

# Updates from the Edwards Aquifer Authority

*Update provided by Rick Illgner, Government Affairs Officer*

## Management changes resulting from SB 3 in 2007

### Permits

- Original 1993 legislation anticipated going to 400,000 af by 1/1/08
- SB3 changed amount to 572,000 af (PA<sub>1</sub>) beginning 1/1/08
- Permit form revised and condensed
- All permits (1,600 now; initially 1,100) re-issued and filed w/ County clerk

### Critical Period Management Plan (CPMP)

- Putting CPMP in Act tradeoff for increasing permitted amount
- New CPMP triggers and reduction requirements, based on 10-day averages
- Last 18 months driest on record; current levels testament to improved efficiency
- 2008 Stage 1 for about a month (mid June to mid July)
- 2009 very near Stage 1 because of San Marcos (1/19 – 97 cfs; 10-day 97.8)
- EAA will be sending letter this week to irrigators re: interpretation on “crop in the ground”

### Recovery Implementation Program (RIP)

- Permit and CPMP more of a local issue, ultimate regional water resource harmony resides in ESA resolution
- SB3 requires EAA, and many others to work together to find a mutual solution
- Steering committee 26 members – EAA, SAWS, GBRA, SARA, TCEQ, TWDB, TPWD, TDA, NRA, small municipal (E&W of Bexar ), industrial, and agricultural IRP holders, environmental and conservation groups and other stakeholders (aquifer users and downstream interests)
- Accomplishments
  - Hired Program Manager (Dr. Robert Gulley)
  - Developed an MOA and set of operational by-laws
  - Organized Science, Recharge, Public Outreach subcommittees and other adhoc groups
  - Secured enough voluntary \$ to fund administrative expenses for near future
  - Initiated research on needs of species & habitats
  - Soliciting \$1.6 million for development & facilitation of HCP and required research

## New faces at the Authority

Several new faces at the EAA in the last 16 months:

- **Luana Buckner** – chair of board
- **Velma Danielson** – General Manager
- Hays – **Mark Taylor** (11 –Hays & Caldwell w/o San Marcos); **Pat Stroka** (10 -s. Hays & San Marcos)
- Comal – **John Lovett** (8 - Comal New Braunfels); **9** (rural Comal & Guadalupe-Doug Miller) vacant
- Bexar – **Ron Ellis** (5 – southern & eastern boundaries); **Benjamin Youngblood** (MW Bexar)
- Medina – **Adam Yablonski** (12 – western & southern)
- Uvalde – **15** (eastern – Bruce Gilleland) vacant
- SCTWAC – **Jerry James** (Victoria)
- Western appointment (Uvalde/Medina alternating) – **Joe Parker** - Uvalde