

EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY

*Response to - EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST AND QUALIFICATIONS
FOR LEGISLATIVE CONSULTING SERVICES
RFQ NO. 003-25-EXE
Posted on November 17, 2025*



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December 9, 2025

Ms. Shelly Hendrix
Edwards Aquifer Authority
900 E. Quincy Street
San Antonio, Texas 78215

Dear Ms. Hendrix,

The Haney Group, LLC is pleased to submit our Statement of Interest and Qualifications to provide legislative consulting services to the Edwards Aquifer Authority. We recognize the unique statutory responsibilities entrusted to the Authority and the vital regional mission you serve in protecting the Edwards Aquifer, ensuring sustainable groundwater management, supporting compliance with state and federal environmental mandates, and safeguarding an essential resource relied upon by millions of Texans. Our firm is committed to supporting that mission through strategic, precise, and highly credible representation before the Texas Legislature and state policy leadership.

The Edwards Aquifer Authority operates in one of the most complex natural resource environments in Texas. Legislative activity affecting groundwater management, regional water supply, environmental regulation, endangered species compliance, and local government authority requires constant vigilance and technical understanding. Our approach emphasizes proactive monitoring, early identification of emerging issues, and targeted advocacy that preserves the Authority's enabling statute, regulatory framework, and long-term conservation objectives.

With more than thirty years of legislative experience, including two decades as Chief Clerk of the Texas House of Representatives, our firm offers a level of procedural expertise and institutional knowledge that is unique in Texas public affairs. This experience allows us to anticipate developments, navigate committee processes, and provide the Authority with clear and timely guidance on issues that influence aquifer governance, permitting, recharge protection, and regional planning.

The Haney Group values strong collaboration with client leadership and staff and we will ensure that our legislative strategies reflect the Authority's scientific foundation, regulatory responsibilities, and operational priorities. We provide consistent communication, thorough bill analysis, and strategic recommendations designed to support informed decision making and strengthen the Authority's presence among policymakers and stakeholders. We would be honored to support the Edwards Aquifer Authority in protecting one of Texas's most critical natural resources. Our firm is committed to delivering principled, responsive, and effective legislative support that advances the Authority's mission and contributes to the long-term water security of the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Haney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Haney, Principal Member
The Haney Group, LLC

Executive Summary

The Haney Group, LLC offers the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) a level of legislative insight, responsiveness, and strategic capability that is uniquely suited to the Authority's responsibilities and long-range objectives. Our firm approaches natural-resource and environmental governance with a disciplined, research-driven model that combines real-time legislative intelligence, precise procedural execution, and a deep understanding of how statutory frameworks evolve at the Texas Capitol. We are committed to delivering a level of service that strengthens the Authority's ability to operate confidently in a rapidly changing policy environment.

Our client representation centers on providing clear, actionable guidance that supports informed decision making. We translate complex legislative activity into practical recommendations, enabling the Authority's leadership to respond quickly to developments affecting groundwater regulation, conservation programs, permitting structures, and intergovernmental coordination. By integrating continuous monitoring with proactive strategy development, we help ensure that the Authority is positioned to engage effectively before issues reach critical points in the legislative cycle.

A core advantage The Haney Group brings is our ability to foresee and navigate procedural challenges that can determine the success or failure of legislation relevant to the Edwards Aquifer. Our experience gives us a unique ability to understand how bills move, where they stall, and how specific provisions may be strengthened or protected. This procedural fluency allows us to defend key statutory provisions, anticipate attempts to alter regulatory authority, and recognize opportunities to support beneficial initiatives.

Our model of service also prioritizes that the Authority receives guidance grounded in established relationships, institutional knowledge, and proven judgment. This hands-on approach supports consistency, trust, and continuity throughout the legislative process and across interim periods.

The Haney Group is ready to support the Edwards Aquifer Authority with strategic, informed, and reliable legislative representation. Our aim is to help reinforce the Authority's mission, strengthen its standing among state policymakers, and ensure that policies affecting the Edwards Aquifer reflect sound principals, responsible management, and long-term regional needs.

Understanding of the Edwards Aquifer Authority

The Edwards Aquifer Authority is a regional groundwater management agency created by the Texas Legislature to protect, preserve, and manage the Edwards Aquifer. This aquifer is one of the most sensitive and economically important water resources in the state. The Authority's jurisdiction covers multiple counties across south central Texas and serves a wide range of municipal, industrial, agricultural, environmental, and spring flow dependent interests. Because of this broad jurisdiction, the Authority functions as both a regulatory body and a regional environmental steward with responsibilities that intersect state, local, and federal policy frameworks.

The Edwards Aquifer supports an extensive system of endangered species habitats, essential spring flow at Comal and San Marcos Springs, and critical ecological functions that sustain communities throughout the region. The Authority operates under a comprehensive statutory structure that includes groundwater permitting, aquifer management, scientific monitoring, conservation planning, and federal requirements connected to the Habitat Conservation Plan and the Endangered Species Act. Decisions at the Legislature involving groundwater regulation,

environmental compliance, regional water supply, recharge protection, or natural resource policy can directly affect the Authority's mission and its ability to manage the aquifers responsibly.

For these reasons, the Edwards Aquifer Authority works within one of the most complex legislative environments in Texas. Any changes to statutes regarding groundwater districts, regional water planning, environmental regulation, or local government authority can influence how the Authority conducts its regulatory and scientific responsibilities. Protecting the clarity and stability of the Authority's enabling statute is essential for effective groundwater governance and for maintaining confidence among the communities and institutions that depend on the aquifer.

The Haney Group understands both the scientific importance of the Edwards Aquifer and the sensitive policy environment in which the Authority operates. Our experience in legislative procedure, bill development, committee processes, and regulatory oversight allows us to identify risks early, evaluate proposals with precision, and help ensure that the Authority's governing framework remains strong. We recognize that the Authority's mission relies on the stability of its statutory authority, the strength of its scientific programs, and its ability to engage effectively with policymakers on matters affecting aquifer health, environmental protection, and regional water security.

Scope of Representation and Approach to Service

The Haney Group, LLC, led by Robert Haney, is committed to providing the Edwards Aquifer Authority with precise, strategic, and highly informed legislative consulting services designed to protect the Authority's statutory responsibilities, regulatory framework, and long-term conservation objectives. Our approach reflects a deep understanding of the Authority's role in managing groundwater resources, implementing environmental mandates, and working with diverse regional stakeholders across the Edwards Region.

The Haney Group will support the EAA through the following core services:

- Advocate for the Authority before legislators, state agencies, and key stakeholders
- Monitor and analyze all legislation affecting groundwater, environmental regulation, and natural-resource governance
- Protect the Authority's enabling statute and evaluate statutory changes for potential impacts
- Draft or review legislative language relevant to the Authority's regulatory responsibilities
- Provide real-time bill tracking, legislative intelligence, and strategic recommendations
- Communicate legislative activity to Authority leadership through timely reports and updates
- Assist with long-range legislative planning, stakeholder education, and intergovernmental coordination
- Ensure full compliance with all state ethics and reporting requirements

Our Approach

With more than three decades of legislative experience, including unmatched procedural expertise and long-standing relationships across the Texas Capitol, The Haney Group delivers strategic planning, vigilant protection, and disciplined execution. Our approach ensures that the Edwards Aquifer Authority remains well positioned to safeguard its governing framework, respond effectively to policy challenges, and advance initiatives that support the long-term health and sustainability of the Edwards Aquifer.

Firm Resume



The Haney Group is owned and operated by principal members Robert Haney and Julie Freeman Haney.

Robert Haney, Principal Member – With over 30 years of legislative leadership, Robert brings nationally recognized expertise in parliamentary process, legislative strategy, and public advocacy to the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

As the long-serving Chief Clerk and advisor to the Texas House leadership through five Speakers, Robert gained deep insight into the complexities of state governance and coalition-building. His tenure included two decades as Chief Clerk, directing operations for one of the nation's largest legislative bodies while building extensive relationships across party lines and government agencies.

Robert is widely regarded as an expert in parliamentary procedure, legislative rules, and institutional strategy, skills which have directly enabled measurable achievements for city governments and public agencies. His guidance has shaped the passage of appropriations bills, implementation of critical amendments, and protection of vulnerable legislation from procedural threats, all essential capabilities for promoting and safeguarding municipal interests.

Nationally, Robert has served as President of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries (ASLCS), representing legislative clerks in all 50 states, and as *Commissioner* for the **Mason's Manual Commission**, establishing best practices for legislative governance nationwide. His reputation for professional integrity and nonpartisan leadership is unmatched.

Robert's extensive network encompasses lawmakers, agency staff, and local government leaders, uniquely empowering him to create, repair, and manage key relationships and partnerships. He is known for responsive, ethical advocacy, delivering strategic results for cities through targeted legislative engagement, consensus-building, and transparent communication.

Julie Freeman Haney, Principal Member – Julie is an experienced advocate and former legislative staff member who adds significant value to the Haney Group team. She has served as a senior advisor to the Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations and was Chief of Staff for a respected legislator representing Arlington, Texas, over several sessions.

Her expertise includes drafting legislation and amendments, developing high-impact communication materials for legislative policy, and creating effective strategic messaging for elected officials. Julie's ability to build grassroots campaigns and shape policy narratives through persuasive one-pagers and publications strengthens the Haney Group's advocacy, helping deliver meaningful results for your legislative priorities.

Principal Engagement, Staffing, and Performance Expectations

The Haney Group will staff this engagement with Robert Haney as the lead lobbyist and primary point of contact for the Edwards Aquifer Authority. Mr. Haney will personally direct and perform the core legislative consulting work, with immediate responsiveness to EAA leadership and staff on priority issues. Additional team members may support research, drafting, and communications as needed, but all work will be under Mr. Haney's direct supervision.

Upon selection, we will work with EAA to define specific legislative priorities and a concise work plan for the two-year term, including expectations for regular updates, interim and session-period reporting, and strategic briefings to management and the Board. Success over the term will be evaluated in terms of responsiveness, quality of analysis and recommendations, and the effectiveness of advocacy in supporting EAA's statutory responsibilities and policy objectives, recognizing that legislative outcomes themselves cannot be guaranteed.

Legislative Experience

The Haney Group has delivered successful advocacy on a broad spectrum of legislative initiatives, consistently achieving positive outcomes for our clients. Our experience extends across sectors such as transportation, energy policy, health insurance, local government, real estate development regulations, billboard legislation, beverage distribution, sports gaming, and workforce development.

Effective advocacy is rooted in unwavering persistence and proactive engagement. Our team is dedicated to advancing client priorities with professionalism, bringing positions forward at every stage of the legislative process. Whether building new alliances or working with aligned officials, we ensure our clients' goals are championed and achieved through strategic action and expert representation.

Experience with Constitutional and Statutory Water and Natural Resource Districts

As the former Chief Clerk of the Texas House of Representatives, I managed and oversaw the legislative processes that ensured all bills creating, modifying, or governing water districts, conservation districts, and other natural resource entities complied with the Texas Constitution and the requirements of state law. This included direct responsibility for reviewing legislation under Article XVI, Section 59 of the Texas Constitution, which provides the foundational authority for the creation of conservation and reclamation districts across the state. The Edwards Aquifer Authority itself was established pursuant to this constitutional framework, making this experience directly relevant to the governance and statutory protection of the Authority.

In this role, I worked extensively with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Office of the Governor, and legislative members to ensure that all proposed actions involving municipal utility districts, water districts, groundwater management authorities, and regional conservation entities complied with constitutional standards, statutory requirements, and administrative processes. This included validating legislative intent, ensuring procedural conformity, evaluating district powers and limitations, and coordinating with state agencies to maintain lawful formation, expansion, or modification of natural resource districts.

This background provides the Haney Group with a unique and practical understanding of the statutory structure that governs the Edwards Aquifer Authority. Our experience analyzing district-related legislation, protecting statutory authority, and ensuring compliance with constitutional mandates enables us to anticipate potential risks, identify threats to the Authority's enabling law, and provide highly informed guidance on legislative developments affecting groundwater management, natural resource policy, and regional environmental governance. This institutional knowledge and direct involvement with the constitutional basis for natural resource districts significantly enhances our ability to support and protect the Authority's mission.

Background and Experience in Similar Representation

Although each client's mission differs, our work across regional agencies, public authorities, and regulated entities has required protecting statutory authority, navigating complex legislative

environments, and advising on issues involving natural resources, environmental regulation, and long-term public infrastructure governance. These experiences translate directly to the needs of the Edwards Aquifer Authority, whose work intersects groundwater management, environmental compliance, endangered species obligations, and regional intergovernmental coordination.

The Haney Group offers at least three client references from recent municipal engagements, each able to attest to our legislative consulting performance, measurable outcomes, and reporting quality. For each reference, we provide names, contacts, and a brief description of services so the committee for the Edwards Aquifer Authority can verify our performance history and commitment.

Client Name: Wood County Health Care Foundation

The Haney Group partnered with the Foundation to secure state appropriations enabling the construction of the Mental Health Life Center in Wood County, a critical resource supporting rural workforce development and specialized training for healthcare professionals in Alzheimer’s and dementia care. Although the project centered on health care, it also involved navigating statutory responsibilities affecting public resources and long-term sustainability planning, experience that parallels the Authority’s role in resource management and environmental compliance.

Key services included:

- Drafting legislative documents (appropriations riders, amendments) and developing compelling funding requests tailored to policymakers’ criteria.
- Direct lobbying of legislators and agency leaders to prioritize rural and urban community needs, mirroring the challenges and opportunities faced by EAA.
- Creating targeted one-page messaging materials to elevate the project’s profile and secure broad support.
- Building strategic coalitions with higher education institutions, local K-12 schools, county officials, and councils of government by demonstrating The Haney Group’s ability to provide coordination across multiple jurisdictions and attention to regulatory obligations with state agencies, like the collaborative demands placed on regional natural-resource authorities.

This experience highlights our success in pursuing funding for rural and municipal projects, our coalition-building across government and education partners, and the advocacy skills directly transferable to EAA’s priorities in legislative engagement, partnership development, and reputation enhancement.

Relevance to the Edwards Aquifer Authority:

This experience demonstrates our ability to protect statutory authority, work across multiple jurisdictions, and collaborate with varied stakeholders on complex issues, a skill set directly applicable to groundwater management and regional environmental responsibilities.

Contact: Debbie Robinson, Chair -Wood County Health Care Foundation
debbielrobinson@gmail.com / (903) 570-4651

Client Name: Texas Council of Urban Counties (CUC)

The Haney Group worked with the Texas Council of Urban Counties (CUC) to strengthen legislative advocacy for urban and regional interests. This work required evaluating policy challenges involving long term sustainability and ensuring consistency with state level regulatory frameworks, which directly parallels the statutory considerations facing the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

Our engagement included:

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- Drafting strategic legislative amendments and reviewing key bills to identify and mitigate parliamentary vulnerabilities, ensuring local government priorities were protected throughout the legislative process.
 - Providing real-time legislative tracking and actionable advice to secure successful passage of measures important to organizations like EAA.
 - Advising CUC leadership on tactics and best practices for coalition-building, effective messaging, and procedural navigation to maximize advocacy impact.
 - Educating CUC executives and board members on the full legislative cycle, empowering them with the tools to engage legislators and participate effectively in public hearings, committee processes, and critical votes.

This experience demonstrates our ability to support municipal and regional organizations by safeguarding their interests, guiding them through complex legislative strategies, and providing the educational resources needed for effective legislative engagement, all skills immediately relevant for Edwards Aquifer Authority's advocacy and partnership-building goals.

Relevance to the Edwards Aquifer Authority:

This experience shows our capacity to navigate statewide policy changes, evaluate regulatory impacts, and represent organizations with broad regional mandates, mirroring the policy environment in which the Authority operates.

Contact: Adam Haynes, Policy Director
adam.haynes@cuc.org / (512) 771-0570

Client Name: Fort Worth Transportation Authority (Trinity Metro)

The Haney Group represented Trinity Metro before the Texas Legislature, advancing transit, infrastructure, and municipal priorities through comprehensive advocacy. The project involved multi-jurisdictional coordination and interactions with state agencies on regulatory matters, reflecting the type of intergovernmental engagement required of entities responsible for environmental and natural resource governance such as the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

Notable services included:

- Pursuing state appropriations for transportation initiatives, directly benefiting agency operations and public service by demonstrating the ability to seek funding critical for municipal growth and infrastructure.
- Drafting targeted bills and amendments, conducting parliamentary reviews of proposals, and ensuring that legislative language supported local objectives and protected against procedural threats. Several issues we addressed involved permitting considerations and statutory responsibilities affecting public resources, both of which are central concerns for regional authorities.
- Lobbying elected officials in both the House and Senate, educating lawmakers on project merits, counting votes, and building strong support for transit and city initiatives.
- Arranging strategic meetings between client management and elected officials, fostering productive relationships and partnerships essential for municipal success.
- Providing leadership with education about the legislative process, empowering local leaders to effectively engage with lawmakers and navigate legislative challenges.

This experience underscores The Haney Group's ability to navigate the appropriations process, secure bill passage, build strategic partnerships, and educate client leadership, all directly relevant to EAA's strategic goals of elevating its reputation, advancing interests, and expanding regional public services.

Relevance to the Edwards Aquifer Authority:

This experience reflects our ability to support a large public authority with statutory responsibilities, multi county operations, and sensitive regulatory obligations, which parallels the governance and policy challenges of the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

Contact: Anette Landeros, Chief Strategy Officer
Anette.Landeros@ridetm.org / (817) 625-5411

Collectively, these projects demonstrate our ability to operate within sensitive, high-stakes policy arenas where statutory clarity, environmental responsibilities, scientific considerations, and long-term resource management are central to our client's mission. These skills align directly with the Edwards Aquifer Authority's needs.

Proposed Period

A proposed contract timeline shall commence upon signed agreement with the Edwards Aquifer Authority, and The Haney Group, terminating by contract after two years, unless renewed. An agreement between the Edwards Aquifer Authority, as Client, and Robert Haney of The Haney Group, as Consultant, may be renewed on or before the expiration of an executed agreement upon the written consent of both parties.

Independent Contractor

It is understood and agreed that the status of the Consultant shall be that of an independent contractor. It is not intended, nor shall it be construed, that the Consultant or the Consultant's employees or agents are employees of the Client.

Conflict of Interest Certification

The Haney Group, LLC certifies that neither the firm nor any of its principals, employees, or agents has any known conflict of interest that would prevent or impair our ability to represent the Edwards Aquifer Authority in accordance with applicable laws, ethical standards, or the requirements of RFQ No. 003-25-EXE. We further certify that we are not aware of any relationships, financial interests, or engagements that would create an actual conflict or the appearance of a conflict with the Authority, its Board of Directors, or its staff.

The Haney Group and its key personnel maintain active registration with the Texas Ethics Commission and fully comply with all requirements of the Texas Lobby Law and the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995. Our firm maintains strict internal safeguards to ensure transparency, ethical conduct, and compliance with all state statutory requirements and Authority policies.

Should any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest arise during the term of representation, The Haney Group will immediately notify the Edwards Aquifer Authority in writing and will take all necessary steps to resolve the issue in a manner consistent with state law and

the Authority's guidelines. We recognize that failure to disclose a conflict of interest may be considered a material breach of an agreement for legislative consulting services.

The Haney Group's longstanding reputation for ethical advocacy, transparency, and adherence to statutory and regulatory obligations reflects our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of professional conduct. By submitting this certification, we affirm our dedication to accountability, integrity, and full compliance in all matters related to our representation of the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

Assessment of Qualifications

The Haney Group is honored to submit our qualifications to serve as the Edwards Aquifer Authority's legislative consulting partner. With more than three decades of experience in the Texas legislative process, deep procedural expertise, and long-standing relationships across state government, our team is uniquely positioned to protect and advance the Authority's statutory responsibilities and policy priorities.

We deliver proactive, research-driven advocacy that aligns fully with the Authority's mission to manage, enhance, and protect the Edwards Aquifer. Our approach centers on safeguarding the Authority's enabling statute, monitoring all legislative and regulatory activity that may affect groundwater management and environmental compliance, and ensuring that decision-makers understand the scientific and policy foundations of the Authority's work. We are committed to strengthening the Authority's position in discussions involving aquifer regulation, conservation planning, regional water supply, endangered species requirements, and intergovernmental coordination.

Our client representation emphasizes early identification of legislative risks, strategic engagement with key policymakers, and continuous communication with Authority leadership to ensure that emerging issues are addressed before they escalate. We bring a level of procedural precision and real-time legislative awareness that allows the Authority to respond effectively to proposed statutory changes, protect its regulatory framework, and influence policy outcomes that impact both the EAA and the communities it supports.

The Haney Group is dedicated to a partnership built on integrity, responsiveness, and clear communication. We pledge to provide the Authority with dependable legislative insight, timely guidance, and long-term strategic support that contributes to sound groundwater governance, environmental stewardship, and the continued protection of the Edwards Aquifer as one of Texas's most vital natural resources.

Contact Information

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The Haney Group

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(512) 925-5000