



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
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

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May 14, 2015

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water and Rural Affairs

Chair: Sen. Charles Perry
Vice Chair: Sen. Judith Zaffirini
Members: Sen. Brandon Creighton
Sen. Bob Hall
Sen. Juan Hinojosa
Sen. Lois W. Kolkhorst
Sen. José R. Rodríguez

via e-mail RE: SB 1907 / HB 3298

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present these comments on behalf of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA). GEAA unites 51 organizations behind a comprehensive plan to protect the Edwards Aquifer, its springs, rivers and streams, flora and fauna, and the Texas Hill Country. It is the consensus of all 51 of our member organizations, which span 21 counties in Central and South Texas, to oppose SB 1907. Collectively, our groups represent approximately 25,000 Texans.

X SB 1907 Perry / HB 3298 – Larson Relating to a study conducted by the Texas Water Development Board regarding the development of a market and conveyance network for water in this state. We agree with the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club that “such a study would focus the attention of the state away from what is needed first and foremost to meet our state’s water challenges and because the prospect of a massive market and conveyance network to move water around the state poses threats to protection of the environment and undermines the prospects for building a consensus on water policy that balances rural and urban interests.”

Our member organizations, both rural and urban, are concerned about the prospect of establishing a statewide water conveyance network. We feel that the people of Texas are better served by the regional and state water planning processes, which are more democratic and provide ample opportunities for engaging the public in decisions about water supply projects on a regional basis.

We also feel that many of the technologies embraced by such planning are, or will be outmoded and may not be the most energy efficient and economical alternatives to addressing regional water supply needs.

Further, we have great concerns about the impacts that large scale water transports will have on the environment, including natural springflows. For example, GEAA partnered with our member groups in opposition to a water pipeline to supply San Antonio with water from Val Verde County because of the impacts to flows of the San Filipe and Las Moras springs, which ultimately supply water to the Rio Grande. This is but one example where we found that many on the receiving end of the pipeline share the concerns of those whose water will be exported. Often, these concerns are drowned out by the prospect of a seemingly quick fix to water supply needs that does not take into account nuanced consequences and long term effects.

As with many of the bills filed this session, we feel that this bill could have a disparately negative impact on rural Texans. We urge you to oppose passage of SB 1907.

We hope that you will consider GEAA as a resource that is at your disposal and feel free to call us with any questions or concerns you have regarding issues that impact our water resources.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annalisa Peace", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director

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