

Guadalupe River Basin Habitat Conservation Plan

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The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

The GBRA was created in 1933 as the Guadalupe River Authority as a water conservation and reclamation district and a public corporation and reauthorized in 1935 as the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.

GBRA's services:

- Water Supply
- Wastewater Services
- Hydroelectric Power
- Laboratory
- Recreation



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- Enabling Legislation
 - “preservation and conservation of all such natural resources”



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- Vision Statement

- The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority leads as a regional partner **managing watershed resources** to protect and support the needs of a growing population, economy and **healthy environment**.

- Mission Statement

- The mission of GBRA is to support **responsible watershed protection and stewardship**, provide quality operational service, and a commitment to **promote conservation** and educational opportunities in order to enhance quality of life for those we serve.



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Environmental Stewardship Is

- Proactive rather than Reactive
- Positive Exposure and PR
- Leading by Example
- Cheaper than litigation
 - Even settled cases can be reshaped, retooled and resubmitted

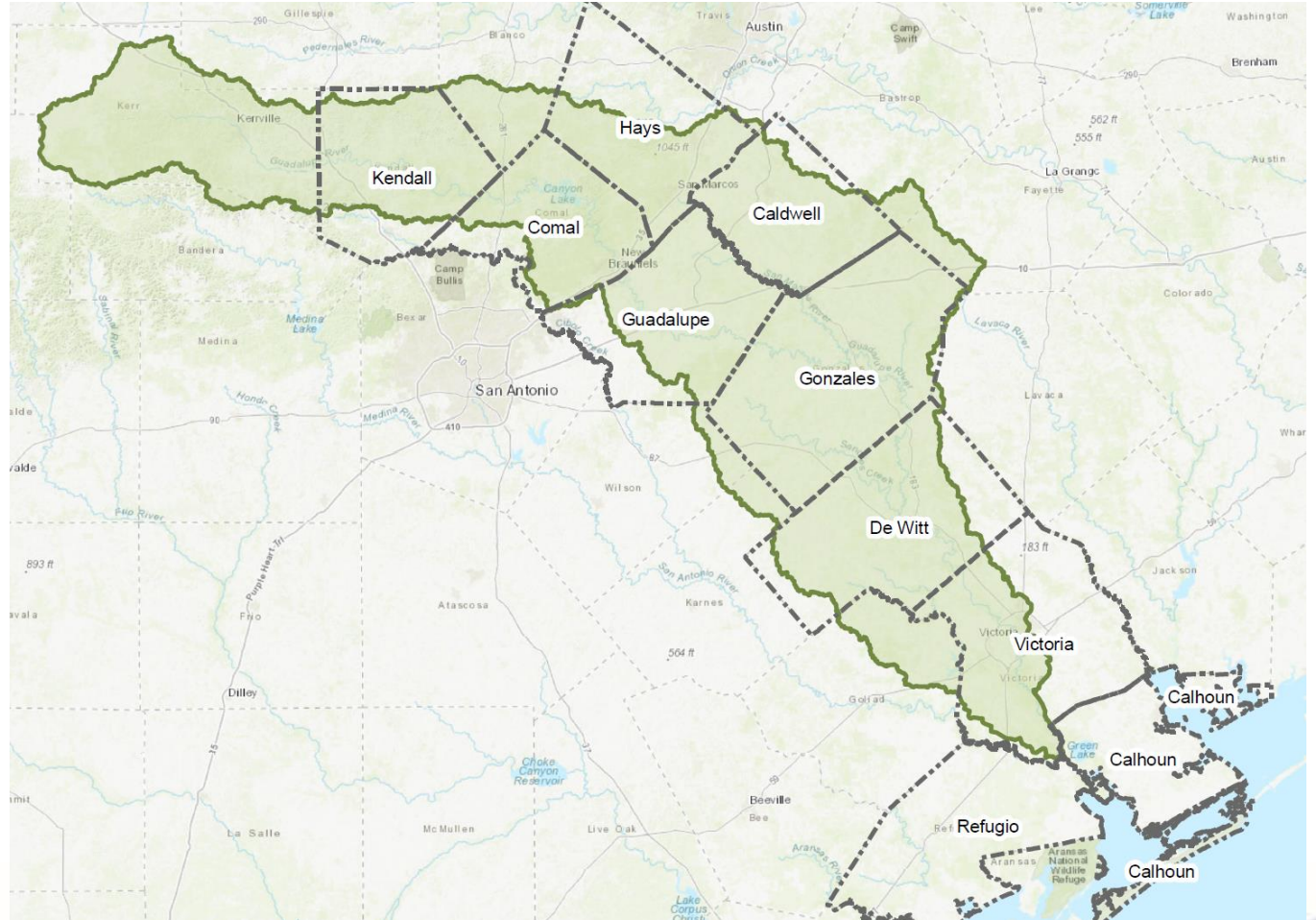


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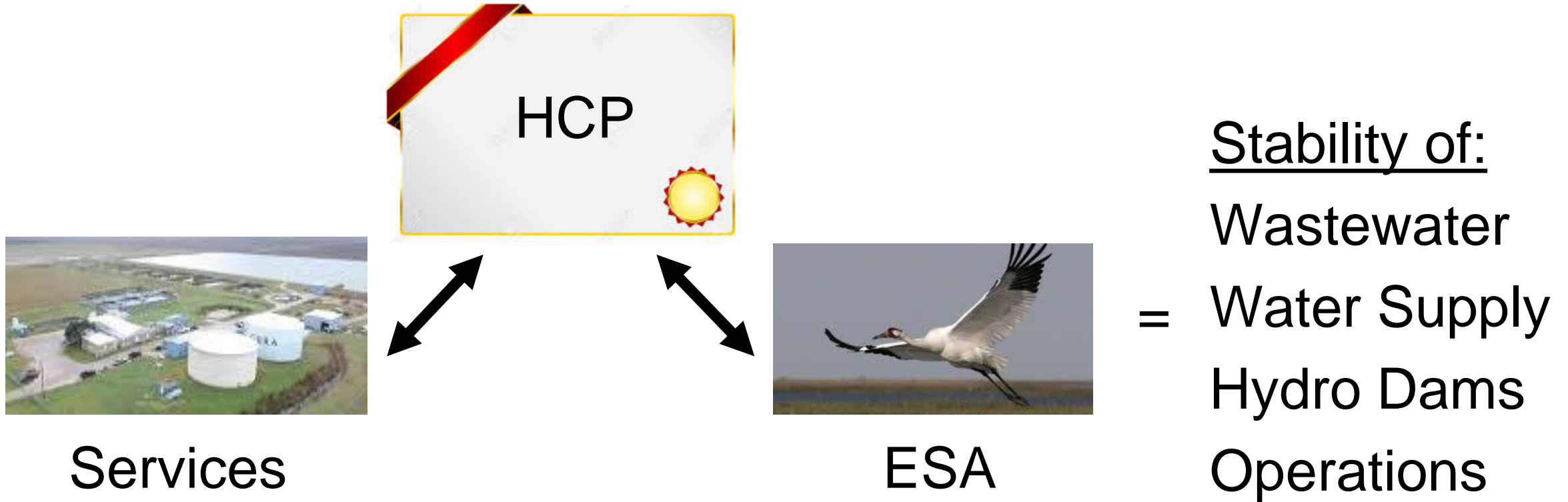
Environmental Stewardship at GBRA

- Basin-wide
- Watershed Scale
- Holistic



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Provide high quality services to our customers!



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What is an Incidental Take Permit (ITP)

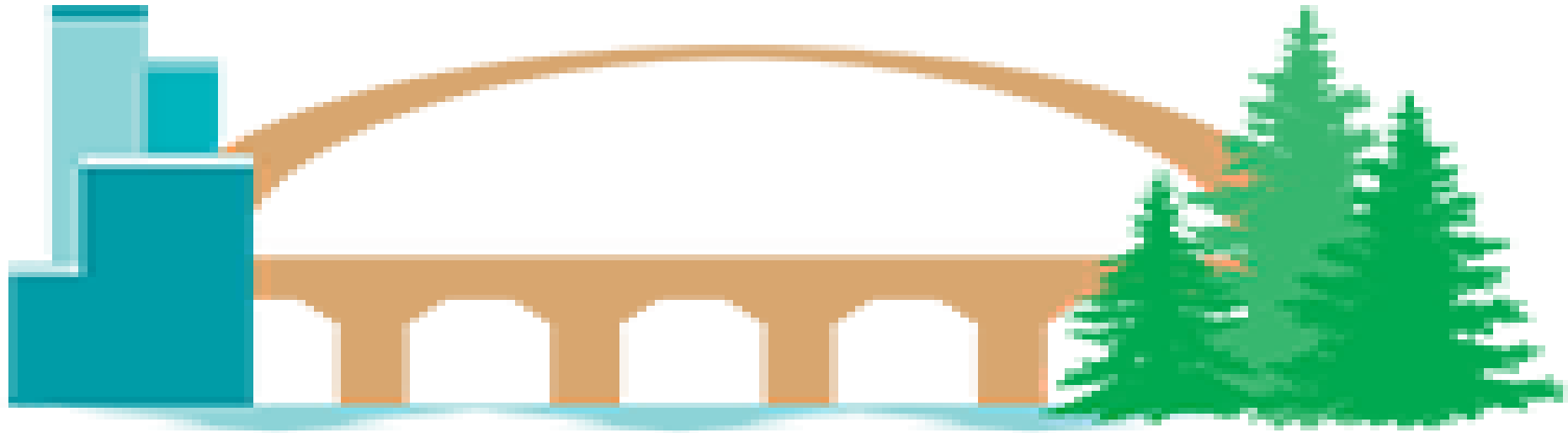
- A permit from the Federal Government, under the ESA, that allows for “take” of an ES from otherwise-lawful activities. What is an HCP

What is a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

- HCPs are planning documents required as part of an application for an incidental take permit. They describe the anticipated effects of the proposed taking; how those impacts will be minimized, or mitigated; and how the HCP is to be funded.



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National HCP Coalition



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GBRA Board Support and Action

- Board Resolution of Support
- Pledge of funding
- Section 6 non-traditional grant application

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY TO INITIATE DEVELOPMENT OF A HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

WHEREAS, pursuant to its Enabling Act and its mission and vision statements, the GBRA is committed to supporting responsible watershed protection, stewardship, providing quality operational service, and promoting conservation and educational opportunities in order to enhance quality of life for those we serve; and

WHEREAS, Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) can apply to both listed and non-listed species, including those that are candidates or have been proposed for listing, and conserving those species before they are in danger of extinction or are likely to become so, which can provide early benefits and prevent the need for listing; and

WHEREAS, a Guadalupe Basin HCP can fulfil the commitments of the GBRA / The Aransas Project Agreement; and

WHEREAS, HCPs are recognized under Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in order to provide a means whereby ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved and to provide a program for the conservation of such species; and

WHEREAS, HCPs are planning documents required as part of an application for an Incidental Take Permit, which describe the anticipated effects of the proposed incidental taking, how those impacts will be minimized, or mitigated, and how the HCP is to be funded; and

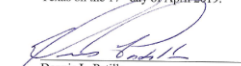
WHEREAS, GBRA recognizes that HCPs can provide for stability of services provided by GBRA, allow for long-term assurances and sustainability of resources, can build on GBRA's past efforts and represent a proactive approach to environmental management;


NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority authorizes the development of a Guadalupe Basin Habitat Conservation Plan to fulfil the requirements of Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act in order to better protect and steward the watershed and resources of the Guadalupe Basin for the people of Texas.

Specifically, GBRA staff are directed to:

- Plan for and take actions that lead to the development of a basin-wide HCP; and
- Initiate a procurement process to consider utilization of a contractor to assist in the development of a HCP; and
- Seek and apply for external funding to assist in development of a HCP; and
- Shall allocate up to \$100,000 annually to fund efforts and be used for grant match in support of the HCP; and
- Keep the Board informed and engaged as decision points arise and on progress of the HCP development process.

PASSED and APPROVED by the Board of Directors of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, Texas on the 17th day of April 2019.


Dennis L. Patillo
Chairman, Board of Directors
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

ATTEST: 
Kenneth A. Mott
Secretary-Treasurer, Board of Directors
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority



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Freshwater Mussels of the Guadalupe Basin

USFWS Endangered Species Act Candidates



Guadalupe orb
(*Cylconaias necki*)



False spike
(*Fusconaia mitchelli*)



Guadalupe fatmucket
(*Lampsilis bergmanni*)



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Hill Country Salamanders

- USFWS ESA Candidates
 - Cascade Salamander
 - Texas Salamander
 - Comal Blind Salamander



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Whooping Crane and Waterfowl

- Whooping Crane: GBRA/TAP Agreement
 1. Expansion of Whooping Crane Habitat
 2. Utilization (restoration) of Guadalupe Delta
 3. Freshwater Inflows
- Black Rail, Piping Plover



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Guadalupe Bass



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Collaboration and Stakeholder Role - 3rd Party “Take”

- Public Input
- 3rd Party “Take” Protection
 - Certificate of Inclusion
 - Safe Harbor Agreement
 - Credit System



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Final Thoughts

- Marathon – not a sprint
- Realistic Expectations
- Not Waiting to Get Started
- Other Environmental Programs



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San Antonio Bay
Partnership



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