

# Edwards Aquifer HCP Annual Report

Progress and Status

19 December 2013

# Outline

- **Annual Report – Purpose and HCP Requirements**
- **Draft Table of Contents**
- **Status and Information Needed**
- **Annual Report Schedule and Milestones**
- **Comment Matrix**
- **Questions**

# Annual Report - Purpose and HCP Requirements

The purpose of the Annual Report is to document Permittees' activities and demonstrate compliance with the terms and conditions of the Incidental Take Permit (ITP).

Sections T(2) and T(3) of the ITP list items to be included in the Annual Report.

To be submitted by **March 31** of each year.

# Table of Contents

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Biological Goals and Objectives for Covered Species
- Minimization and Mitigation Measures (Reports from Permittees and Partners)
  - HCP Obligations
  - 2013 Compliance
  - Modifications Due to Drought
  - Overall HCP Compliance
  - 2014 Planned Activities
- Adaptive Management Activities
- Annual Take Estimates
- Recommendations
- Relevant Publications
- Works Cited

# Status and Information Needed

- Executive Summary
- Introduction and Background – mostly completed. Need to add overview of aquifer levels and financial information
- Biological Goals and Objectives for Covered Species
- Minimization and Mitigation Measures (Reports from Permittees and Partners) – about 40% completed.
- Adaptive Management Activities
- Annual Take Estimates
- Recommendations
- Relevant Publications
- Works Cited
- Appendices – data, progress reports, agendas/minutes

# Example Section

### 3.1.2 Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option (VISPO) (HCP §5.1.2)

The VISPO is a voluntary springflow protection program designed to compensate agricultural water users for not pumping from the Edwards Aquifer during years of severe drought. Participants may enroll in a 5-year or 10-year option. Enrollment commits the user to suspending all pumping activities for one calendar year if, on the previous October 1 trigger date, the aquifer level at the J-17 indicator well is at or below 635 feet (ft) mean sea level (msl). Participants are paid a stand-by fee for their involvement in the program annually, and compensated an additional, significantly higher, payment in years where water suspension is mandated by aquifer conditions.

#### *Obligations:*

Pursuant with Section 5.1.2 of the EAHCP, the EAA is responsible for administering the VISPO. The goal for this program is 40,000 acre-feet of enrolled agricultural water. The target distribution for enrollment is 10,000 acre-feet in Atascosa, Bexar, Comal, and Hays counties and 15,000 acre-feet each in Medina and Uvalde counties. This program accepts both base and unrestricted water rights.

#### *2013 Compliance Actions:*

Enrollment for the VISPO was open from December 2012 through October 1, 2013. The EAA acquired 22,427 acre-feet of enrolled water into the program during that time.

**Table 9. VISPO Enrollment 2013.**

| County           | Acre-Feet Enrolled | % of Goal |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Atascosa         | 0                  | 18.5%     |
| Bexar            | 1,727              |           |
| Comal            | 0                  |           |
| Hays             | 123                |           |
| Medina           | 9,343              | 62.3%     |
| Uvalde           | 11,234             | 74.9%     |
| Total Enrollment | 22,427             | 56.0%     |

#### *Modifications Due to Drought Conditions:*

Aquifer conditions on October 1, 2013 were above 635 ft msl, so the VISPO did not trigger for the 2014 calendar year.

#### *Compliance with the HCP and ITP:*

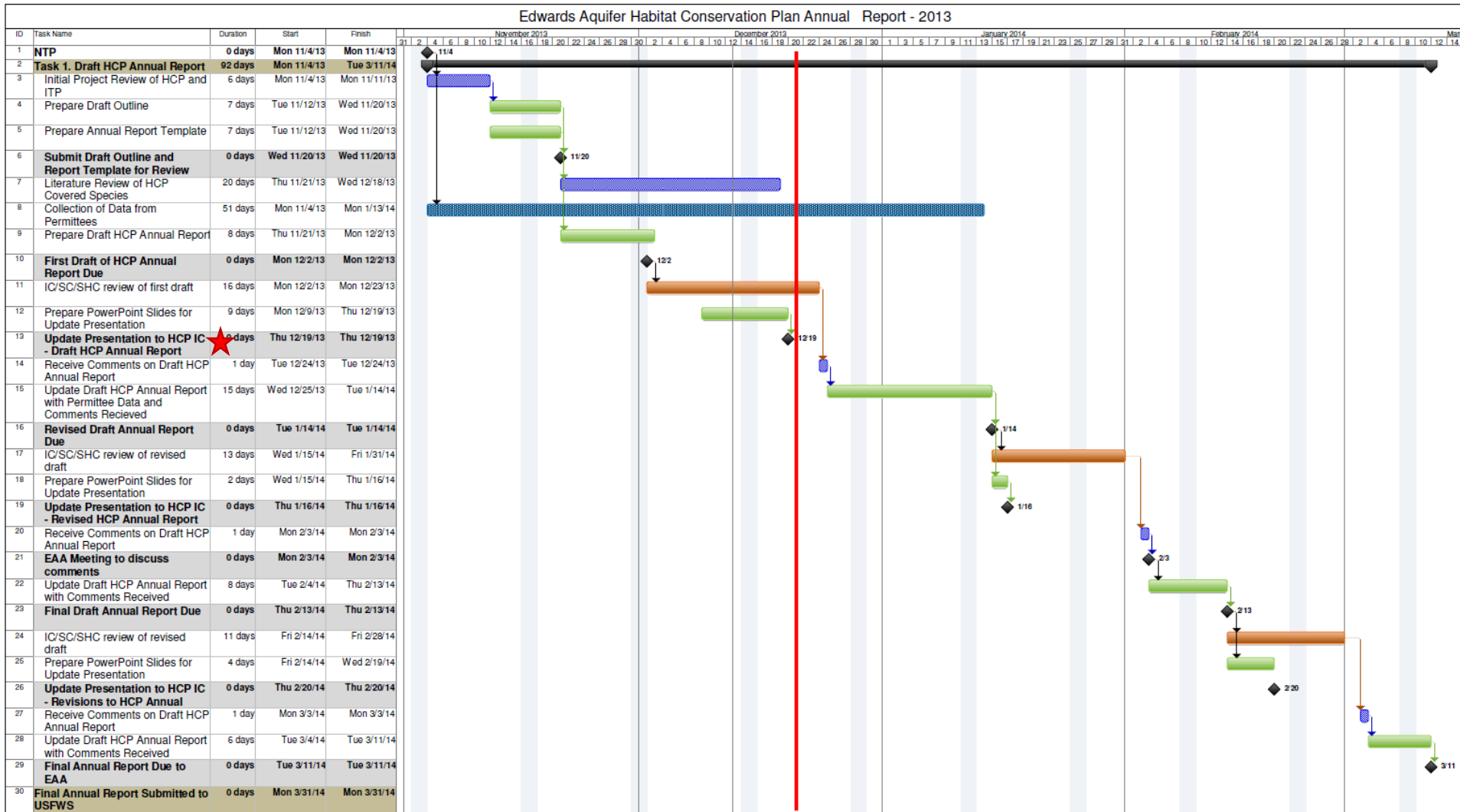
The EAA has fulfilled 56 percent of their acquisition obligation for the VISPO. Enrollment will re-open on January 1, 2014.

#### *Proposed Activities for 2014:*

In 2014, the EAA will continue to enroll voluntary participants into the VISPO. Since 2014 is not a trigger year, stand-by payments will be made in March to all participants who enrolled prior to October 1, 2013.

# Annual Report Schedule and Milestones

Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan Annual Report - 2013



Project: EAHCP Annual Report Schedule  
Nov. 30, 2013

|           |                 |                    |                  |                       |             |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Task      | Summary         | External MileTask  | Inactive Summary | Manual Summary Rollup | Finish-only |
| Split     | Project Summary | Inactive Task      | Manual Task      | Manual Summary        | Progress    |
| Milestone | External Tasks  | Inactive Milestone | Duration-only    | Start-only            | Split       |

# Annual Report Schedule and Milestones

**December 02, 2013:** Final Outline, First Draft of Annual Report, and Literature Review due from Contractor to the EAA.

 **December 19, 2013:** Joint IC/SH/SC Meeting. Presentation of the outline. SWCA will present at this meeting and should be prepared to answer any questions about Annual Report development.

**December 22, 2013:** All Annual Report language due to the EAA for submission to SWCA for draft Annual Report (EAA/SM/NB/TSU/SAWS/TPWD).

**January 13, 2014:** Second Draft of the Annual Report due to the EAA from SWCA. Will incorporate input from the 12/19 meeting and any written comments received.

**January 15, 2014:** Final invoices and progress reports for 2013 due to EAA staff from Permittees. All final information submitted to contractor.



# Annual Report Schedule and Milestones

(continued)

- January 16, 2014:** IC Meeting. Distribute DRAFT Annual Report to the Implementing, Stakeholder, and Science Committees for review (FMA § 7.5.3b). SWCA will present the Draft Report.
- January 31, 2014:** Comments on Draft Annual Report due to EAHCP staff from Implementing, Stakeholder, and Science Committees.
- February 12, 2014:** Revised (redlined) Draft Annual Report due to the EAA.
- February 13, 2014:** Revised (redlined) Draft Annual Report distributed.
- February 20, 2014:** IC Meeting. Presentation of revisions to the Annual Report since January by SWCA.
- March 1, 2014:** All final comments must be received regarding the report from Implementing, Stakeholder, and Science Committees.

# Annual Report Schedule and Milestones

(continued)

- March 11, 2014:** FINAL Annual Report submitted to the EAA by SWCA.
- March 13, 2014:** Distribute FINAL Annual Report to the Implementing Committee.
- March 20, 2014:** IC Meeting. Implementing Committee to authorize Program Manager to submit Final Annual Report to USFWS.
- March 24, 2014:** Submit hard copies of the Annual Report to the Austin and Albuquerque offices of USFWS via postal service (ITP § T).
- March 31, 2014:** **Deadline for submission to USFWS.**

# Comment Matrix with Example Comments

| Client/Project: Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan Annual Report |                                     |          |   |                     |  | Project No.: 27474 |  |  |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------|---|---------------------|--|--------------------|--|--|
| Comment / Response Form   |                                     |          |   |                     |  | Comment Type:      |  |  |
| Document:   |                                     |          |   |                     |  | 1                  | Potentially serious quality issue; requires decision from EAA management           |  |
| Date:   |                                     |          |   |                     |  | 2                  | Minor comment that can be readily addressed  |  |
| Reviewer:   |                                     |          |   |                     |  | 3                  | Comment is editorial or otherwise minor in nature with little effort to implement. |  |
| Comment No.   | Reference Page Number / Line Number | Reviewer | Reviewer Comment  | Accept Comment? Y/N | EAA Comment/Response                                 | Comment Type       | Responsible Responder  | Response   |
| 1   | 12/2                                | CW       | Correct spelling of "Edwards."  | Y                   | Concur.  | 3                  | SWCA   | Spelling error corrected.                            |
| 2   | 15/24                               | CW       | States diversion was reduced by 2 cfs while other references in section refer to 3 cfs. | Y                   | Followed up with permittee - 3 cfs is correct value. | 1                  | SWCA/EAA   | All references to this diversion corrected to 3 cfs. |
|   |                                     |          |   |                     |  |                    |  |  |
|   |                                     |          |   |                     |  |                    |  |  |

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
|  | To be Completed by Reviewer |
|  | To be Completed by EAA      |
|  | To be Completed by SWCA     |



# Questions?