
Charge of the 2016 EAHCP Biological Monitoring Program Work Group (BioMWG)

Overview: The Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) calls for the Biological Monitoring Program (BioMP) to fill important gaps in knowledge about, and to refine estimates of, the ecological condition of the Comal and San Marcos springs and river ecosystems through an ongoing program of collection of baseline and critical period biological monitoring data (§6.3.1). This program provides a means of monitoring changes to habitat availability and population abundance of the Covered Species that may result from Covered Activities (§6.3.1).

Charge: In 2015, the EAHCP received the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) *Report 1*, containing recommendations for all EAHCP programs, including the BioMP. From *Report 1*, a list of biological monitoring-related recommendations was presented to the NAS Recommendation Review Work Group (NAS Work Group). Based on the NAS Work Group assessment, at its February 18, 2016 meeting, the Implementing Committee approved the creation of the 2016 EAHCP BioMP Work Group (BioMWG) whose charge is to carry out a holistic review of the BioMP, taking into account the recommendations of NAS and the NAS Work Group, and the input of the Science Committee, the Permittees, and subject matter experts. The purpose of the Work Group is to produce a final report for review by the Implementing Committee.

Membership & Meeting Organization: The Implementing Committee will appoint work group membership at its February 18, 2016 meeting. If desired, the Work Group will nominate and elect a Chair. The Work Group will develop its final report through a consensus decision-making process. The Work Group will hold all meetings from March-May 2016 (see proposed schedule attached). The final draft of the *Report of the 2016 EAHCP Biological Monitoring Program Work Group* will be presented to the Implementing Committee for approval at their June 16, 2016 meeting.