

Contact: Annalisa Peace, Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance
210-320-6294 (office) / 210-275-9336 (cell)

Request for Coverage

Aquifer Alliance Applauds, Deplores Proposed Edwards Aquifer Authority Rules

The Edwards Aquifer Authority will be holding hearings on [proposed changes to the Edwards Rules](#)

at the Hondo Community Center (1014 18th St.) on Wednesday, June 27th at 6:pm

at the Edwards Aquifer Authority Conference Center (1615 N. St. Mary's in San Antonio) on Thursday, June 28th at 6:pm

The [members of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#) (GEAA) are delighted that the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) Board will be considering a ban on using [PAH \(coal tar\) sealants](#) to pave streets and parking lots on the Recharge and Contributing zones. If the EAA approves this new rule (Section 713.803), it will join other cities and states in [efforts nationwide](#) to keep this pollutant out of our water supplies.

GEAA supports rules that would require secondary and tertiary containment for hazardous materials stored on the aquifer (Section 713.633). Though this rule will provide added security against leaks and spills harming the aquifer, the best plan is to prohibit and discourage the use and storage of hazardous materials on the Recharge and Contributing zones.

Thus, GEAA is very disappointed that the EAA is considering a rule change that would allow an unlimited number of Above Ground Storage Tanks (AST's) to be installed on the Edwards Recharge Zone (Section 713.607). If voted into effect, this new rule will certainly increase the amount of fuels and other hazardous material stored on the Recharge Zone (ERZ), putting our water supply in peril. We believe that the current rule prohibiting the installation of new AST's on the Recharge Zone should be left in place.

GEAA is also concerned that the requirement to provide information on financial assurance for entities that store hazardous materials on the aquifer have been removed from the rules (Section 713.609). It should be required that those storing hazardous materials on the ERZ show proof of their financial ability to clean up any damage in the event of a leak or spill.

GEAA urges citizens to attend one of the EAA public hearings to voice support for the PAH Ban and concern about loosening restrictions on storage of hazardous materials. GEAA also urges those cannot attend the public hearings to contact their [EAA Representative](#) to discuss the pros and cons of the [proposed rule changes](#).

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The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance unites fifty-one member organizations behind a comprehensive plan to protect regional karst aquifers, their springs and watersheds, and the Texas Hill Country.

For more information visit www.AquiferAlliance.org