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Water Science and Technology Board
Division on Earth and Life Studies

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New Study Announcement

Review of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Program—Phase 1

The National Research Council (NRC) has begun a review of the many different scientific initiatives underway to support the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP). The Edwards Aquifer is the primary source of drinking water for over two million people in south central Texas, including the City of San Antonio. The aquifer also supports numerous and extensive agricultural, industrial, and recreational uses. The aquifer's two major springs provide the habitats of eight federally protected species including fish, invertebrates, amphibians, and Texas wild rice.

The committee will focus on the adequacy of the body of scientific information used to determine the EAHCP biological goals and objectives. It will also study relationships among proposed conservation measures (including specified flow rates and habitat protection and restoration activities) and biological objectives and goals. The review will be conducted from 2014 to 2018 and produce three reports.

In its first report, the committee will review and provide advice on four scientific initiatives within the EAHCP: (1) hydrological modeling, (2) ecological modeling, (3) biological and water quality monitoring programs, and (4) applied research. The committee will focus on the accuracy and reliability of the assumptions used to support development of both conceptual and quantitative models, the adequacy of data for model calibration and verification, identification and description of uncertainties, and additional monitoring data and research needs.

The committee will meet four times in 2014 and issue its first report in late 2014. The committee is chaired by Danny D. Reible, Texas Tech University, and a member of the National Academy of Engineering. Dr. Laura Ehlers of the NRC Water Science and Technology Board will serve as the study director (lehlers@nas.edu). The members of this interdisciplinary committee are:

Danny D. Reible, *Chair*, Texas Tech University, Lubbock
Jonathan D. Arthur, Florida Geological Survey, Tallahassee
M. Eric Benbow, Michigan State University, East Lansing
Robin K. Craig, University of Utah, Salt Lake City
K. David Hambright, University of Oklahoma, Norman
Timothy K. Kratz, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Andrew J. Long, USGS, Rapid City, South Dakota
Laura Murray, University of Maryland, Horn Point
Jayantha Obeysekera, South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach
Kenneth A. Rose, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
Laura Toran, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
Greg D. Woodside, Orange County Water District, Fountain Valley, CA