



Member Organizations

- 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
- Hays Community Action Network
- Headwaters Coalition
- 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
- Medina County Environmental Action Association
- 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
- Santuario Sisterfarm
- 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
- Smart Growth San Antonio
- Texas Water Alliance
- West Texas Springs Alliance
- Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation
- Wimberley Valley Watershed Association

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January 30, 2012

Edwards Aquifer Authority
1615 N St. Mary's Street
San Antonio, Texas 78215

Transmitted via e-mail to Marc Friberg on January 30, 2012

Re: Proposed Aquifer Management Fee Increase

Dear Mr. Friberg,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our members, and the fifty member organizations of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, I would like to express our support for the proposed aquifer management fee increase to fund implementation of the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Plan.

We realize that the increase in aquifer management fees is very much needed in order to implement measures recommended in the Habitat Conservation Plan of the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Plan (EARIP), and to immediately address the anticipated continued drought. We also, however, encourage you to explore other options for funding the EARIP, including the creation of a special district to collect ad valorem taxes, a regional sales tax, the possibility of Aquifer Management Fee discounts for improvements to infrastructure needed to promote water conservation, tiered fee structures, and any other measures that might equitably distribute the cost of the EARIP. We hope that mechanisms to fund the EARIP long term will encourage conservation of the Edwards Aquifer, as well as providing the support for the plans devised by the EARIP.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director

