

2014 Stakeholder Committee VISPO and ASR Facilitation Work Group

Charge:

The Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) calls for the VISPO program to enroll 40,000 acre-feet of permitted irrigation rights for suspension when the water level at the J-17 index well is at or below 635 feet on October 1. The EAHCP also provides that the EAHCP ASR springflow protection effort will include the acquisition of 50,000 acre-feet (af) of Edwards Permits, to be used in order to provide water for ASR storage and to reduce pumping at key times. To ensure the success of these two programs, it is essential that the programs are administered effectively to enroll the full compliments of water.

The purpose of the 2014 Stakeholder Committee VISPO and ASR Facilitation Work Group is to make recommendations to the Stakeholder Committee on achievable methods to secure:

- (1) acquisition of the remaining \approx 16,000 acre-feet of forbearance agreements into VISPO prior to the time that J17 levels trigger forbearance pursuant to the EAHCP, and
- (2) acquisition of the remaining \approx 44,000 acre-feet (EAHCP calls for Tier 1 = 16,667 af of leases, Tier 2 = 16,667 af of lease options, and Tier 3 = 16,667 af of lease options; currently a total of about 6,000 af of leases are in place) of rights for ASR in sufficient time to reach needed storage levels and implement the ASR as contemplated in the EAHCP.

Organization:

The Work Group will split into two subgroups – a 2014 VISPO subgroup and a 2014 ASR subgroup. The Chair of the Work Group will be Myron Hess, the Vice Chair of the ASR subgroup will be Steve Raabe and the Vice Chair of the VISPO subgroup will be Adam Yablonski.

Other members of each subgroup include:

VISPO subgroup: Rick Illgner, Radar Gilleland, Ray Joy Pfannsteil, Bruce Alexander and Myron Hess.
ASR subgroup: Earl Parker, Buck Benson, Patrick Shriver, Gena Leathers, Doris Cooksey, Jim Bower and Julia Velez.

First Meeting and Meeting Frequency:

The Work Group/subgroups shall strive to hold its first meeting on Tuesday June 17 and, to the extent necessary and reasonably feasible, will meet every other Tuesday through, August 12, 2014.

Presentations of recommendations to the Stakeholder Committee, and, if approved by the Stakeholder Committee, to the Implementing Committee will occur on August 21, 2014.

Conflict of Interest and Statement of Involvement:

At the first meeting, all workgroup members shall state all involvements and affiliations with other water leasing and marketing initiatives and programs. Such statements, shall not be considered a disqualifier for participation but rather shall be noted to the full group as a transparent disclosure.