

RESOLUTION AND ORDER NO. 04-25-119

OF THE EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
APPROVING FORBEARANCE AGREEMENTS OF PERMITTED EDWARDS  
GROUNDWATER RIGHTS BETWEEN THE EAA AND CERTAIN PERMIT  
HOLDERS AS LISTED HEREIN FOR THE VOLUNTARY IRRIGATION  
SUSPENSION PROGRAM OPTION IN SUPPORT OF THE EDWARDS  
AQUIFER HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN, AND AUTHORIZING THE  
GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE THESE AGREEMENTS

WHEREAS, the Edwards Aquifer Authority (“EAA”) was created by the Edwards Aquifer Authority Act of May 30, 1993, 73<sup>rd</sup> Leg., R.S., ch. 626, 1993 Tex. Gen. Laws 2350, as amended (“Act”); and

WHEREAS, under Section 1.02 of the Act, the EAA is a conservation and reclamation district created by virtue of Article XVI, Section 59 of the Texas Constitution, and is a governmental agency and body politic and corporate vested with the full authority to exercise the powers and to perform the functions specified in the Act; and

WHEREAS, under Section 1.08(a) of the Act, the EAA has all the powers, rights and privileges necessary to manage, conserve, preserve, and protect the Edwards Aquifer (“Aquifer”) and to increase the recharge of, and prevent the waste or pollution of water in, the Aquifer; and

WHEREAS, under Section 1.11(d)(2) of the Act, the EAA may enter into contracts; and

WHEREAS, under Section 1.11(d)(9) of the Act, the EAA is authorized to hold an incidental take permit under the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (“ESA”), 16 U.S.C. §§ 1531-1544; and

WHEREAS, under Section 1.14(a)(6), and (7) of the Act, the EAA is required to protect aquatic and wildlife habitat, and protect species that are designated as threatened or endangered under federal or state law; and

WHEREAS, under Section 1.14(h) of the Act, the EAA is required to implement a plan to ensure that springflows at Comal Springs and San Marcos Springs are maintained to protect endangered and threatened species to the extent required by federal law; and

WHEREAS, under Section 1.26A of the Act, the EAA is required to develop and implement a recovery implementation program for the threatened and endangered species associated with the Aquifer; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued Incidental Take Permit No. TE63663A-1 (“ITP”), as amended, to the EAA, among others, under Section 10(a) (16 U.S.C. § 1539(a)) of the ESA; and

WHEREAS, accompanying the application for the ITP was a Habitat Conservation Plan (“EAHCP”) which, among other things, provides for the Conservation Measures identified in

Chapter 5 of the EAHCP, which are intended to minimize and mitigate to the maximum extent practicable the incidental take of threatened and endangered species covered by the EAHCP resulting from the implementation of the Covered Activities identified in Chapter 2 of the EAHCP; and

WHEREAS, Section 5.1.2 of the EAHCP provides that the EAA will implement and administer the Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option (“VISPO”) program wherein irrigators will be compensated to forbear exercising their rights to make withdrawals from the Aquifer during times of certain droughts under groundwater withdrawal permits issued by the EAA; and

WHEREAS, the EAA is implementing enrollment into the VISPO through the use of a Forbearance Agreement (“Agreement”); and

WHEREAS, the EAA Permits/Enforcement Committee, on March 25, 2025, voted to recommend that the Board of Directors (“Board”) approve the Agreements listed herein and provide authorization to the General Manager to execute the Agreements; and

WHEREAS, Article 10.02(b) of the EAA Bylaws requires that any agreement, contract, or any other procurement instrument whose value exceeds \$100,000 be approved by a written resolution of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the total amount to be paid to the various permit holders under the Forbearance Agreements listed herein will exceed \$100,000; and

WHEREAS, the template forbearance agreement upon which these Agreements are based has been reviewed by the EAA legal counsel prior to Board approval; and

WHEREAS, a regular meeting of the Board of the EAA was held on April 8, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., notice of public meeting having been duly and properly posted in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, an agenda item that is the subject of this Resolution and Order was duly listed in the notice of public meeting; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the Directors was present and constituted a quorum of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board duly considered and took action on the Agenda Item that is the subject of this Resolution and Order; and

WHEREAS, a vote of the majority of the quorum of the Board present passed on, voted in favor of, and adopted the following Resolution and Order; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest that the EAA enter into the Agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY THAT:

Section 1. The recitals set out above are found to be true and correct, and they are hereby adopted by the Board of Directors and are made a part of this Resolution and Order for all purposes.

Section 2. The Board of Directors hereby approves the Forbearance Agreements for Permitted Edwards Groundwater Rights for the VISPO program in support of the EAHCP as summarized below:

Permit No.	Owner Name	Acre-feet Enrolled	Term (years)	Agreement Costs (min)*	Agreement Costs (max)**
P102-032	USA Modern Agriculture, LLC	731.061	4	\$157,909.18	\$625,788.22
P101-790	Kincaid Sabinal, LLC	700.000	4	\$151,200.00	\$599,200.00
P103-619	Hugo and Eva Sanchez	99.630	4	\$21,520.08	\$85,283.28
P100-506	Aldridge Nursery, Inc.	100.000	2	\$16,200.00	\$64,200.00
P100-540	Hugo and Eva Sanchez	21.759	2	\$2,349.97	\$9,312.85
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,652.450</b>		<b>\$349,179.23</b>	<b>\$1,383,784.35</b>

\* Assumes Standby Fees are paid for each year during the term of the Agreement, but *no* Forbearance Payments are paid during the term of the Agreement.

\*\* Assumes both Standby Fees *and* Forbearance Payments are paid for each year during the term of the Agreement.

Section 3. The General Manager is authorized to execute the above-listed Forbearance Agreements on behalf of the EAA, deliver a fully executed copy of the Agreement to the enrolled Permit Holders referred to herein, and release payments as required by the Agreements.

Section 4. This Resolution and Order shall become effective from and after its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS THIS 8<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2025.

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Enrique P. Valdivia  
Chairman, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

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Rachel A. Sanborn  
Secretary, Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Darcy Alan Frownfelter  
General Counsel