



**Barton Springs
Edwards Aquifer**
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 18, 2013

To: Board of Directors

Thru: Kirk Holland, P.G., General Manager

From: Robin H. Gary, Senior Staff
John T. Dupnik, P.G., Assistant General Manager

Re: Alternate Water Supply Stakeholder Advisory Committee: Summary of
Feedback and Staff Recommendation

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

The District formed an *ad hoc* Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) to help guide policy, research, and management decisions concerning alternate water supplies within the District. This SAC evaluated staff-identified alternate water supply options through two on-line questionnaires and one meeting. The members helped review, refine, and add to staff-suggested strategies and helped systematically prioritize and comment on those strategies. (A summary of the feedback is enclosed)

In response to the first survey question, stakeholders identified “lessening the strain on the Edwards water supply” as the primary objective for the District's pursuit of alternate water supplies. SAC comments were that the current permittees and groundwater users provide District funding and therefore deserve to benefit most from District investments. “Providing water supplies for additional regional growth” was considered a secondary objective. SAC comments pointed out that current permittees’ and groundwater users’ funds should not be used solely to benefit new permittees.

From the strategy-ranking exercise in the survey, the highest ranked strategies for pursuit of alternate water supplies that emerged were: 1) Developing the science required for alternate water supply feasibility studies; and 2) Encouraging conservation and use of other alternate water supplies (reuse, graywater, rainwater, AC condensate, etc.). Developing new larger-scale water supplies and then becoming a water purveyor was largely considered not appropriate or low priority. SAC comments identified purveyor and/or broker status as a conflict of interest.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Stakeholder input and feedback on alternate water supply strategies validate current programming efforts and are consistent with current management plan objectives such as:

Objective 5. Extend current groundwater supplies by encouraging supply-side and demand-side improvements; and

Objective 6. Increase understanding of all District aquifers so that appropriate policy and regulatory decisions are made.

On the basis of SAC input and feedback, the staff recommends continuing efforts to develop science for alternate water supply feasibility studies and continuing public information and education programs supporting the use of alternate water supplies.