

Alamo Group of the Sierra Club
Aquifer Guardians in Urban Areas
Austin Regional Sierra Club
Bexar Audubon Society
Bexar Green Party
Boerne Together
Cibolo Nature Center
Citizens Allied for Smart Expansion
Citizens for the Protection of Cibolo Creek
Environment Texas
First Universalist Unitarian Church of
San Antonio
Friends of Canyon Lake
Friends of Government Canyon
Fuerza Unida
Green Party of Austin
Headwaters at Incarnate Word
Hays Community Action Network
Helotes Heritage Association
Helotes Nature Center
Hill Country Planning Association
Guadalupe River Road Alliance
Guardians of Lick Creek
Kendall County Well Owners Association
Kinney County Ground Zero
Leon Springs Business Association
Lone Star Chapter of Sierra Club
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 Nature Center
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
Texas Water Alliance
Travis County Green Party
West Texas Springs Alliance
Water Aid – Texas State University
Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation
Wimberley Valley Watershed Association

March 12, 2015

To: The Honorable Judge Krause and Comal County Commissioners

Comments for Comal County Commissioners, March 12, 2015, Agenda Item #9

These comments are submitted on behalf of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance. We urge you to deny approval of the Meyers Ranch Water Control Improvement District. We anticipate that this WCID is being created for the purpose of implementing water and sewage infrastructure to allow high density development of this site.

Such development is inconsistent with current land use patterns in this unincorporated area. It is also inconsistent with impervious cover limits of 8% to 15% recommended by karst scientists to protect water quality on the Edwards Aquifer Recharge and nearby Contributing zones. GEAA is particularly concerned about the cumulative impact that multiple high density developments will have on the quality of water recharging the aquifer to supply local wells, and the Comal Springs and River.

Besides our concerns about the impact of high density housing on the Edwards Aquifer Recharge and Contributing Zones, we are concerned about the impacts of unplanned growth on this community. To illustrate these concerns, I submit this report by the American Farm Land Trust on the cost of expanding services. As you can see from this report, it is often the case that increased tax revenue from intensive development does not cover the cost to the County to provide subsequently required infrastructure. If you approve this and other high density developments in the area, you will most likely be faced with a suite of expensive drainage, transportation, and other infrastructure projects in the near future.

Another concern of the Aquifer Alliance is the impact of such development on local groundwater resources. During the past ten years, and especially during the recent drought, I have heard from numerous well owners who have had to drill deeper as demands on groundwater increase with population growth. Since the request for this WCID makes no mention of securing additional water supplies for new development, we assume that they plan to use local groundwater resources, which may become problematic.

In conclusion I would like to observe that you have a little piece of heaven out here among the unincorporated areas of Comal County. Your constituents rely on you to work with them to protect their property, their water resources, and their investment in this community. We hope that you will listen to their concerns and vote to deny the Meyers Ranch Water Control Improvement District.

Sincerely,



Annalisa Peace
Executive Director