Update on the
Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan

Guadalupe River Basin
2015 Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee Meeting
March 26, 2015

Presented by:
Shaun Payne and Bob Hall
Edwards Aquifer Authority

Brief Summary:

- March 2013- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) approved the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) and provided an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) to the permittees.

  - The Edwards Aquifer Recovery and Implementation Program (EARIP) became the EAHCP.

- January 2014- Department of the Interior presented the EARIP the Partners and Conservation Award.
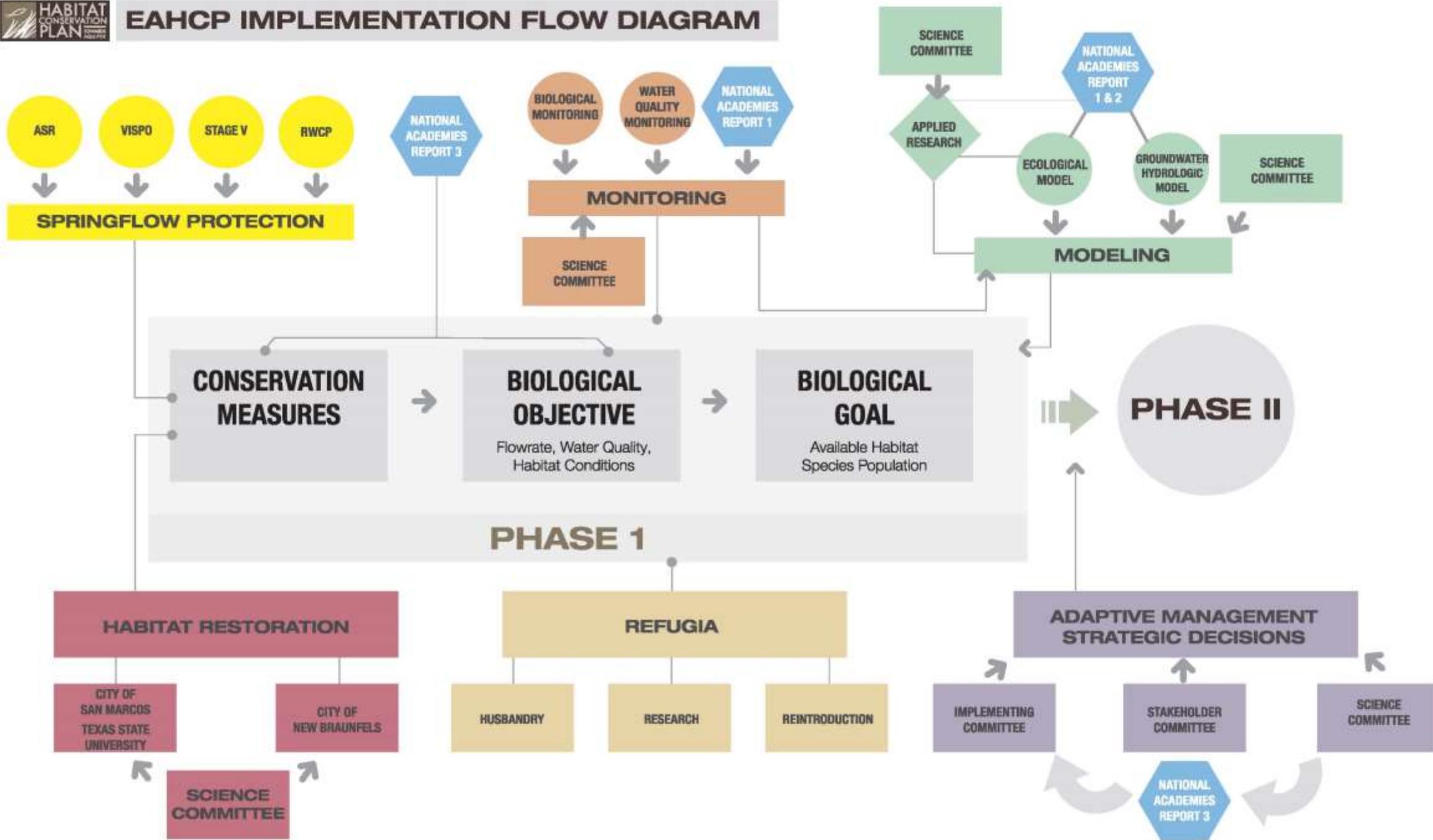
EAHCP IMPLEMENTATION FLOW DIAGRAM

HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

ASR VISPO STAGE V RWCP

SPRINGFLOW PROTECTION

NATIONAL ACADEMIES REPORT 3

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING WATER QUALITY MONITORING NATIONAL ACADEMIES REPORT 1

MONITORING

SCIENCE COMMITTEE

SCIENCE COMMITTEE

NATIONAL ACADEMIES REPORT 1 & 2

APPLIED RESEARCH

ECOLOGICAL MODEL GROUNDWATER HYDROLOGIC MODEL SCIENCE COMMITTEE

MODELING

CONSERVATION MEASURES

→

BIOLOGICAL OBJECTIVE
Flowrate, Water Quality, Habitat Conditions

→

BIOLOGICAL GOAL
Available Habitat Species Population

PHASE II

PHASE 1

HABITAT RESTORATION

CITY OF SAN MARCOS TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS

SCIENCE COMMITTEE

REFUGIA

HUSBANDRY RESEARCH REINTRODUCTION

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC DECISIONS

IMPLEMENTING COMMITTEE STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE SCIENCE COMMITTEE

NATIONAL ACADEMIES REPORT 3

Springflow Protection Measures

VISPO: The Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option provides incentives to irrigators to forebear irrigation for one year.
- J-17 at 635 on October 1st
- 40,000 acre-feet

ASR: The Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) program uses the SAWS ASR facility to store water for the EAHCP.
- 6,000 acre-feet enrolled

Habitat Restoration Effort

Comal Springs
- Flow-Split Management
- Old Channel Restoration
- Invasive Species Removal

San Marcos Springs
- Texas wild-rice Enhancement and State Scientific Areas (SSA)
- Riparian Restoration
- Invasive Species Removal

Water Quality Monitoring-
- SWCA
- San Marcos and Comal

Biological Monitoring:
- BIO-WEST Inc.
- Critical Period Monitoring

Ecological Modeling and Hydrological Modeling:
- MODFLOW and Finite Element
- Eco Model Team

Applied Research:
- 7 Research Projects in 2014
- Freeman Aquatic Building
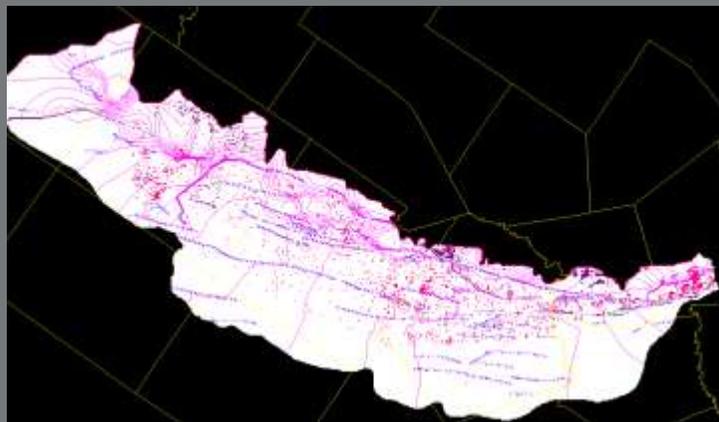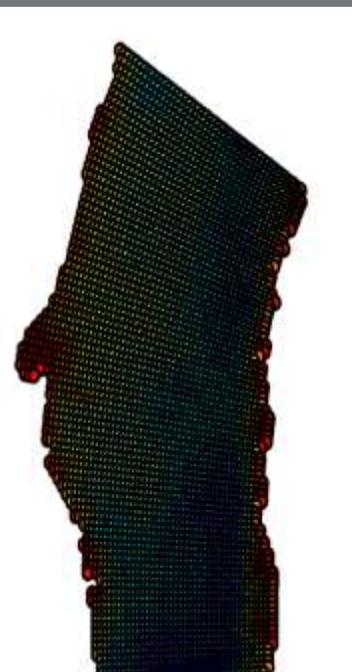
National Academy of Sciences (NAS)
- Report 1 Recommendations

Regional Water Conservation Program
- Work Group Recommendations

Habitat Restoration
- Comal and San Marcos Springs

Applied Research and Model Verification

Refugia
- Salvage Stock
- Long Term Refugia
- Research

Questions?