

**2015 EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT WORK PLAN AND BUDGET**

Section 2.2 of the Funding and Management Agreement (FMA) assigns “general management and oversight” of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) to the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA). Section 5.6.5 of the FMA allows the EAA to use EAHCP funds for administrative costs and employee salaries, so long as all incurred costs and salaries are 100% related to “general management and oversight” of the EAHCP.

Long-term Objectives: To manage and oversee day-to-day operations and administration, in coordination with the Applicants, of the EAHCP; resulting in a valid and continued Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for designated Covered Activities. Additionally, to prepare for and gather information to be used in the Phase II Strategic Adaptive Management decision-making process.

Project Management: In 2015, HCP staff will continue to coordinate the work outlined in the Ecological Modeling, Biological Monitoring, Refugia, Applied Research, Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option, and Regional Water Conservation Program work plans.

Program Manager: The HCP Program Manager will execute duties as assigned in the FMA and:

- Serve on the ASR Advisory Committee,
- Facilitate the Adaptive Management process,
- Serve on the Regional Water Conservation Monitoring Committee, and
- Facilitate and coordinate all meetings of the HCP Implementing, Science and Stakeholder Committees (and possible subcommittees)

HCP Staff: The HCP staff will continue the following HCP activities:

- Procure and execute contracts,
- Oversee contract tracking and compliance,
- Process and pay all invoices and mitigation reimbursements,
- Maintain financial records,
- Oversee the City of New Braunfels and San Marcos/Texas State University work plan activities,
- Oversee and coordinate research activities at the Texas State University Freeman Aquatic Building,
- Participate in the 2016 work plan process,
- Seek alternate funding sources,
- Participate in public outreach initiatives,
- Enhance the EAHCP.org website,
- Develop and promote conservation initiatives,
- Prepare and compile all of the Parties information for the annual report to USFWS, and
- Track and assist HCP Permittees with maintaining compliance with secondary implementation permits, such as: USACE, TPWD, USFWS and THC permits.

Routine and Non-routine Adaptive Management Program (AMP): HCP staff, under direction of the Program Manager, will continue to manage the routine and non-routine decision making process as defined in Article 7 of the FMA. The process for this facilitation and adoption is outlined in the EAHCP AMP Memo to the Implementing Committee. HCP staff will also serve as a liaison to USFWS in the AMP process. Additionally, HCP staff will continue to prepare necessary information to support the Phase II Strategic AMP decisions in Year 7 of the permit.

EAHCP Implementing, Science and Stakeholder Committees: HCP staff, under the direction of the Program Manager, will continue to manage the meetings and activities of all HCP Committees and any subcommittees or Committee workgroup. Typically, both Implementing and Science Committees meet monthly and the Stakeholder Committee meets bi-annually.

Science Review Panel: In 2013, the EAA executed a contract with the National Academy of Sciences National Research Council (NRC) to provide scientific review and evaluation of select programs within the EAHCP. In 2015, HCP staff will continue to provide support for the meetings of the NRC Committee, as needed. By December 31, 2014, the NRC Committee will produce its first report on its review and evaluation of the EAHCP ecological modeling, hydrological modeling, biological and water quality monitoring programs and applied research. In 2015, HCP staff will present NRC Committee recommendations from the first report to the HCP Implementing Committee for consideration.

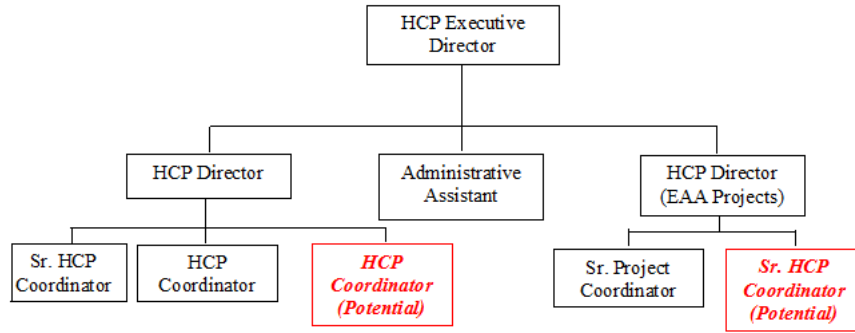
Issuing/Managing Contracts for other Applicants per Funding and Management Agreement: Section 5.6.5 of the FMA requires the Program Manager to issue and manage mitigation contracts of other Applicants, in the event that the responsible Applicant receives the competitive bid to conduct the mitigation.

Groundwater Modeling: Section 6.3.2 of the EAHCP requires the EAA to make improvements to its MODFLOW model and to create a new groundwater model as described in the EAHCP. In 2015, EAA staff and its contractor will continue to develop both models to confirm that the EAHCP results for the Aquifer and spring flows are more reliable and defensible.

Flow Protection Measures: Section 5.1.3 of the EAHCP requires the EAA to administer a Regional Water Conservation program to implement conservation measures resulting in 10,000 acre-feet in the EAA Groundwater Trust. EAA staff will be responsible for promoting, developing, and implementing measures to achieve the goal. Section 5.5.1 of the EAHCP requires the EAA to acquire 50,000 acre-feet of leases for storage in the Aquifer Storage and Recovery system operated by the San Antonio Water System. EAA staff will continue to develop more effective options to secure the required water.

Staffing in 2015: The structure of the existing HCP staff positions is illustrated in the chart below. However, based on workload, the number of public meetings hosted by HCP staff, and future recommendations made by the NRC Committee, it is anticipated that the HCP Program Manager will be requesting an additional full-time employee, and is likely the request may be for two full-time employees.

ATTACHMENT 5
 REVISED January 13, 2015



Budget

The following table set out the estimated HCP Project Administration budget for 2015.

	Table 7.1	2015
Program Administration	\$750,000	\$910,000
Science Review Panel	\$50,000	\$230,000
Total Budget	\$800,000	\$1,140,000

The staffing expenses and operational expenses for 2015 are set out in the tables below.

Salaries	\$469,230
Fringe/Benefits	\$140,387
Total	\$609,617

2015

ATTACHMENT 5
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Staffing ¹	\$609,617
Meeting Expenses ²	\$14,100
Travel	\$4,000
Office Supplies	\$2,500
Professional Development / Memberships	\$2,000
Printing	\$8,000
Professional Contracted Services (PCS)	
PCS - Miscellaneous	\$115,783
PCS – Historic/Archeological Consultation ³	\$10,000
PCS – Annual Report	\$40,000
PCS - Science Review Panel	\$230,000
PCS - Adaptive Management Program ⁴	\$75,000
PCS - Permits	\$10,000
PCS – SC Compensation	\$14,000
PCS – Outreach	\$5,000
NAS Recommendations	??
Total Expenditure	\$1,140,000

¹ Staffing expenses subject to change based on EAA HR benefit analysis and the potential addition of staff.

² Science Committee travel. Implementing Committee and Stakeholder Committee meetings.

³ AmaTerra contract for THC or archeological survey or consulting.

⁴ The Program Manager has authority up to \$50,000 for implementation of modifications resulting from the Adaptive Management process