The State of Texas
House of Representatives

H.R. No. 1132

RESOLUTION

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The program sought the involvement of representatives from a wide range of interests, including water authorities, public utilities, municipal government, environmental organizations, state agencies, industry, and agriculture; working together, the stakeholders came to agreement on the key features of the habitat conservation plan and submitted it to the Fish and Wildlife Service for review; and

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

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

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

Miller of Comal

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1132 was adopted by the House on April 10, 2013, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

Doug Miller
State Representative
District 73