

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Melissa C. Krause

Executive Director, Communications and External Affairs

830.629.8440 | mkrause@nbutexas.com

NBU Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program Passes Through the Legislature

(New Braunfels, TX – May 30, 2019) – On Wednesday, May 22, the Texas Legislature unanimously passed Texas Senate Bill 520, relating to the storage and recovery of water in the brackish portion of the Edwards Aquifer. This bipartisan bill was authored by Senators Donna Campbell and Judith Zaffirini, and sponsored by State Representative John Kuempel. The bill is expected to be signed into law by Texas Governor, Greg Abbott.

“Texas Senate Bill 520 is the culmination of years of research, and determination by New Braunfels Utilities (NBU) and community partners to establish a viable water resource management strategy by creating an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) program,” said New Braunfels Utilities CEO, Ian Taylor. “As we continue to build resiliency in the NBU water management plan, building an ASR system that stores a blend of groundwater from our Edwards Aquifer wells and treated surface water from our water treatment facilities into the brackish portion of the Edwards Aquifer benefits our community on multiple fronts. Primarily, it will offer NBU the opportunity to recharge the ASR with water directly from our public water distribution system in times of plenty and to pull water from storage during times of drought.”

New Braunfels Utilities is currently constructing a full-scale ASR demonstration well in its service territory, near the New Braunfels Regional Airport and three additional monitoring wells. The goal is to ultimately store 14,000 acre-feet of water in an ASR wellfield that includes additional monitoring wells and nine ASR wells. This strategy will allow NBU to more-fully and efficiently use its existing water rights from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), its contract for stored water in the Canyon Reservoir, and its groundwater permits from the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EEA) and the Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (CTGCD).

In the process of developing its ASR program and passing this needed legislation, NBU has been partnering with the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) to assure protection of water levels and water quality in the freshwater portion of the Edwards Aquifer and at Comal Springs. New Braunfels Utilities and the EAA have a joint Work Group that meets regularly to gather and analyze important data, review plans for the ASR program, and determine the appropriate locations and design for monitoring wells and equipment.

“Protecting, preserving, and conserving our natural resources is, and will remain, a priority focus for us at NBU. Establishing this first of its kind ASR program, means NBU will lead the way to take every precaution to protect the fresh water of the Edwards Aquifer as we move forward,” added Taylor.

To learn more about NBU’s Aquifer Storage and Recovery program, and water management strategy, visit nbutexas.com/planning.

###

About New Braunfels Utilities: Dedicated to excellence in service, New Braunfels Utilities is one of 2,000 community-owned, nonprofit public power electric utilities in the nation. The mission of New Braunfels Utilities is to enhance the quality of our community by providing innovative, essential services. Governed by a Board of Trustees comprised of local residents appointed by the New Braunfels City Council, New Braunfels Utilities is committed to being a recognized and trusted community partner, providing electric, water, and waste water services. Utility revenues are continually invested back into the systems of the customers, which benefits the community. New Braunfels Utilities makes an annual transfer to the City of New Braunfels, which in turn helps to pay for services such as fire, police, and parks. Follow NBU on Facebook at facebook.com/newbraunfelsutilities, on Twitter at [@nbutexas](https://twitter.com/nbutexas), and to learn more visit nbutexas.com.

