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EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY DIRECTORS APPROVE CLOUD SEEDING AGREEMENTS

SAN ANTONIO (May 9, 2006) – The Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors, at its regularly scheduled meeting of May 9, 2006, approved interlocal agreements with two groundwater conservation districts to conduct cloud seeding projects over the Edwards Aquifer Drainage Area as part of the Authority's Precipitation Enhancement Program for 2006.

The Authority's board of directors approved agreements with the Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District (EUWCD) in the sum of \$86,825 to engage the South Texas Weather Modification Association in cloud seeding operations in Bexar, Bandera and Medina counties, and with the Wintergarden Groundwater Conservation District (WGCD) in the sum of \$38,900 to engage the Southwest Texas Rain Enhancement Association to conduct similar operations in Uvalde County. Evidence indicates that cloud seeding, when performed in timely and appropriate ways, can invigorate convective (cumulus) clouds and thus promote their growth and capacity to produce rainwater.

The Authority has funded cloud seeding projects as part of a Precipitation Enhancement Program since 1999. In 2005, 47 seeding missions were flown that resulted in 261 flares of silver iodine (18,260 grams) being released into clouds over the targeted region.

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In other action, the board of directors approved settlement of the *Elm Creek Owners Association v. Edwards Aquifer Authority* lawsuit. The plaintiff in this case, the Elm Creek Owners Association, failed to file its groundwater permit application prior to the December 30, 1996, deadline established by the Edwards Aquifer Authority Act. The Elm Creek group was seeking a judgment declaring the deadline for filing was invalid, and it had substantially complied with the Authority's Act and rules when it filed its application.

In addition, the board of directors approved a \$5,000 agreement between the Authority and the City of San Antonio to construct, install and maintain Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone identification signs along major thoroughfares within city limits.

The Edwards Aquifer Authority manages, enhances, and protects the Edwards Aquifer system. The Edwards Aquifer is one of the major groundwater systems in Texas and serves as the primary source of water for approximately 1.7 million people within a region extending 180 miles from Brackettville in Kinney County to Kyle in Hays County. More information on the Edwards Aquifer Authority is available on line at www.edwardsaquifer.org or by calling 210-222-2204 or 1-800-292-1047.

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