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BRANCH

MEETING – May 16, 2023



Edwards Aquifer Protection Program Objective and Planning



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SPEAKER

Kevin Smith

TCEQ Edwards Aquifer Engineer
Liaison to TxDOT



Kevin Smith reviews highway projects proposed within the Edwards Aquifer geologic zones. In this function, he previews and approves proposed engineering & best management practices (BMPs) for preserving water quality of the aquifer and preventing degradation. Most large roadway projects today and within the past 16 years have been audited, including IH10, Loop 1604, IH35, US281, Oak Hill Parkway, and US183A.

As Sr. Engineer, he is part of the EAPP in the Austin Region, a dedicated team of engineers,

geoscientists, and environmental staff.

Prior to Austin, Kevin was the Air Section Manager in the El Paso Region for 7 years, and Chief of Permitting in the City of St. Louis for 5 ½ years.

One of Kevin's favorite Edwards places to visit is Landa Park in New Braunfels to rejoice at the spring-fed headwaters of the Comal River with its many springs and visitors, including the endangered fountain darter.

Primarily, this presentation outlines useful information to Agents and engineers about the regulatory objectives of the program and the specifics of Roadway Best Management Practices (BMPs) and applicable planning.

The Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP) is an idea which began after the record drought in the 1950's. Control activities began in earnest in 1974. Water Pollution Abatement Plans (WPAPs) were conceived in 1984. The Contributing Zone was added and the 'modern era' of TSS removal and applied Professional Engineering was required in 1999. In 2023, as part of a robust permitting process, the EAPP and TxDOT advance environmental protections via an interagency cooperation contract which stipulates the liaison position.

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Next Meeting – June 20, 2023

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