

Summary of Changes Made to Draft HCP in BSEACD Board-Approved Version of Final HCP

1. Extensive re-wording/re-statements, updates, and other edits throughout document for improved readability and comprehension and/or for clarification and amplification purposes, in response to specific public comments from three parties (Ref: table of BSEACD-specific responses to comments, and markup of entire HCP document).
2. Expansion of Covered Species habitat beyond B/S complex to include all of the Aquifer, on the basis of now-documented occurrences of BSS elsewhere, and new definitions for near-field and far-field cohorts of the Covered Species (Ref: completely re-vamped and expanded Section 3.2.2.2.1, Overview of Habitat Characteristics and Supported Populations).
3. Significant changes in stipulated populations of BSS in both near-field and far-field cohorts, on basis of new COA data and analysis and of newly defined far-field habitat scenario, respectively, notably increasing BSS population from 831 to 4988 (Ref: Section 3.2.2.2.1).
4. Using same logic basis as before but expanding habitat to include the entire Aquifer rather than only the B/S complex, re-calculation of severe drought-time take factors for both species as a result of the new populations sizes, with BSS factor changing markedly from 29.1 to 174 monthly, and with ABS factor changing slightly from 34.9 to 36.6 monthly (Ref: re-written and re-named Section 5.2.3.1, Characteristics of Populations Adversely Affected by Take; and Section 5.2.3.2, Apportionment of Springflow-related Take to Adversely Affected Populations).
5. Re-definition of the cumulative take scenario that reduces the number of drought years/months in which take occurs and concomitantly increases the number of years/months without drought during the ITP term, consistent with suggested need for longer time for population rebound after severe drought (Ref: Section 5.2.3.4, Cumulative Take Estimates).

6. Application of both new take factors in Item 4 and the re-defined take scenario in Item 5 results in substantially different total take amounts over the ITP term, changing from 3,740 to 20,200 for BSS and from 4,482 to 4,260 for ABS (Ref: Section 5.2.3.4, Cumulative Take Estimates).
7. No changes made in the HCP conservation measures, including the mitigation measures, but research area expanded to include far-field locations of ecological/habitat monitoring wells (Ref: Section 6.4.1, Research Supporting the AMP).
8. More specific description of elements of the BSEACD/COA Inter-local Agreement, consistent with the scope of current draft but not-yet-approved ILA language (Ref: Section 6.5.3, City of Austin and Barton Springs Pool HCP).
9. Expanded, more generalized scope of Changed Circumstance #2 for assurance purposes, that specify more examples of triggers but do not involve more or different responses by the District (Ref: renamed Section 7.2.2.2, Changed Circumstance: Unexpectedly Larger Adverse Effects on Springflow Characteristics and on the Covered Species During Severe Drought In the ITP Term).
10. Elimination of Changed Circumstance #4, because take associated with those additional remote habitat locations is now addressed in the main HCP (Ref: now deleted in its entirety Section 7.2.2.4, Changed Circumstance: Additional Habitat of Covered Species Confirmed at Locations beyond the Barton Springs Complex).