

Alamo, Austin, and Lone Star chapters Sierra Club AGUA

Bexar Audubon Society
Bexar and Austin Green Parties
Regree Together

Boerne Together Cibolo Nature Center

Citizens Allied for Smart Expansion
Citizens for the Protection of Cibolo Creek

Environment Texas

Environmental Stewardship Committees of the Episcopal Church if Reconciliation & Episcopal Diocese of West Texas First Universalist Unitarian Church of San Antonio

Friends of Canyon Lake
Friends of Dry Comal Creek
Friends of Government Canyon

Fuerza Unida

Headwaters at Incarnate Word Hays Community Action Network Helotes Heritage Association

Helotes Nature Center

Hill Country Planning Association

Green Society of UTSA

Guadalupe River Road Alliance

Guardians of Lick Creek

Kendall County Well Owners Association

Kinney County Ground Zero

Leon Springs Business Association

Medina County Environmental Action Association

Native Plant Society of Texas – SA Northwest Interstate Coalition of

Neighborhoods

Preserve Castroville

Preserve Lake Dunlop Association

San Antonio Audubon Society

San Antonio Conservation Society

San Geronimo Valley Alliance

San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance

San Marcos River Foundation

Save Barton Creek Association

Save Our Springs Alliance

Scenic Loop/Boerne Stage Alliance

Securing a Future Environment

SEED Coalition

Solar San Antonio

Sisters of the Divine Providence

Travis County Green Party

Water Aid – Texas State University

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation

Wimberley Valley Watershed Association

PO Box 15618 San Antonio, Texas 78212 (210) 320-6294 April 27, 2017

Chair: Sen. Charles Perry

Vice Chair: Sen. José R. Rodríguez Members: Sen. Brandon Creighton

Sen. Bob Hall

Sen. Juan Hinojosa Sen. Lois W. Kolkhorst Sen. Borris L. Miles

Honorable Chairman Perry and Members of the Senate Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs Committee,

It is with great delight that I submit this letter in support of <u>S.B.</u> <u>2026</u>, authored by Senator Rodríguez, on behalf of the fifty-two member organizations of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA). The bill directs TCEQ to produce a biennial report on Green Stormwater Infrastructure & Low-Impact Development (LID).

GEAA has been promoting the use of LID for the past ten years as a sustainable method of incorporating new development into the landscape of the Edwards Aquifer Region. Towards this goal, we have published "Watershed Stewardship for the Edwards Aquifer Region, have joined with graduate students at UTSA to research the effectiveness of LID in improving water quality and encouraging groundwater recharge, and have had great success with our Community Rain Gardens program in engaging Home Owners Associations in using LID in their common areas.

The City of San Antonio is currently distributing \$10 million in funding for projects that incorporate LID on the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. Voters approved this funding in recognition of the benefits of LID in managing stormwater in this flood prone area.

The State of Texas should take every opportunity to enhance recharge into our aquifers and ensure that our surface water supplies are replenished with high quality stormwater by encouraging the use of these common-sense and affordable techniques. We believe, and hope you agree, that S.B. 2026 is the right step in this direction and is worthy of your approval.

Respectfully,

Annalisa Peace Executive Director