

EAHCP GLOSSARY*Terms Commonly Referenced in EAHCP Presentations and Publications*

Term or Phrase	Term or Phrase Definition and Source
Adaptive Management Process (AMP)	The designated process contemplated in the EAHCP that informs the Program Manager and the Implementing Committee to make strategic decisions for implementation that may or may not alter the current plan by using best available science and/or experience from previous years' work.
Analytical Limits	The lowest level at which an analyte can be accurately measured for a specific laboratory method.
Aquatic Life Protection (ALP)	Numeric or narrative levels of a pollutant or other measurable parameter that allows for protection of aquatic life. Most use EPA established ALPs.
Aquatic vegetation mapping	Periodic mapping of the San Marcos and Comal system that is used to determine increased fountain darter habitat.
Baseline	The background, or established level of a parameter that has been measured over time, used to evaluate change in a system.
Base irrigation groundwater	The portion of the groundwater withdrawal amount of an initial regular permit for irrigation purposes which must be used in accordance with the original initial regular permit and must pass with transfer of the ownership of the historically irrigated lands identified in the place of use of the permit. A permit holder may lease permitted water rights, but a holder of a permit for irrigation use may not lease more than 50 percent of the irrigation rights initially permitted.
Biological Goals and Objectives	The quantitative measurement of protection for a given species (specifically Texas wild-rice and fountain darter habitat).
Clean Rivers Program (CRP)	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) program utilizing regional water authorities, local entities and volunteers to provide consistent, reliable water quality data to the TCEQ database for analysis and decision-making.
Comal Springs Discharge Measurement	A measurement of cubic-feet per second (CFS) of cumulative spring flow out of the Comal Springs system.
Comprehensive and Critical Period Events <i>(in Context of Monitoring)</i>	Comprehensive events are routine biological monitoring events. Critical period events are those triggered by an established range of either high, or low flows.
Conservation Measure	Specified projects to be implemented by the Permittees to protect the Covered Species and their habitat from impacts of flood and drought.
Covered Activities	Activities in our region including recreation and pumping that are covered under the ITP.
Covered Species	The species the EAHCP and the Incidental Take Permit (ITP) are assigned to protect.
Critical period	A period of specific aquifer vulnerability that is managed by varying aquifer levels and springflows, which trigger increasing withdraw restrictions.
Critical period sampling/monitoring	High flow and low flow specific sampling to evaluate disturbance and recover, as well as declining or improving conditions linked to flow. High flow (after a flood event) sampling must be approved by EAA staff working with the contractor. Low flow sampling is linked to a series of flow triggers.
Defined period of extreme drought Drought/drought conditions Extreme drought conditions “Drought of Record”	In the EAHCP, management protocols are based off the “Drought of Record,” which refers to the six-year drought that occurred from 1951 through 1956. Reference to drought or extreme drought is in perspective of similar experiences.

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Destructive scour Scour	The removal of sediment such as sand or rocks, and vegetation due to swiftly moving water from flood or severe storm event.
Detect Limits	The lowest level at which an analyte is detected (not accurately measured) for a specific laboratory method.
Detects	The presence of an analyte in a sample that cannot be reliably measured for a specific laboratory procedure.
Expanded Water Quality program	Defined in the EAHCP as a comprehensive water quality monitoring program to provide early detection of water quality impairments that may negatively impact the Covered Species and to identify the point and nonpoint sources of those impairments.
Field Parameters	Conditions and water quality measured on-site, during field operations and sampling.
Fish Community Sampling	All members of the fish community sampled, collected or observed by seining, drop net, dip net, or visual observation.
Fixed dip-net sampling	Dip-net sampling that occurs at fixed (as opposed to random) locations in a study reach.
Fixed Station Photography	Annual imagery taken of various locations throughout the San Marcos and Comal systems to determine visual changes in system health.
Flow Partitioning within Landa Lake	The measurement of spring (including upwellings) flow contributions by section to the total flow of water through Landa Lake.
Flow-Partitioning	The measurement of spring (including upwellings) flow contributions by section to the total flow of water through Landa Lake.
Forbearance	“Forbear,” “forborne,” or “forbearance” means the complete curtailment of all or part of the right to make groundwater withdrawals of amount pledged not to be withdrawn during a year in which forbearance is triggered. Most commonly used in the Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Options (VISPO) and Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) programs
Fountain Darter Sampling	Fountain Darter sampling, collection or observation conducted by drop net, dip net, or visual observation.
Groundwater Trust	A pool of contracted commitments of permitted Edwards Aquifer groundwater to remain unwithdrawn for a period agreed upon by the EAA and permittee, which is designed to be compensated for by the EAHCP to the donors such as through the implementation of water conservation initiatives and/or technical assistance.
High flow	Referencing a flood event or severe storm event that could have negatively impacted the Covered Species and their habitat. System monitoring association with high flow must be approved by EAA staff and is not quantitatively defined in the EAHCP.
Household/personal care products (see also PCPP)	Medicine, cleaning products, makeup, food preservatives, caffeine, etc.
Hydrograph	Graph of flow through a defined period.
Implementing Committee	The decision-making body of the EAHCP made up of representation from all 5 permittees, including a non-voting member - the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.
Incidental Take Permit (ITP)	The Incidental Take Permit (ITP) is a permit issued under Section 10 of the US Endangered Species Act that because of the EAHCP was awarded

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	to the Implementing Committee to allow covered activities in the Edwards Aquifer region.
Initial Commitment Contracts <i>(in Context of Regional Water Conservation Program)</i>	This term refers to an initial commitment towards the Regional Water Conservation Program's (RWCP) Groundwater Trust (see Groundwater Trust), whereby participants committing reductions are intended to provide the RWCP the necessary water needed to fulfill the requirements of the EAHCP while pursuing interest in the region for broader conservation opportunities.
Instars	An insect developmental stage between larvae to adult. Each instar is a separate molt.
Intensive Study Reaches	Sections of the systems where monitoring takes place to provide consistent areas for evaluation as indications of the overall condition of the systems.
Invertebrate Sampling	Macroinvertebrate community sampling in the study reaches of above and below ground vegetation types, roots and sediment to determine species composition, relative number, and vegetation associations.
IPMP Chemicals	IPMP = Integrated Pest Management Plan. Chemicals listed in such a plan would be specific to the use of the plan (golf course, green space, etc.). Generally, these are fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides.
Key Management Objectives	General term to include the quantitative goals associated with determining success in protecting the covered species (see "biological goals and objectives").
Leases <i>(in context of ASR)</i>	This term refers to the contractual agreements of 1-year, 5-year and 10-year terms for fixed amounts of unrestricted groundwater rights. These groundwater rights contribute to conserved springflow for the Covered Species through the Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program (ASR).
Long Term Biological Goal (LTBG) Reach	River segments in both the Comal and San Marcos river that are specifically specified in the EAHCP and hold quantitative goals associated with specific plants regarded as fountain darter habitat.
Long-term historical average	The observed and recorded average throughout the history of collection (can cover a variety of different collected data).
Low flow(s) Low flow conditions Extreme low flow	A period of springflow that decreases below the long-term average significantly. Specifically, low-flow is specified in the Comal system as 130 cfs or lower, and in the San Marcos system as 120 cfs or lower.
Macroinvertebrate Food Source Monitoring	Macroinvertebrate community sampling in the study reaches of above and below ground vegetation types, roots and sediment to determine species composition, relative number, and vegetation associations.
Macroinvertebrate Food Source Sampling	Macroinvertebrate community sampling in the study reaches of above and below ground vegetation types, roots and sediment to determine species composition, relative number, and vegetation associations.
Negative impacts	Generic term associated with impacts to the Covered Species and their habitat through reduced springflow, flood, contaminated runoff, excess recreation in protected areas, and other potentially threatening activities to the Comal and San Marcos springs ecosystems.
Offset <i>(in context of ASR, or other Springflow Protection Measures, if applicable)</i>	This term refers to "a consideration or amount that diminishes or balances the effect of a contrary one;" in the context of the Springflow Protection Measures offset refers to a form of conservation, whether it is forbearance, leases or commitments to the Groundwater Trust, to reduce the volume of water permitted to be pumped in each year. Can be synonymous with

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	<i>mitigate</i> for (ie. "The EAHCP Springflow Protection Measures are designed to <i>mitigate</i> for pumping from the Edwards Aquifer").
Onset, peak, and tail	"Onset" is the start of a flow event, "peak" is the apogee of the flow event, and the "tail" is the decline of the flow event.
Passive diffusion sampler (PDS)	Sampling device that absorbs the chemicals it samples, no additional energy required for sampling.
PCPP	Pharmaceutical and Personal Care Products.
Permittees	The 5 organizations/communities that make up the participants of the EAHCP and covered under the ITP (Edwards Aquifer Authority, San Antonio Water System, City of New Braunfels, City of San Marcos, and Texas State University).
Permittees' Riparian Work Plans	The specific Work Plan associated with the City of New Braunfels' and/or the City of San Marcos and Texas State University's riparian improvement conservation measure.
Permittees' Work Plans	The annual documentation of planned activities for each conservation measure for the next year.
PPCP membrane	PPCP = Pharmaceutical and Personal Care Products. A PPCP membrane is a passive sampler component that specifically targets PPCPs.
Rapid bioassessments (RBAs)	RBAs are an integrated assessment of the physical aspects of a habitat with water quality and biological measures, providing an empirical relationship between habitat quality and biological conditions, so that impacts can be objectively discriminated.
Restoration Reach	River segments in both the Comal and San Marcos river created out of the 2016 AMP to satisfy the EAHCP Key Management Objective of proportionally expanding SAV restoration beyond the LTBG reaches.
Salamander Visual Observations	Timed, diver sampling specific areas involving documenting substrate overturning rocks, counting individuals, estimating size and condition, then returning the rock to original position to cover the salamander as quickly as practical.
Science Committee	A collection of scientists selected to advise the Program Manager and the Implementing Committee on scientific components of the EAHCP implementation.
Scope of Work	The portion of a given contract that dictates the specific requirements a given contractor has been tasked with.
Soluble Reactive Phosphorous (SRP)	Soluble reactive phosphorous, may also be referred to as dissolved phosphorous. It is the phosphorous form that is actively available as a plant nutrient.
Sonde	An on-site water quality parameter measuring device. Usually measures temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, and specific conductance.
Spring system	General term to include the ecosystem surrounding, or dependent on, the San Marcos or Comal springs.
Standby <i>(in context of VISPO)</i>	Standby refers to a period in the Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option in which participants are paid a standby fee each year of the program term regardless of aquifer level or condition and will be paid an implementation fee equal to an additional three times the standby fee each year the program requires suspension of withdrawals.

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Surface water quality parameters	Water temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, water depth, flow and direction (Suite I) and nitrate nitrogen, total nitrogen, ammonium, soluble reactive phosphorous, total phosphorous, alkalinity, and total suspended solids (Suite II) are sampled during Biological Monitoring and Critical Period Monitoring.
Taxonomic level	The scientific naming of organisms based on the biological classification of living and fossil organisms, ordered from most common traits (Kingdom) to fewest common traits (species).
Texas wild-rice Reach	River segments in the San Marcos river specified in the EAHCP that provide quantitative goals associated with Texas wild-rice restoration.
Tissue sampling	Analysis of biological tissues for specific parameters (metals, pesticides, etc.).
Toxic Parameters	Components of a water sample known to produce harmful effects on desired organisms.
Variable Flow Study (EAA)	Predecessor of the current Biological Monitoring program.
Water Column Levels	Generally, the depth of the water column where a sample was collected. May also be used to denote water depth.
Water Quality Grab Sampling	Water temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, water depth, flow and direction (Suite I) and nitrate nitrogen, total nitrogen, ammonium, soluble reactive phosphorous, total phosphorous, alkalinity, and total suspended solids (Suite II) are sampled during Biological Monitoring and Critical Period Monitoring.
Well Sampling program (EAA)	Each year the EAA monitors the quality of water in the Aquifer by sampling approximately 80 wells, eight surface water sites, and major spring groups across the region. Tests for the wells included measurements of temperature, pH, conductivity, alkalinity, major ions, minor elements (including heavy metals), total dissolved solids, nutrients, pesticides, herbicides, VOCs, and other parameters.
Work Plans	The annual documentation of planned activities for each conservation measure for the next year.