

REPORT OF THE RECHARGE FACILITY SUBCOMMITTEE WORKGROUP

The Recharge Facility Subcommittee Workgroup met on June 2 to discuss a recommendation regarding a possible charge for the Recharge Facility Subcommittee (“Subcommittee”) and its composition.

Recommendation 1: The Scope of the Subcommittee Charge

The Workgroup recommends that the scope of the charge of the Subcommittee should be limited to the five issues set out in Senate Bill 3, § 1.26 A, (n)(1)-(5). The Workgroup further recommends that this provision not be limited to “concrete” structures but should include other recharge methods such as land stewardship. In “plain speak”, the Workgroup believes that this charge means that the Subcommittee would answer the following questions or take the following actions:

- (1) Does the Subcommittee recommend that the EAA or other entities pursue recharge options, both structural and others such as land stewardship?
- (2) Formulate a plan that outlines options for who (which entity or entities) would build, own, and/or operate recharge enhancement options and systems.
- (3) Evaluate and estimate the volumes of additional water made available through recharge methods for maintenance of springflow and for use by Edwards Aquifer permitted rights holders, including during drought conditions.
- (4) How should we approach the Federal government to help fund recharge projects?
- (5) What other potential sources of funding are available for the recharge projects other than the federal government?

The Workgroup recommends that the Subcommittee in carrying out the charge should be mindful of the biological impacts of the construction of the recharge facilities and the potential impact on downstream users. Further, the Subcommittee should be free to recommend to the Steering Committee changes in the scope of the charge.

Recommendation 2: Composition of the Subcommittee

The Workgroup recommends that the composition of the Subcommittee be based on stakeholder interest groups rather than the particular expertise of the representatives. It further recommends that Subcommittee draw on available expertise in its deliberations and that such expertise include persons with diverse perspectives on the issue under consideration.

The Workgroup recommends that the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Marsha Hackett and Ed Foo), NRCS and USGS should be strongly encouraged to participate in the Subcommittee as Non-Voting Members.

As to the specific interests and possible representatives the Workgroup recommends the following composition:

Interest	Possible Representatives
Environmental Groups	Texas Living Waters Project
Land Stewardship Groups	TDA, TWA, Texas Farm Bureau
Regional/River Authorities	EAA, GBRA, SARA, NRA
Water Purveyors	SAWS, Bexar Met, City of Victoria/City of San Marcos, A western water purveyor
General Stakeholders	Kirk Patterson
Contributing Zone	At least one member of GMA 9
Recharge Zone	Medina/ Uvalde Counties Groundwater Districts

Nominations of other representatives that merit consideration may be received by June 30. The Workgroup further recommends that the Steering Committee expressly acknowledge that it is retaining its right to add to or alter the makeup of the Subcommittee.

Materials with respect to Recharge and Recirculation and Land Stewardship have been posted on the EARIP website under the June 2 meeting date.