

**City of San Antonio
Capital Improvements Management Services
Interdepartmental Correspondence Sheet**

TO: Carri Wiggins

FROM: Grant Ellis, Special Projects Manager – CIMS, Edwards Aquifer Protection Program; Board Liaison

SUBJECT: Boards and Commission Report – Conservation Advisory Board

DATE: January 8, 2014

This report will provide an update on the status of the Conservation Advisory Board (CAB).

Background:

The CAB was formally created on April 6, 2000 (Ordinance 91566). The enabling ordinance called for the creation of the board to provide input and advice to City Council in connection with Proposition III, the Park Development and Expansion Venue Project. The role of the CAB was then formally modified on June 2, 2005 (Ordinance 100985) to also encompass the responsibilities outlined below in connection with Proposition I, the Edwards Aquifer Protection Venue Project.

Purpose:

The purpose of the CAB is to provide input and advice to staff and the City Council regarding: (i) the acquisition of sensitive land over the Edwards Aquifer and the appropriate development and stewardship of such land acquired pursuant to the Parks Development and Expansion Venue Project (2000), and pursuant to the Edwards Aquifer Protection Venue Projects (2005 and 2010); (ii) the stewardship and monitoring of conservation easements acquired under the Edwards Aquifer Protection Venue Project(s).

Committee Composition:

The composition of the CAB currently consists of representatives from the following organizations (Ordinance 2008-08-07-0649):

- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Edwards Aquifer Authority
- San Antonio Water System
- San Antonio River Authority
- City of San Antonio Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
- San Antonio Economic Development Foundation
- Director of COSA Parks & Recreation Department
- Medina County
- Uvalde County

Meeting Dates:

The CAB meets once every month per year during the initial evaluation and acquisition phases of the programs, usually on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Additional meetings may be held at the discretion of the Board.

2013 Accomplishments:

The CAB oversaw the acquisition of 14 conservation easements in calendar year 2013, for a total of 13,030 acres of protected land over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. Of those conservation easements, 10 of them were in Uvalde County, three of them were in Medina County, and one was in Bexar County. The breakdown of acreage is as follows:

- Bexar County – 461 acres
- Medina County – 5,418 acres
- Uvalde County – 7,151 acres

The CAB also approved the use of program funds toward a Sustainability Study that would help the City and its partners better understand the overall accomplishments of the program to date, and would assist the CAB and City staff in analyzing the possibilities for the future of the program. Funding for the study was approved by the CAB at their September meeting.

The following presentations were made by outside groups to the CAB in 2013:

- February – Presentation by Liza Meyer – COSA Office of Sustainability
- April – Coal Tar Sealant presentation – Stephen Kale, Citizens Environmental Action Committee
- June – “Drought Scenarios for the San Antonio Pool of the Edwards Aquifer” – Jim Winterle, Edwards Aquifer Authority

The following presentations were made by program staff to outside groups in 2013:

- March – Presentation to SAWS visiting Mongolian delegation
- April – Presentation to Alamo Chapter of the Air & Waste Mgmt Association
- May – Presentation to the South TX Farm & Ranch Club
- July – Presentation to the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors
- August – Presentation to COSA Parks & Recreation Board

There were no changes in representative membership in the CAB in 2013. Presently, all positions on the CAB roster are full.