

**GBRA – TAP White Paper**

**Water, Habitat, Economy:**  
**A Shared Vision of the Future**  
**of the Guadalupe River System**  
**and San Antonio Bay**

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# **White Paper Goals**

- **Concept – Smart decisions regarding choice, financing and timing of development of water supply combined with market based tools and federal initiatives can secure the future of the Guadalupe River system and San Antonio Bay**

# White Paper Goals

- **Key Concept – Undertaking research to develop concrete proposals to solve specific problems**
- **Key Concept – Raising of money to pay for this research**
- **Key Concept – Involvement of broad-based stakeholders committee to provide input and continuing for long-term effort**

# Shared Vision

- Creative and innovative approaches, not yet discovered or appreciated, that can bring parties like GBRA and TAP together
- GBRA and TAP committed to finding common ground

# Specific Focal Points

- **Water Re-allocation and Management –**
  - **Current water use and management should be re-evaluated**
  - **GBRA willing to consider reasonable options for environmental water uses if (1) it works and (2) reasonable alternative water supplies exist**
  - **All permit holders invited to participate**

# **Specific Focal Points**

- **Water Re-allocation and Management**
  - **Identify existing water rights that may be available for sale or lease for environmental purposes**
  - **Identify alternative ways of proving any water lost to existing uses**
  - **Identify existing water rights for possible imposition of minimum environmental flows**
  - **Quantify benefits of imposing conditions or making water available**
  - **Undertake full analysis of water reuse concepts**

# Specific Focal Points

- **True Value of Water**
  - Evaluate use of pricing mechanism to set “true value” of water
  - Evaluate costs of “impacts” to **Guadalupe River or San Antonio Bay** due to removal of water
  - Can loss of bay resources due to water removal be documented and established such as to create a cost to be allocated to water users?

# Specific Focal Points

- **Market-Based Watershed Restoration**
  - Mechanisms are emerging to pay landowners for restoring native ecosystems
  - Benefit to native prairie restoration is increase in soil moisture and restoration of historic seeps and springs
  - Landowners may be paid for increase in water supply due to land restoration
  - Landowners may be paid for other restored ecological services, such as carbon sequestration.



# Specific Focal Points

- **Climate Change**
  - **Want to understand what changing rainfall patterns may mean to long-term flows on San Antonio and Guadalupe River systems**
- **Sea Level Rise**
  - **Want to understand the impact of sea level rise on whooping crane habitats in and around San Antonio Bay relative to long-term security of whooping cranes**

# **Specific Focal Points**

- **Guadalupe River Delta Preservation and Restoration**
  - **May be possible to reconsider and alter the current flow of water through the Guadalupe Delta to the benefit of the environment**
  - **Conduct thorough analysis of changes that may be desirable to both salt water barrier and water conveyance systems**
  - **Focus on water monitoring potential and sediment deposition**
  - **Focus on floodwater movement through the delta**

# Specific Focal Points

- **Whooping Crane Habitat**
  - Need to find areas for whooper territory expansion
  - Seeking 100,000 acres
- **Sea Turtle Habitat**
- **Freshwater Mussels**
- **Marine Seawater and Brackish Desalination**

# Statement of Commitment

- **Both parties serious about this effort**
- **Neither party legally bound by this agreement**
- **Good faith partnership**

# **Stakeholder Involvement**

- **Important to have stakeholder participation**
- **Exact concept not set yet**
- **Open to ideas and suggestions**
- **Open to expressions of interest in participation**