

Dear San Antonio GEAA members and friends,

Am I right in thinking that San Antonians deserve the same high quality water as that flowing from the Edwards Aquifer springs in New Braunfels and San Marcos? After all, we do pump from Edwards wells for our drinking water.

This question has arisen during negotiations by the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program (EARIP) stakeholders about how to implement a plan to protect spring flows – and water quality - at Comal and San Marcos springs. While it looks like the City of New Braunfels and the City of San Marcos are willing to adopt water quality regulations much stricter than those required by the State, both cities are puzzled, and frustrated, by San Antonio's reluctance to do likewise.

Common wisdom in San Antonio is that water flows from the West to the East within the Edwards Aquifer, hence our policy of restricting land purchased to protect the Aquifer to Bexar and the western counties of Medina and Uvalde. Under this scenario, storm water recharged in Bexar County runs towards the springs. So, it makes sense that plans to protect water quality should include San Antonio.

While I share the consternation of our cities to the East, it is for an additional reason. If there are constituents in urban storm water that will harm the endangered species at the springs, I certainly don't want that stuff in my drinking water. No matter how you feel about the critters that make their homes in the Edwards Aquifer, we should all step up and safeguard a resource that we all enjoy - one of the best water supplies in the world. We deserve no less.

Please ask your elected officials, (including Mayor Castro and City Council, Bexar County Commissioners, and our San Antonio representatives on the Edwards Aquifer Authority) to let those negotiating on behalf of San Antonio (SAWS) know that we want the same regulations to protect our drinking water as those needed to protect wildlife. After all, it makes no sense to expect someone else to do something that we are not willing to do ourselves.

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