

Charge of the EAHCP 2016 Expanded Water Quality Monitoring Program Work Group (WQWG)

Overview: The Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) calls for the Expanded Water Quality Monitoring Program (WQP) to:

- (1) provide early detection of water quality impairments associated with the San Marcos and Comal Spring and River systems that may negatively impact the Covered Species, and
- (2) identify the point and nonpoint sources of those impairments, supporting Covered Species protection by allowing for investigation and adoption of any necessary measures through the Adaptive Management Process (AMP) to address the source(s) of the concerning indicators (§5.7.2).

As WQP components, the EAHCP provides for stormwater, surface, and groundwater sampling (§5.7.2). Since the start of the program, the EAHCP Science and Implementing Committees supported the addition of sediment and passive diffusion sampling to the WQP. For all sampling, the EAHCP provides flexibility for the determination of frequency, sampling time, and location parameters (§5.7.2).

Charge: In 2015, the EAHCP received the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) *Report 1*, containing recommendations for all EAHCP programs, including the WQP. From *Report 1*, a list of water quality 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 Expanded Water Quality Monitoring Program Work Group (WQWG) whose charge is to carry out a holistic review of the WQP, 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 the 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 Expanded Water Quality Monitoring Program Work Group* will be presented to the Implementing Committee for approval at their June 16, 2016 meeting.