

Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program (EARIP)

Presented to the Clean Rivers Program

March 25, 2010

EARIP Overview

- In 2007, the Texas State Legislature changed the pumping cap and critical period management for the Edwards Aquifer.
- There has always been concern that the aquifer may potentially be pumped to the point that the Comal and San Marcos Springs may cease to flow and go dry.
- The Texas Legislature in Senate Bill 3 created the EARIP as a collaborative stakeholder process to balance the water needs of the Edwards Aquifer (Endangered Species and Human).

EARIP Overview

- The overall goal is to contribute to the recovery of the listed Endangered Species.
- The final product will be Program Documents including a Habitat Conservation Plan, Incidental Take Permit and National Environmental Policy Act documents.
- Finalized and Approved recommendations are due to the Texas Legislature in 2012.
- Additional information regarding the EARIP can be found at: <http://earip.tamu.edu/>.

Representation

- Utilities
- Environmental Groups
- Citizens
- State Agencies
- Federal Agencies
- Municipalities
- River Authorities
- Universities
- Aquifer Authority
- Agriculture
- Industry

Progress

- RECON Environmental is producing the Program Documents:
 - Habitat Conservation Plan
- Collaborative Facilitation Inc. is the facilitation coordination team.
- Funding in the amount of \$2,835,000 has been secured from grants, stakeholders, Federal, Texas Water Development Board, and others.

Science Subcommittee (SSC)

- Has determined that the species do need Springflow for survival. Created laboratory breeding stocks do not represent survival of the species.
- Through modeling and best known research, the SSC is still trying to establish exact springflow requirements needed by the Endangered Species.
- Tentative springflows range from 30cfs to 225cfs and most likely will include a timeframe criteria (1 month, 6 month, or long-term averages).

Other Subcommittees

- Recharge Feasibility Subcommittee
 - Submitted a report addressing feasibility and funding options for enhanced recharge opportunities for the Edwards Aquifer.
- Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee
 - Submitted a report that outlined and identified needed restoration for the Comal Springs and Ecosystem.
- Additional Studies Workgroup
 - Has recommended additional research to be conducted.
- Hardy Team
 - Modeling

Consultants

- Guadalupe Basin Optimization Study
- Recreational Impacts Study
- Evaluation of Intensive Management Areas
- Brush Management
- Water Delivery and Storage Options

NEPA Scoping Meetings

- Victoria Community Center , April 1, 2010, from 6-8 p.m.
- New Braunfels Civic Center , April 12, 2010, from 6-8 p.m.
- Texas AgriLife Uvalde, April 14, 2010, from 6-8 p.m.
- San Marcos Activity Center, April 19, 2010, from 6-8 p.m.
- San Antonio Water System , April 26, 2010, from 6-8 p.m.
- Texas A&M Corpus Christi, April 28, 2010, from 6-8 p.m.
- Schreiner University, April 29, 2010, from 6-8 p.m.

Final Steps

- Decide on Covered Actions for HCP
- Select Mitigation and Restoration Options
- Decide on Species Springflow requirements
- Evaluate Water Delivery and Storage Options
- Implement and Fund All
- Get approved by USFWS the HCP

Questions

<http://earip.tamu.edu/>