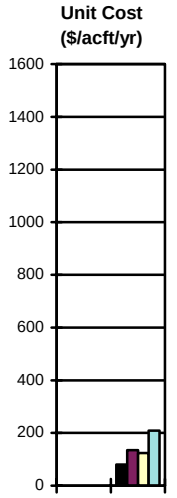
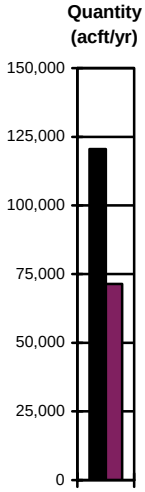
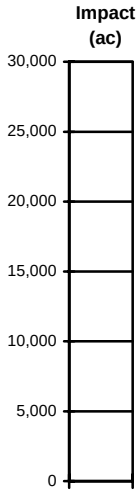
2006 South Central Texas Regional Water Plan
Water Management Strategy Summary Sheet







Name: Edwards Transfers (L-15)

Description: The Edwards Aquifer Authority Act (SB 1477) regulates the quantity of pumpage from the Edwards Aquifer and establishes a withdrawal permit system which allows an irrigation permit holder to lease up to 50 percent of irrigation permits. This water management strategy considers quantities potentially available for transfer and the associated effects of planned transfers.

***Decade Needed*:** 2000 – 2060

Cost, Quantity of Water, and Land Impacted

Unit Cost of Water:	**$80/$135**	**$/acft/yr**	**Lease Permits: IRP value/firm supply**
	$124/$209	**$acft**	**Buy Permits: IRP value/firm supply.**
Quantity of Water:	**120,479**	**acft/yr**	**Permits at IRP Value**
	71,335	**acft/yr**	**Firm Supply**
Land Impacted:	**0**	**acres**	

Additional Considerations per Regional Water Planning Guidelines

Environmental Factors:
To the extent that the quantities of water transferred are from improved efficiencies in irrigation application methods, there would not be a change in land use, and therefore would not produce environmental effects. Conversion from irrigated to dryland crops would result in changes of vegetation from irrigated to dryland crops. Where lands are converted to grazing and wildlife uses, long-term conservation of soil and natural resources may be increased, due to grass cover versus row crops.

Impacts on Water Resources:
Potential impacts due to pumpage nearer to major springs.

Impacts on Agricultural & Natural Resources:
Voluntary transfers may result in reduced projected irrigation demand/use in source counties.

Other Relevant Factors per SCTRWPG:
SB 1477 restricts transfer via pipeline from Uvalde County. Transfers are subject to critical period and other rules of the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

Comparison of Strategies to Meet Needs:
No significant conflicts with other recommended water management strategies.

Interbasin Transfer Issues:
Not applicable.

Third-Party Impacts of Voluntary Transfers:
Reduction in irrigation lowers demands for farm supply and farm marketing services and support industries thereby reducing local area economic activity. Estimated economic impact of water converted from production of cotton, grain sorghum, wheat and other grains is $448 per acft/yr. For vegetables, the estimated economic impact is $3,378 per acft/yr. The estimates presented here are based upon 2004 farm and purchased input prices, and will change as farm prices change.

Regional Efficiency:
This water management strategy contributes to meeting municipal needs without the construction of traditional water supply facilities.

Water Quality Considerations:
None anticipated.