



Dear GEAA members and friends,

I had high hopes that I would be sending better news. Sadly, [H.B. 3036](#), which would prohibit direct discharge of sewage effluent into waterways that recharge the Edwards Aquifer, never came up for its scheduled floor vote due to lengthy discussions of earlier scheduled bills. So, unless some miracle happens to pass companion SB 1796 during these final days of the session, we will not see this legislation passed in 2017.

Thanks to all of you who communicated with your legislators there is wide spread recognition that this measure is needed sooner rather than later if we are to protect Hill Country streams. Our team has asked Governor Abbott to consider sending the proposed legislation to the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality with direction to incorporate this measure into the Edwards Aquifer Rules. Were this to happen, GEAA and other proponents would be able to participate in the rulemaking process, whereby we could still achieve our goal of protecting historically pristine by prohibiting direct discharge of sewage effluent into waterways that traverse the Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone. We will also be asking Speaker Straus to call for an [interim charge](#) to study this legislation, which could set it on a fast track for passage in 2019 if need be. While our bill didn't pass, we are still within reach of achieving our goal.

Special thanks go out to Representative Tracy O. King, Representative Donna Howard, and Senator José Menéndez for filing and working hard to support this legislation. And, thanks to all of you who made calls and signed [the petition](#)! We will keep working and will keep you posted on our progress.

I'm happy to report that the Texas Senate passed a bill that would allow voters in counties along the San Marcos River to approve the creation of "water recreation safety zones." Read more [here](#). And, [HB 1648](#) by Representative Four Price/Senator Kel Seliger, a bill that facilitates water conservation planning, passed the Senate this week and will soon be on the way to the Governor.

Another piece of good news is that a State appeals court tossed the challenge to the City of New Braunfels "Can Ban"! Read more [here](#).

As the session winds down, we are still quite busy trying to stop some bad bills and bad amendments to good bills - and get other good legislation passed. We will be sending a report at the conclusion of the session to let you know the fate of bills on GEAA's legislative agenda.

Again, thank you!

Annalisa Peace

Executive Director
[Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#)

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