



EDWARDS AQUIFER HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN PROGRAM

FY 2026 PROGRAM FUNDING APPLICATION

This Program Funding Application ("Application") is made under Article 6 of the Funding and Management Agreement effective January 1, 2012 ("FMA") between the Edwards Aquifer Authority ("EAA") and certain other parties. If you have any questions regarding this Application, please contact the Executive Director of the Habitat Conservation Program at (210) 222-2204. Terms used in this Application are used as defined in the FMA. Label attachments with the section and subsection of this Application to which the attachment corresponds.

Please send your completed application to:

Edwards Aquifer Authority
Attention: Habitat Conservation Program
900 East Quincy Street
San Antonio, TX 78215

[NOTE: Only parties to the Funding and Management Agreement (eff. Jan. 1, 2012) are eligible for Program Funding. Except under extenuating circumstances as approved by the Implementing Committee, a Program Funding Application must be filed with the EAA not later than October 1 of the year preceding the year for which Program Funding is sought. If the EAA approves this Application, funds may be disbursed by the EAA from the HCP Program Account only if a Program Funding Contract has been executed by the EAA and the Applicant. The EAA will make all reasonable efforts to enter into a contract with the Applicant not later than 30 days after it takes final action on this Application. Additionally, Program Funding will be made available to the Applicant only in the amount and according to the terms and conditions of the executed Program Funding Contract.]

1.0 APPLICANT INFORMATION.

Name: Edwards Aquifer Authority

Contact Person: Roland Ruiz

Principal Office Address: 900 East Quincy, San Antonio, TX 78215

Phone Number: 210-222-2204 Fax Number: 210-222-9869

Email: r Ruiz@edwardsaquifer.org

2.0 AMOUNT OF PROGRAM FUNDING.

State the total amount of Program Funding requested to implement the Conservation Measures or other Program activities for the fiscal year for which Program Funding is sought:

~~\$18,194,608~~ \$18,162,608 as specifically depicted in Table 1 below:

EAHCP Mitigation Measure	Description	2026 Budget Request	Managing Party
5.1.1	Refugia	\$1,344,758	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
5.1.2	Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option	\$8,654,550 ^A	EAA Staff
5.1.3	Regional Water Conservation	\$0	EAA Staff
5.5.1	ASR - Leasing	\$5,651,894	EAA Staff, SAWS
5.5.1	ASR – O & M	\$0	EAA Staff, SAWS
6.3.1	Biological Monitoring - Monitoring	\$755,774	BIO-WEST
5.7.2	Water Quality Monitoring	\$65,000	EAA Staff
6.3.3	Ecological Modeling	\$0	BIO-WEST
6.3.4.2	Applied Research	\$250,000	Various Contractors
	EAA Administrative Costs	\$1,440,632 <u>\$1,472,632^B</u>	EAA Staff
Total Funding Request		\$18,162,608 <u>\$18,194,608</u>	

A. On October 1, 2025, the VISPO program was triggered, resulting in suspension payments totaling \$8,654,550.

B. Additional monies needed for additional Professional Services expenses

3.0 CITATIONS TO PROGRAM DOCUMENTS.

List the citations to the appropriate Program Documents that demonstrate that the Applicant is authorized to perform the Conservation Measures or other Program activities for which Program Funding is sought. If the Applicant is acting to cure the failure of another party to the FMA to perform one or more Conservation Measures or other Program activities for which that party is responsible, please describe in detail the circumstances surrounding the need to cure and the authority of the Applicant to perform that duty.

Section 1.26A of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Act,

Recitals A & C of the FMA, and Sections 5.1, 5.72

Resolution and Order No. 12-11-671 – Approving the Habitat Conservation Plan and associated
Implementing Agreement

☐ Additional page(s) attached.

4.0 PROCUREMENT PROCESS.

Describe the procurement process utilized by the Applicant to secure bids or proposals and a demonstration that the bid or proposal selected is lawful and reasonable:

The EAA followed the standard EAA procurement process. For most contracts, EAA Staff advertises Request for Proposals (RFPs) in the major newspapers in Uvalde, Hondo, San Antonio, New Braunfels, and San Marcos. In addition, RFPs are distributed to vendors that had requested to be on an RFP vendor distribution list, or are vendors known to be capable of performing the service. The RFP vendor distribution list includes minority and woman-owned businesses (M/WBEs). After all RFP advertisements are published, Vendor proposals are usually due one month after publication. Once submitted, completed RFPs are independently graded by EAA Staff as to how well each proposal addresses the project and scope of the RFPs without cost consideration. The graded RFPs, with costs attached are then evaluated by EAA Staff to select contractors for each project. Contracts and Scopes of Work are reviewed by Staff, legal counsel and approved by the EAA Board of Directors, prior to the General Manager executing the contract

The table below lists the EAA's Mitigation Measures in the EAHCP, Procurement Process and the Contractor and/or EAA staff managing the program for 2026.

☐ Additional page(s) attached.

EAHCP Mitigation Measure	Description	Procurement Process	Contractor
5.1.1	Refugia	The EAA executed a contract with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (with Bio-West as a sub-contractor) in November 2016. The contract term is from 1-1-2017 to 3-31-2028.	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5.1.2	Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option	The EAA staff's multifaceted communication efforts continue to directly contribute towards achieving the VISPO enrollment goal of 41,795 acre-feet.	EAA Staff

5.1.3	Regional Water Conservation	The EAA entered into an agreement with SAWS for an extensive leak repair program to be implemented over 5-years. This program concluded in 2020.	SAWS
5.5.1	Aquifer Storage and Recovery	EAA staff manages the ASR leasing program and the EAA reimburses SAWS for Operations and Maintenance costs associated with injection and recovery. 2020 was the final year for injection costs. These costs include payments for forbearance and lease agreements.	EAA, SAWS
6.3.1	Biological Monitoring	Biological Monitoring contract will run from 1/1/24 thru 12/31/27.	BIO-WEST
5.7.2	Water Quality Monitoring	EAA staff manages the Water Quality Monitoring program.	EAA
6.3.3	Ecological Modeling	The Ecological Model was developed in 2017 as part of the Phase 1 process and no further activities are planned at this point.	N/A
6.3.4.2	Applied Research	Biological services to conduct various applied research studies will be secured through an expanded formal Request for Proposals process, as specified in "4.0 Procurement Process."	Various Contractors
Project Management	EAA Administrative Costs	All EAA Staff are hired through a rigorous employment protocol consistent with EAA hiring practices.	EAA Staff

5.0 ATTACHMENTS.

☐ **Applicant's Resolution** - Attach the resolution representing that the filing of this Application has been duly authorized by the Applicant's governing body, or other appropriate official.

☐ **Annual Party Work Plan and Cost Estimate** - (purpose for which Program Funding is sought). Attach the Applicant's Annual Party Work Plan and Cost Estimate, as approved by the Implementing Committee, and provide the resolution and minutes of the meeting at which the Implementing Committee took its action to approve.

☐ **Copy of Awarded Proposals** - Attach copies of each awarded proposal approved by City Council, and if necessary, include the scope of work which describes the process for implementation of the Conservation Measures.

6.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

I, the undersigned, acknowledge, represent, and confirm that: (1) I am the representative of the Applicant and authorized to execute and submit this Application; (2) the Program Documents, or another appropriate regulatory document, as indicated above in Section 3 authorize the Conservation Measures or other Program activities to be performed by the Applicant; and (3) to the best of my knowledge the information provided in this Application is complete, true and correct.

By: _____

Roland Ruiz
General Manager
Edwards Aquifer Authority

Date: _____

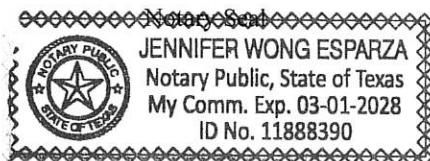
3-16-26

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BEXAR

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Roland Ruiz, General Manager who, after being duly sworn on his oath, executed the above Program Funding Application.

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this 16th day of March, 20 26.



Jennifer Wong Esparza
Notary Public, State of Texas