

United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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MAY 29 2018

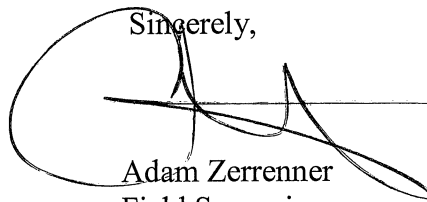
Nathan Pence, Program Manager
Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan
900 E Quincy Street
San Antonio, TX 78215

Dear Mr. Pence:

I have received your May 17, 2018, request for clarification regarding the Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option (VISPO) compensation schedule. The Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan includes a voluntary program that allows the enrolled irrigation water users to be compensated for suspending the use of their water during certain drought conditions. The details of the VISPO are more fully explained in the *Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program Habitat Conservation Plan*. The level of compensation is at the discretion of the permittees so long as the program is operating and achieving the water conservation goals intended to be protective of the species covered under the Endangered Species Act section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit (TE-63663A-1). Therefore, I concur with your request clarifying that the Permittees may, as needed, make changes to the VISPO compensation schedule to be responsive to varying market conditions.

Thank you for your significant contributions to the conservation of native species in the Edwards Aquifer.

Sincerely,



Adam Zerrenner
Field Supervisor