

**Edwards Aquifer Authority
2015 Regional Water Conservation Work Plan**

5.1.3 Regional Water Conservation Program

Table 7.1 Budgeted Amount: \$1,973,000

Proposed Work Plan Amount: \$1,813,000

The goal of the Regional Water Conservation Program (RWCP) is to conserve 20,000 ac-ft/yr of permitted or exempt Edwards Aquifer withdrawals. In exchange for technical assistance and incentives for implementing the various measures, one-half of the conserved water (10,000 acft) will be committed to remain in the Aquifer unpumped, but still owned by participating permit holders, for 15 years to benefit springflow levels and contribute to species protection. The other one-half of the conserved water will remain available to the participating entity.

In order to provide an immediate benefit to important habitat (by contributing to spring flows), several entities within the EAA jurisdictional area have agreed to reduce their consumptive use by a combined total of 10,000 acre feet. This initial contribution of water rights will serve as a reserve for up to 10 years which were placed in the Groundwater Trust (see Table below):

| Entity | Acre Feet of Water Donated |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| San Antonio Water Supply | 8,000 |
| City of San Marcos | 300 |
| Texas State University | <u>100</u> |
| TOTAL | 8,400 |

Loaned water rights will be returned to the loaning entity at the end of 10 years or when an equal amount is identified as conserved and in reserve by the RWCP. Loaned water will be returned to the donor entity annually in a proportion equal to their contribution

Loaned water donors that participate in the Program, conserve additional water, and designate the required 50% for the reserve, at the end of the year receive the same amount as this reserved water in return from their loan. The amount returned to the entity in such a case will be subtracted from the reserve total for the year to be divided by the proportional model. The proportional model will be recalculated every year. (see Initial Commitment Contract excerpt below:)

- (c) If Transferor and/or other Non-Contributing Participants have Conserved Water that has been determined to have been conserved in the previous calendar year, Transferor shall be entitled to a release of the Trust Portion of the Permit calculated as follows:

(Paragraph 4.0(a) initial commitment - previous releases to the Transferor)/(10,000 - previous releases to all Transferors) x 50% of the amount of Conserved Water conserved in the previous calendar year by the Transferor and/or Non-Contributing Participants.

(d) For the calculations in subsections (c), if the Non-Contributing Participant is the owner of an Exempt Well, the 50% factor will be replaced by 100% when making the calculation.

The remaining 10,000 acre feet will be saved through water loss reduction and conservation efforts identified by EAA staff who will manage and implement the RWCP. The existing contract with Texas A&M AgriLife (AgriLife) will be terminated and replaced with a performance contract to assist with Department of Defense (DoD) conservation efforts, and other assignments as necessary, not to exceed \$40,000.

The RWCP will provide communities in the Edwards Aquifer Region with water system assessments which are designed to identify opportunities for water conservation. After an assessment is completed, the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) will contract with the community to implement conservation opportunities identified. Implementation may include low flow toilet and showerhead distribution to residents, retrofitting large scale water users, and providing education and assistance to exempt well users.

Long Term Objective: To conserve and reduce water use by 20,000 acre feet from the Edwards Aquifer by identifying water system infrastructure rehabilitation and replacement needs, installation of residential water saving fixtures, public education, and partnering with high volume water users (schools, hospitals, etc.) to reduce water use by replacing low efficiency fixtures with high-efficiency toilets, shower heads, aerators, and alternatives to kitchen rinsers and other water-using equipment and processes.

Assumptions:

The EAA will continue to manage and implement the RWCP.

EAA staff will assist Edwards Aquifer region water users in implementing the incentive programs described in the EAHCP.

Target Performance Measures for 2015:

In order to achieve the goal of 10,000 acre feet in the Groundwater Trust by the end of 2015, the EAA (or its contractor) will complete the following measures:

1. EAA will continue to contact communities, and other potential participants, to conduct a

water conservation assessment of their water system and participate in the four RWCP elements are identified.

2. EAA will initiate contracts with program participants that will serve as the funding mechanism for EAA to implement the RWCP elements specific to the community and its needs.
3. EAA will submit deliverables for RWCP participants including:
 - Quarterly RWCP Reports
 - Lost Water and Leak Detection BMPs and Resource Materials
 - Lost Water and Leak Detection Procedures and Forms
 - High-Efficiency Plumbing Distribution Procedures and Forms
 - Commercial/Industrial Retrofit Rebate Procedures and Forms
 - Reclaimed Water Rebate Procedures and Forms
 - Reclaimed Water BMPs and Resource Materials
4. EAA will expand the search for reuse and industrial technology opportunities in the EA Region and inform them of the RWCP and describe opportunities that may exist.
5. EAA will expand the “lost water” program and develop the internal capability to assist communities that need a preliminary lost water analysis and do not have the financial resources to pay for the services. If the presence of significant leaks are identified, EAA will coordinate with other parties or resources as per the HCP to locate and quantify leaking infrastructure. Once complete, EAA will provide conceptual level cost estimates to the municipality to repair the leaks. If agreeable to placing 50% of the water conserved by repairing the leaking infrastructure, and the costs are justifiable in terms of program goals, EAA will develop a contract with the municipality to assist in funding all or part of the leak repair.
6. EAA will work with communities and their existing environmental groups (i.e. Parks Board) to develop a water conservation program that includes stakeholder support.
7. EAA will contact the Cities of New Braunfels, San Antonio, and San Marcos to discuss opportunities for low-flow, high efficiency plumbing distribution, cost sharing in treated effluent projects, etc.
8. EAA will seek opportunities to assist communities in accessing Texas Water Development Board funding such as Proposition 6 for opportunities for EAA to participate in cost sharing in exchange for water savings being placed in the GW Trust. ???

Methodology:

This work plan will be implemented by EAA staff with limited assistance from AgriLife and other contractors as needed.

Budget for Implementing 2015 Regional Water Conservation Work Plan: The requested budget for the Regional Water Conservation work plan is \$1,813,000 (see Table).

| AgriLife 2015 Contract Costs | Funds Allocated for Community Program Implementation | Revised Budget | Total Budgeted Funds (Table 7.1) |
|------------------------------|--|----------------|----------------------------------|
| \$ 40,000 | \$1,773,000 | \$ 1,813,000 | \$1,973,000 |

Monitoring:

- Communities that have elected to contract with the EAA for program implementation will be required to provide an accounting of low flow devices (i.e. low flow toilets, and showerheads) that have been distributed to residents.
- EAA staff will provide photo documentation of the implementation of the program through routine visits of distribution centers, etc.

Science Committee Review: Not applicable to this work plan

Regional Conservation Monitoring Committee Review: Does require review of the work plan.