

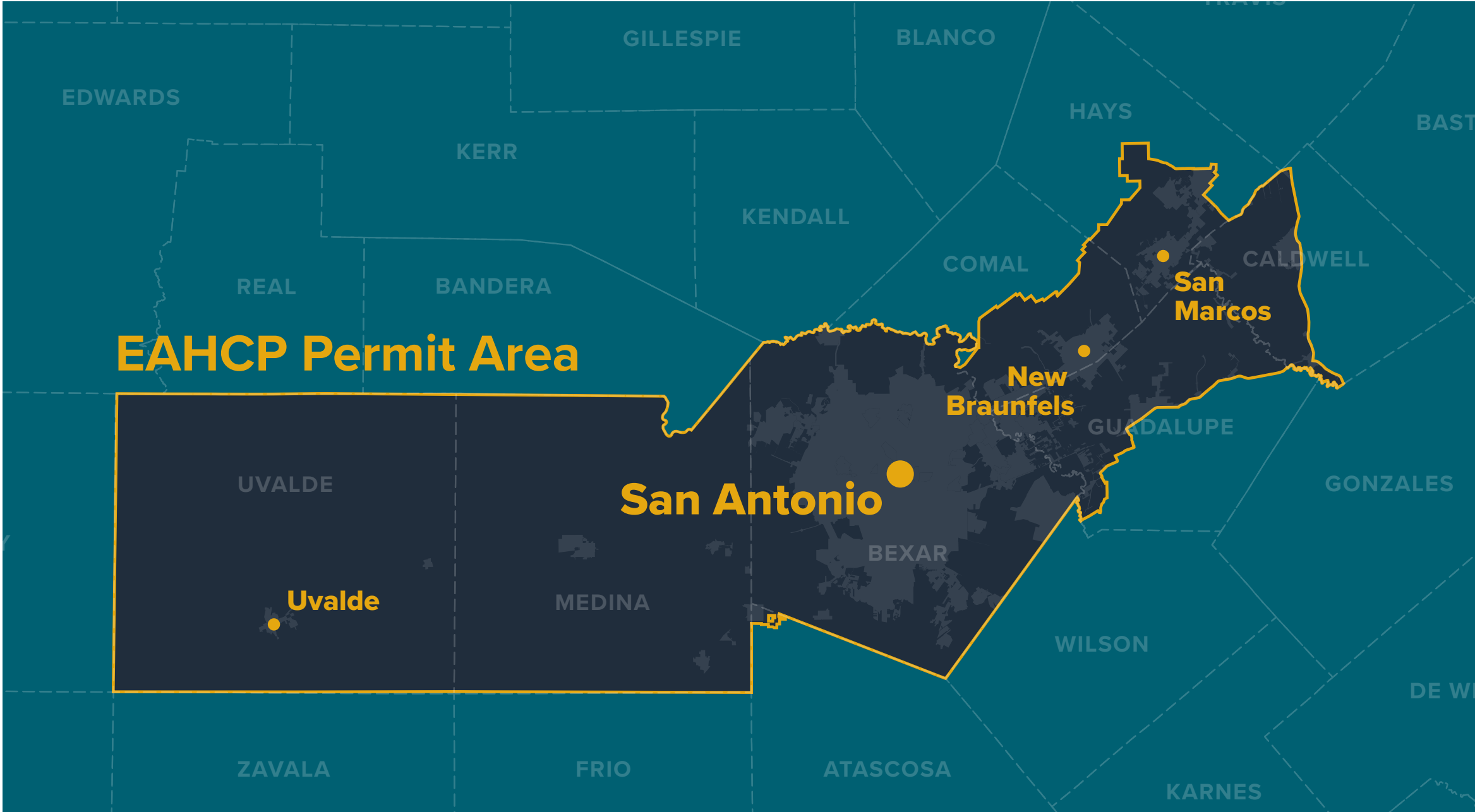
Background and Context

Background

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) approved the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) in 2013 and issued a **15-year Incidental Take Permit** (permit) expiring in March 2028. The permit provides incidental take¹ authorization to the Permittees under the Endangered Species Act.

Permit Area and Permittees

The EAHCP Permit Area is approximately 3.3 million acres and coincides with the jurisdictional boundaries of the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA).



Covered Species

Endangered

- Texas Wild-Rice (*Zizania texana*)
- Texas Blind Salamander (*Eurycea rathbuni*)
- Fountain Darter (*Etheostoma fonticola*)
- Comal Springs Dryopid Beetle (*Stygoparnus comalensis*)
- Comal Springs Riffle Beetle (*Heterelmis comalensis*)
- Peck’s Cave Amphipod (*Stygobromus pecki*)

Threatened

- San Marcos Salamander (*Eurycea nana*)

Petitioned as Threatened or Endangered

- Texas Troglitic Water Slater (*Lirceolus smithii*)
- Edwards Aquifer Diving Beetle (*Haideoporus texanus*)

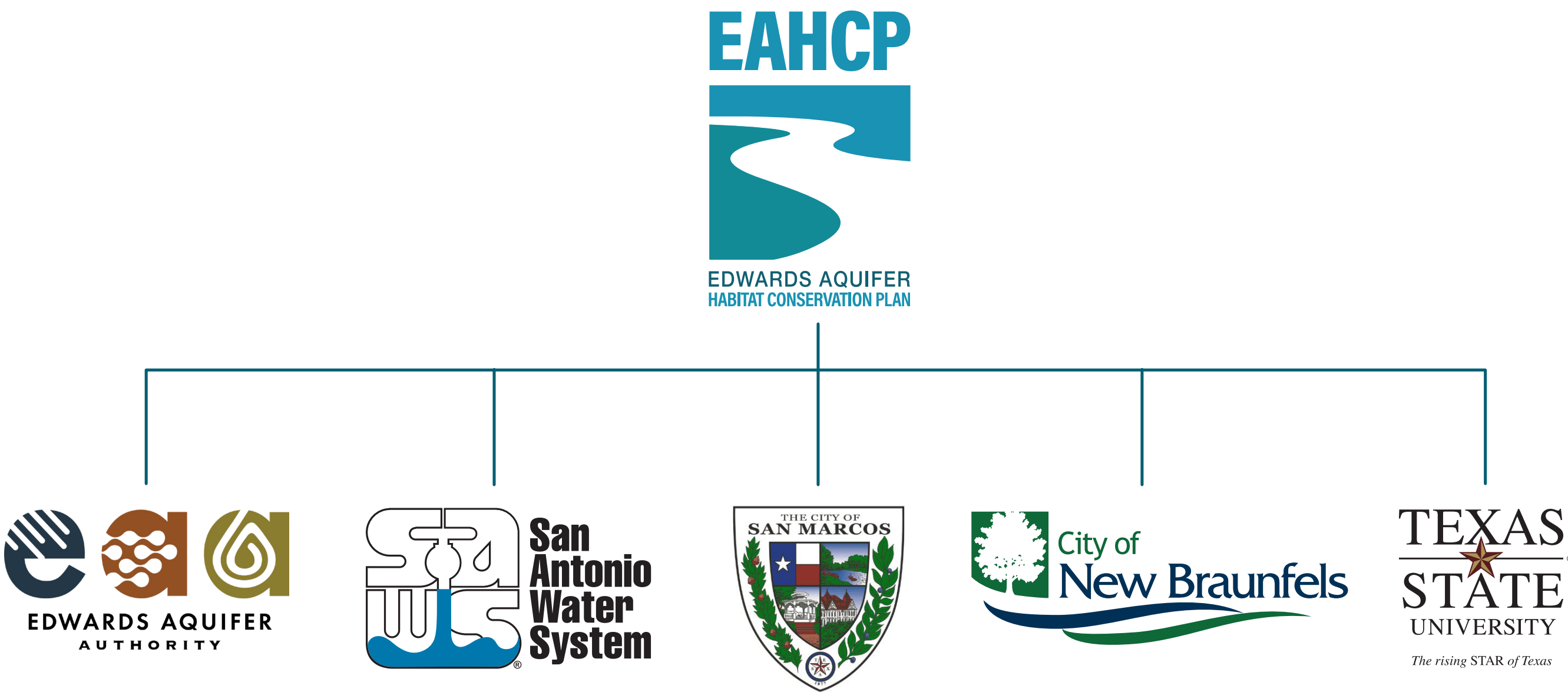
Not Listed

- Comal Springs Salamander (*Eurycea* sp.)

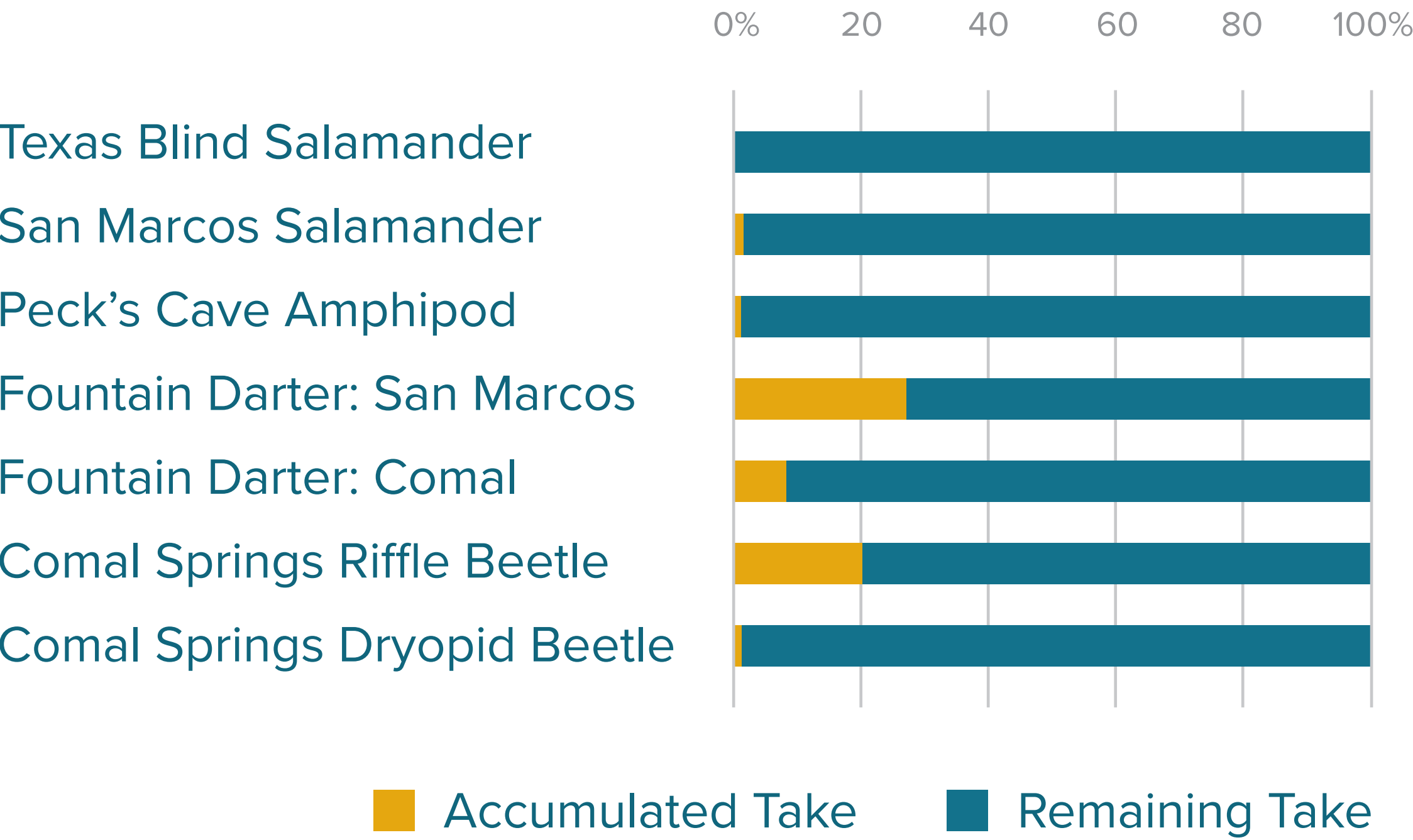
Proposed Delisting

- San Marcos Gambusia (*Gambusia georgei*)²

EAHCP Permittees



Covered Species Accumulated Take³ through 2021



¹ Under the Endangered Species Act, the term take means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect species listed as endangered or threatened or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.

² The USFWS published a proposed rule on September 30, 2021, to delist the San Marcos gambusia due to extinction.

³ Take limits for the remaining species on the incidental take permit are based on springflows, not on a maximum number of individuals.