

News Release
For Immediate Release
Contact: Leonard Olson
512/473-3695

**Stakeholder Meeting for Developing
a Regional Water Quality Protection Plan
for the Barton Springs Segment of the
Edwards Aquifer and its Contributing Zone**

What: Regional Water Quality Planning Group, Stakeholder Meeting
Where: Austin Waldorf School
8700 South View Road
Austin, Texas
When: Wednesday, June 30, 2004
6:00 p.m.

The first in a series of stakeholder meetings was held June 8th. At that meeting eight categories of stakeholder groups were identified. Those eight categories are:

- Concerned Citizens
- Development Interests
- Economic Interests
- Governmental Entities
- Local Environmental Preservation/Good Governance Organizations
- Neighborhood Interests
- Property Owners
- Public Interest Organizations

These stakeholder groups began the process to identify and prioritize issues facing water quality protection for the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer and its contributing zone impacted by growth in the area and the recent surge in residential and commercial development.

At the June 30th meeting this process will continue. Several presentations will be given on the Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts, a review of the current legal authority the political subdivisions in the planning area have and water and sewer platting requirements. Presentations will also be made by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on protection of the Barton Springs Salamander, by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on the Edwards Aquifer Protection Rules and a presentation by the City of Austin on its watershed protection program.

The Stakeholder groups will select members to represent their interests on a newly formed Stakeholder Committee who will work with the consulting firm hired to develop

the Water Quality Protection Plan for the study area. The Stakeholder Committee will review issues identified by all interest groups and prioritize those to be address as the plan is developed.

The planning effort is funded by a grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority and Texas Water Development Board. It also includes in-kind services from a variety of other entities.

Elements of the planning process include:

- Involve the stakeholders in all phases of development of the Water Quality Protection Plan
- Identify the best management techniques for the protection of water quality in the area
- Identify entities that can implement water quality protection measure within the planning area
- Develop model ordinances to implement and enforce water quality protection plans for the area
- Develop a consensus-based Water Quality Protection Plan including best management practices and water quality protection strategies and regional planning tools to protect both surface and ground water quality.

The planning process will be a very public, stakeholder-involved process using a bottom-up approach to identify and prioritize concerns and issues facing this area, along with recommended solutions. The firm of Naismith Engineering has been retained to assist in developing the Regional Water Quality Protection Plan.

The project area includes the following political subdivisions: Hays and Travis Counties, the Cities of Austin, Buda, Hays City, Kyle, Mountain City, Rollingwood, Sunset Valley, Village of Bee Cave, Village of Bear Creek, and the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer and Hays Trinity Conservation Districts.

For further information call Terry Tull, Executive Director, 512 858-2148 or e-mail him at regionalplan@zeecon.com, or go the website www.waterqualityplan.org.