for Use</u>
Municipal	571	349,237	19,764	329,473
Industrial	401	42,461	2,385	40,076
Irrigation	1,149	179,901	5,083	174,818

2021 Reported Groundwater withdrawals:

Reported groundwater use totaled 306,607 acre-feet of metered withdrawals from the Edwards Aquifer in 2021. This usage equates to about 56% of the total groundwater available for use in 2021. A breakdown, by permitted use in acre-feet (rounded), is as follows:

<u>Use</u>	<u>Available for Use</u>	<u>Pumped</u>	<u>% of Authorized</u>
Municipal	329,473	206,580	62.7%
Industrial	40,076	25,744	64.2%
Irrigation	174,818	74,283	42.4%

2021 withdrawals represent a 35,849 acre-foot decrease from 2020 use, and a 32,896 acre-foot decrease from the pumping 10-year rolling average of 339,503 acre-feet (2011-2021).

STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE:

This agenda item helps build and/or create Assuredness in Regulatory Programming - a key objective in achieving the EAA's goals identified in the 2021-30 Strategic Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This section is not relevant to this item.



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Text File

File Number: AI 13-2974

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In Control: EAHCP Implementing Committee

File Type: Action Item

Agenda Number: 6.1

Consider recommendations from the 2022 EAHCP Budget Work Group as described in the Budget Work Group Report for possible submittal to the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move the Implementing Committee approve the Budget Work Group recommendations and submit those recommendations to the EAA Board of Directors.

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this item is for the Implementing Committee to receive a report from Tom Taggart, 2022 Budget Work Group Chair, on an overview of the 2022 EAHCP Budget Work Group meetings held on June 30 and July 29, 2022. Following presentation of the Budget Work Group Report, which is attached to this summary, the Implementing Committee may consider whether to forward recommendations to the EAA board.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.