

# EDWARDS AQUIFER LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

## THE SUCCESS OF THE EAA ACT: AN ANALYSIS OF THE BENEFITS TO THE EDWARDS REGION



EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY

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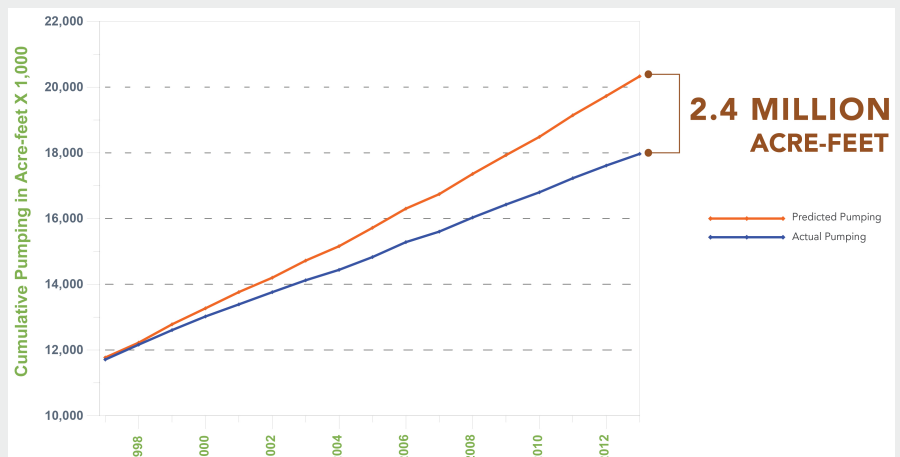
General Manager

#### **Pumping Trends - Pre vs. Post EAA Act:**

- Average annual increase in pumping between 1947 and 1997 was approximately 6,100 acre-feet;
- Since 1997 when the EAA began its initial review of permit requests, this annual growth rate in pumping has stopped—despite a population increase of 630,000 residents in the primary five-county EAA region (Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, Comal and Hays) during the same period; and
- Summer peak pumping rates have stabilized since the EAA enacted groundwater withdrawal initial regular permits in 2001 and implemented Critical Period Management strategies in 2002.

#### **Pumping Trends - Actual vs. Predicted**

By the end of 2013, actual permitted pumping from the Edwards was 2.4 million acre-feet **less** than predicted by a population growth model for the period 1997 through 2013.



#### **2.4 million acre feet saved translates to:**

- 1.8 million acre-feet of springflow that has directly benefited threatened and endangered species of the Edwards Aquifer and regional river flows;
- 600,000 acre-feet of water in the Edwards Aquifer itself (approximately the combined annual amount of water discharged through wells and springs);
- Water level averages at the San Antonio Pool index well J-17 are approximately 17 feet higher than otherwise predicted (i.e. Without EAA permit system and critical period management in place, current drought would have resulted in aquifer levels lower than those recorded during drought-of-record);
- Flows from Comal Springs are approximately 90 cfs higher on average than otherwise predicted for the period 1997-2103 (i.e. Without EAA permit system and critical period management in place, these springs would have gone dry during summer 2014); and
- Flows from San Marcos Springs are approximately 45 cfs higher on average than otherwise predicted for the period 1997-2013.