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**EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY CONTEMPLATES 2010 BUDGET
New Initiatives Could Result in Fee Rate Increase
for Municipal, Industrial Users**

SAN ANTONIO (September 8, 2009) – For the first time in five years, the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors will consider proposing a budget that would increase aquifer management fees for municipal and industrial Edwards groundwater users across the region. The Authority's board of directors, at its monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 8, received a preliminary draft of the general manager's proposed \$13.5 million general fund operating budget for 2010. The budget includes a boost in aquifer management fee rates for municipal and industrial groundwater permit holders – up \$2 from \$37 an acre-foot to \$39 an acre-foot. The rate hike is the first one proposed since 2005

The rate increase would help cover costs related to new initiatives such as an abandoned well closure program and a recharge enhancement program aimed at further protecting aquifer springflows. The aquifer management fee rate of \$2 per acre-foot for agriculture users, set by the legislature in the Edwards Aquifer Authority Act, would remain unchanged. The board will consider formally proposing a budget and holding public hearings in October before taking final action on a budget in November.

In other action, Authority directors voted to adopt a moratorium that temporarily suspends the filing and processing of applications for aquifer recharge and storage or aquifer recharge recovery permits, pending a review of current rules.

The Edwards Aquifer Authority manages, enhances, and protects the Edwards Aquifer, one of the major groundwater systems in Texas serving approximately 1.7 million people. More information on the Edwards Aquifer Authority is available on line at www.edwardsaquifer.org or by calling (210) 222-2204 or (800) 292-1047.

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