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 S.B. 2026, 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