

**NEW EAA WEBSITE, VIDEO EXPLAIN
EDWARDS AQUIFER HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (EAHCP)**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Elizabeth Smith (210) 477-5117 or mobile, (210) 262-0632

SAN ANTONIO (August 14, 2012) – A new website and video developed by the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) help explain the purpose and goals of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP), which is currently under review by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The website www.eahcp.org went live August 3, 2012, and features helpful background information on the development of the EAHCP, its history, mission and goals, including a new informational video.

The EAHCP is designed to protect various species listed as threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act and whose only known habitats are the aquifer-fed Comal and San Marcos springs ecosystems. If the USFWS approves the EAHCP, it will result in the issuance of an incidental take permit that will protect Edwards groundwater users from liability in the event incidental harm due to aquifer use comes to the threatened or endangered species protected by the Endangered Species Act. USFWS could approve the EAHCP by the end of 2012.

EAHCP partners and applicants for the incidental take permit, including the EAA, the City of San Marcos, the City of New Braunfels, the San Antonio Water System, and Texas State University – San Marcos, came to agreement and approved the EAHCP in late 2011. This historic undertaking and partnership was brought about by an effort to bring resolution to the decades-long conflict between the federal mandate to protect threatened and endangered species associated with the Edwards Aquifer and the region's dependence on the same aquifer as its primary water resource. Implementing the EAHCP will cost an estimated \$18 million a year, excluding inflation, over the next 15 years.

The Edwards Aquifer Authority manages, enhances, and protects the Edwards Aquifer, one of the major groundwater systems in Texas serving approximately two million people. More information on the Edwards Aquifer Authority is available by calling 210-222-2204 or 1-800-292-1047.

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