



RESOLUTION NO. 2013 - 1

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GUADALUPE BASIN COALITION
CALLING ATTENTION TO CONTINUING DROUGHT
CONDITIONS IN THE REGION, WARNING OF POTENTIALLY
DIRE DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN 2014, AND EXPRESSING
SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EDWARDS
AQUIFER HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, severe drought conditions exist in the Guadalupe River Basin and the Edwards Aquifer Region of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center issued a prediction on August 15, 2013 that drought conditions are likely to persist in these areas into 2014; and

WHEREAS, the base flow of the Guadalupe, Comal and San Marcos Rivers during drought conditions consists primarily of flows from the Comal and San Marcos Springs; and

WHEREAS, the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) has as a primary goal the protection of the continued flow of the Comal and San Marcos Springs; and

WHEREAS, if not for the EAHCP to manage the Edwards Aquifer to maintain minimum spring flows in a repeat of the drought of record to the benefit and protection of identified endangered species in the Landa and San Marcos Lakes, and Comal and San Marcos Springs systems, current groundwater law would most certainly result in cessation of springflows for long periods of time in a drought; and

WHEREAS, the EAHCP is still in the process of being implemented in the midst of the difficult circumstances of the current drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, the EAHCP's primary mechanisms for protecting the continued flow of the Comal and San Marcos Springs – the Regional Water Conservation Program, the Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program, the San Antonio Water System Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program, and the Stage V Critical Period - all depend on reductions in use of water from the Edwards Aquifer; and

WHEREAS, the Edwards Aquifer Authority has announced Stage 5 of the Critical Period Management Plan for the Uvalde Pool and Stage 3 for the San Antonio Pool; and

WHEREAS, the Guadalupe Basin Coalition wishes to call attention to the current drought conditions, encourage regional water users and water providers to take affirmative steps to prepare for continued drought in 2014, while also expressing strong support for the continued implementation of the EAHCP; and

WHEREAS, whether current measures will be effective at protecting the continued flow of the Comal and San Marcos Springs in this severe drought remains to be seen, the EAHCP contains an adaptive management process that can be initiated to put measures in place that will protect the continued flow of the Comal and San Marcos Springs; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GUADALUPE BASIN COALITION:

SECTION 1. The Guadalupe Basin Coalition calls the attention of the public to the current drought conditions in the Guadalupe River Basin and the Edwards Aquifer Region of Texas, and requests that all persons, businesses and water utilities in the area be mindful of these conditions and as conservative as possible in their use of water.

SECTION 2. The Guadalupe Basin Coalition calls the attention of the public to the potential for the current drought to persist into 2014 and to deplete water supplies that are already strained under the current drought.

SECTION 3. The Guadalupe Basin Coalition strongly supports the continued implementation of the EAHCP, and in particular, the mechanisms for protecting the continued flow of the Comal and San Marcos Springs.

SECTION 4. The Guadalupe Basin Coalition strongly urges all users of the Edwards Aquifer to conserve water supplies for use during the current drought to protect the flow of the Comal and San Marcos Springs, especially since the EAHCP springflow protection measures are not yet fully implemented.

SECTION 5. If it becomes apparent that continued flow of the Comal and San Marcos Springs is being threatened to levels below those defined in the EAHCP due to the severity of this drought, the Guadalupe Basin Coalition strongly urges the parties and stakeholders in the EAHCP to initiate the EAHCP adaptive management process to put measures in place through the EAHCP that will protect the continued flow of the Comal and San Marcos Springs.

SECTION 6. This Resolution takes effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED on September 13, 2013.



Todd H. Votteler, Ph.D., Chairman



Gary Spence, Secretary

Canyon Regional Water Authority

Citizens United for Lake Placid

City of New Braunfels

City of San Marcos

City of Seguin

City of Victoria

Comal County

Dow Chemical

Friends of Lake McQueeney

Greater New Braunfels
Chamber of Commerce

Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

Guadalupe County

New Braunfels Utilities

Protect Lake Dunlap Association

San Marcos Area Chamber of Commerce

Seguin Chamber of Commerce

Upper Guadalupe River Authority

Victoria Chamber of Commerce

Victoria County

Water Oriented Recreation District
(WORD) of Comal County

