

Dear GEAA Members and Friends,

From the Edwards Aquifer Authority:

Edwards Aquifer Authority Public Meetings on Preliminary 2012 Budget, Aquifer Management Fee Rate

The Edwards Aquifer Authority will hold a series of public hearings in October on a preliminary \$13.8 million operating budget for 2012 that, for now, includes a proposed increase in the aquifer management fee rate for municipal and industrial groundwater permit holders of \$8, up from the current \$39 per acre-foot to \$47 per acre-foot. Officials caution, however, that the budget, as proposed, is likely to be amended in the future because it does not yet account for costs associated with implementing a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) expected to come to the Authority's board of directors for consideration later this fall.

The Authority will hold public meetings on the budget and fee rate, as presently proposed, at the following times and locations:

Thursday, October 13, 2011

6:00 p.m.

Edwards Aquifer Authority
1615 N. St. Mary's Street
San Antonio, TX 78215

Monday, October 17, 2011

6:00 p.m.

New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce (Honors Hall)
390 S. Seguin Ave.
New Braunfels, Texas 78130

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

6:00 p.m.

Hondo Community Center
1014 18th Street
Hondo, TX 78861

The Authority's board of directors will consider adopting the 2012 budget and corresponding fee rate in November after considering comments received

through these public hearings. Then, sometime after adopting the budget, the board is expected to consider an HCP as recommended by the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program (EARIP). The HCP, if approved, would require a significantly larger budget and higher fee rate of as much as \$116 per acre-foot. Such an increase would require the Authority to amend its adopted 2012 budget and adjust the fee rate by board action either later this year or early in 2012.

At that time, the Authority will hold additional public hearings to receive comments on the proposed amendments to the budget and fee rate. Under all scenarios, however, the aquifer management fee rate for agricultural users will remain unchanged at \$2 an acre-foot as set by legislative statute.

A copy of the proposed budget is available by calling (210) 222-2204 or (800) 292-1047. The Edwards Aquifer Authority manages, enhances, and protects the Edwards Aquifer, one of the major groundwater systems in Texas serving approximately 2.1 million people.

[News Release from Edwards Aquifer Authority](#)