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## ***Sierra Club and NWF Support Proposed Edwards Aquifer Authority Fee Increase***

*Austin, Texas* – The Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) strongly support the Edwards Aquifer Authority’s (EAA) proposed increase in aquifer management fees.

“While we recognize that this is a large increase, these fees would provide critical funding to implement the consensus plan developed by the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program (EARIP). This plan is designed to maintain continuous spring flows at Comal and San Marcos Springs during a recurrence of ‘drought of record’ conditions and assist in the recovery of spring-dependent threatened and endangered species.” said **Myron Hess, Water Programs Manager and Counsel for the NWF’s South Central Regional Office.**

Funds resulting from this fee increase would be used to implement the habitat improvement and pumping reduction measures included in this plan.

“Representatives from both organizations have actively participated in the EARIP process for four years and have worked to ensure that adopted measures are fair and equitable while providing for spring flow protections. We urge the public to attend and speak in support of the fee increase at the EAA public hearings on Wednesday, August 10 in San Marcos and Thursday, August 11 in San Antonio,” said **Tyson Broad, Research Associate with the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club.**

More information on these hearings is available at <http://edwardsaquifer.org/>.

*Texas Living Waters is a partnership project of the National Wildlife Federation and the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club that seeks to balance human demands for water with the need to ensure adequate water for fish and wildlife. Our goal is to achieve environmentally and economically sustainable management of Texas’ limited water resources.*

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