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**EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY BOARD ENDORSES
HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE RULES**
Proposed regulatory program aims to protect aquifer from contaminants

SAN ANTONIO (August 8, 2006) – The Edwards Aquifer Authority (the Authority) Board of Directors took a step toward further protecting the region's primary water supply from pollution at its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 8. In an action intended to diminish the risk of contamination of the Edwards Aquifer, Authority directors granted preliminary approval to proposed rules that would regulate the storage of hazardous substances over the contributing zone and recharge zone of the Edwards Aquifer system. The Board's action puts into motion an Authority rulemaking process that includes a regulatory assessment followed by public hearings over the next several months that could lead to final board approval of the rules next spring.

The proposed rules expand existing Authority hazardous materials regulations by establishing standards for storing hazardous substances and for reporting spills over the contributing zone and recharge zone. More specifically, the rules would require that facilities that store hazardous substances develop a spill prevention and response plan, register with the Authority, and report any spills within 72 hours of occurrence. Current Authority hazardous materials rules are limited to regulating only substances stored in underground and above-ground storage tanks over the recharge zone.

The intent of the proposed rules is to prevent spills and leakage of hazardous materials and to provide for short term containment of such incidents should they occur. The proposed rules would not duplicate, reduce, or replace any program or regulation promulgated by other agencies, but would complement existing federal, state, and local laws and ordinances.

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The proposed rules, as they are structured, would regulate factory sealed containers stored for resale and containers stored for non-residential use on the recharge zone and contributing zone. If passed, these rules would apply only to facilities storing more than 10,000 pounds or 1,000 gallons of regulated substances.

In other action, the Board of Directors accepted the resignation of Dr. Levi Jackson III, and adopted a resolution and order calling for a November 7 election to fill the remainder of the unexpired term for Bexar County District 2. This means nine of 15 elected positions on the Authority Board of Directors will be up for election this November.

The Edwards Aquifer Authority manages, enhances, and protects the Edwards Aquifer, one of the major groundwater systems in Texas serving approximately 1.7 million people. 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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