

By: Miller of Comal

H.R. No. 1132

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Members of the Edwards Aquifer Recovery
2 Implementation Program successfully completed the development of
3 the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan, which was approved
4 by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in March 2013; and

5 WHEREAS, A unique groundwater resource, the Edwards Aquifer
6 is the primary source of drinking water for over two million people
7 and meets the agricultural, industrial, and recreational needs of
8 most of South Central Texas; two major tributaries of the Guadalupe
9 River, the San Marcos and Comal Rivers, originate in the aquifer as
10 the San Marcos and Comal Springs, which are home to eight species
11 listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered
12 Species Act; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2007, the Texas Legislature directed the Edwards
14 Aquifer Authority and four state agencies to engage diverse
15 stakeholders in a consensus-based process to prepare a habitat
16 conservation plan for managing the Edwards Aquifer; the goal
17 established for the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation
18 Program was to protect threatened and endangered species while
19 maintaining the aquifer as a viable resource to meet the needs of
20 the region; and

21 WHEREAS, The program sought the involvement of
22 representatives from a wide range of interests, including water
23 authorities, public utilities, municipal government, environmental
24 organizations, state agencies, industry, and agriculture; working

1 together, the stakeholders came to agreement on the key features of
2 the habitat conservation plan and submitted it to the Fish and
3 Wildlife Service for review; and

4 WHEREAS, Through their dedicated efforts, participants in
5 the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program achieved
6 approval for the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan, which
7 represents a successful resolution to decades of disagreement over
8 the management of the aquifer; the plan will shield the region from
9 further litigation under the Endangered Species Act, avert the
10 threat of federal intervention into the management of a state
11 resource, and provide unprecedented assurance to users that they
12 will be able to rely on Edwards Aquifer groundwater to meet their
13 diverse needs in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
15 Legislature hereby congratulate the participants in the Edwards
16 Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program on the approval of the
17 Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan by the United States Fish
18 and Wildlife Service and commend them for this historic
19 achievement; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for the administration of the Habitat Conservation Plan as
22 an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.