



Dear GEAA members and friends,

As the Hill Country becomes more densely populated projects to provide roads, limestone and cement, sewage infrastructure, and water proliferate. And, when these projects pose a threat to our aquifers our phones start ringing.

In addition to fighting permits for [quarries](#) and a [cement batch plant](#), two new bad ideas have kept us pretty busy recently.

More cars on the road have inspired the City of Boerne and Kendall County to engage the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in the [Kendall County Gateway Study](#). Unfortunately, one of the options proposed could be bad news for karst features and karst critters of the Trinity Aquifer.

SAVE SALLY!



Due to a Boerne City Council Resolution, the Texas Dept. of Transportation ("TxDOT") is considering the construction of a 300 –foot-wide bypass/loop/relief road ("Kendall Gateway") through Cascade Caverns that will destroy "Sally" the endangered Salamander's home. This road, if permitted, will also severely damage Cascade Caverns, the oldest Boerne-area tourist attraction and oldest Texas show cave attraction.

For more information, please go to:

www.Facebook.com/CascadeCavernsTexas/

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cascade_Caverns

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cascade_Caverns_salamander

www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/studies/san-antonio/kendall-gateway-study.html



Tell TxDOT (and the Boerne Council) that paving over Sally's home is a heartless idea. Here are the people to contact:

San Antonio TxDOT Office

E-mail: kendallgateway@pozcam.com

J. Bruce Bugg, Jr., Chairman, TxDOT

E-mail: Cassandra.Mata@txdot.gov; Phone: (512) 305-9509

James Bass, Executive Director, TxDOT

In addition to taking action to Save Sally, we encourage citizens of Boerne to check out inspireboerne.org, a website devoted to making Boerne a great place to live. Learn more about this inspired citizen led initiative [here](#).

The need for water to supply new subdivisions has inspired a group of water wildcatters to invest in [a scheme that threatens to deplete the Trinity Aquifer](#). Texas Water Supply Co. LLC has bought up 40 supply wells in northern Bexar County with plans to pump up to 32,000 acre feet per year (an acre foot is 325,851 gallons.) The wells are “grandfathered” meaning that they are not subject to pumping limits adopted by the [Trinity Glenrose Groundwater Conservation District](#). TGGCD and local well owners are understandably [concerned about the impacts](#) of drawing this much groundwater from the area. At a meeting of concerned well owners held in Bulverde last Monday, the spokesperson for the project was not able to provide meaningful or accurate information to those assembled.

TWS’s affiliate, South Comal Water Supply Corporation has already been approaching landowners to purchase easements to build a pipeline to serve new development in Bexar, Kendall, and Comal counties. You can take a look at the well locations ([here](#)). Concerned area well owners can email annalisa@aquiferalliance.org . We will keep you posted on future meetings and efforts to stop this profligate pumping.

Not all the news we get in GEAA’s in box is bad news, though. [Some wonderful folks](#) are working to preserve a former Boy Scout Camp in Hays and Comal counties called [The Sentinel Peak Preserve](#), and GEAA is working with an enthusiastic group of smart people to [preserve even more land in Comal](#). [GEAA member groups](#) are also reporting great progress on a variety of efforts to preserve Hill Country land and water. We are amazed and delighted by all the talent and perseverance devoted to our common cause.

Stay tuned for more on these and other important issues and - have a great weekend!

Annalisa Peace

Executive Director
[Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#)

You can donate to GEAA [on line](#) or mail a check to PO Box 15618, San Antonio, Texas 78212

You can always keep up with interesting water news on [GEAA's Face Book page](#)