



August 6, 2012

Dear Dr. Gulley,

Please consider the attached preliminary proposal from the Texas A&M Water Conservation and Technology Center (WCTC) to support the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) in operating the Regional Water Conservation Program (RWCP or Program).

The proposal covers a five-year initial period from 2013 to 2017. The WCTC proposes to utilize the four approved conservation activities (i.e., High-Efficiency Plumbing, Lost Water, Commercial Rebates, and Reclaimed Water) in four focus areas (i.e., Community Programs, Exempt Wells Program, Large Water Purveyors Program, and Region Wide Program) to achieve approximately 26,000 acre-feet (ac-ft) of conserved water. As described in the proposal, approximately 14,000 ac-ft of that water would be available for the Edwards Aquifer spring flow reserve if the reserve is calculated as half of the water conserved over 10 years.

The RWCP described in the proposal would utilize \$7,956,000 over the five-year period, with the annual amount varying as the program ramps up. Each year, \$200,000 of the funds would be designated for use by the WCTC for staff costs for Calvin Finch, Ph.D., and Ann Gabriel, REM, who would manage the program.

We believe that the WCTC is a good choice to operate the RWCP for a number of reasons.

1. Texas A&M has been involved in the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program (EARIP) from its inception. We are intimately familiar with the provisions, goals, and entities of the EARIP and the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan.
2. The WCTC staff proposed to conduct the Program has unmatched qualifications in water conservation programming.
3. The Department of Defense (DOD) has the potential to be an important player in this Program. Texas A&M staff closely associated with the WCTC on both the Engineering and AgriLife sides has existing, strong relationships with local and national DOD entities.
4. The proposal describes the unique contribution that can be made by AgriLife Extension Agents who are part of the Texas A&M System.



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5. The WCTC staff had a role in producing the Bureau of Reclamation grant that is an important part of the Program. We are therefore familiar with the goals, requirements, and timelines of the grant.
 6. Because we are a state agency, an interagency agreement can be set up between the EAA and the WCTC to achieve the quick start-up requirements desirable to fulfill the commitments of the grant.
 7. The Texas A&M System supporting the WCTC has expertise and resources in every field that may be important in making this Program successful – including engineering, natural resources, research, public education, technical training, fundraising, management, contracting, and water technologies.

We hope this proposal meets your requirements. We welcome the opportunity to discuss all or any portion of the proposal.

Sincerely,

Dr. Calvin Finch, Director
Texas A&M Water Conservation & Technology Center