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

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