



Dear GEAA members and friends,

I remember the spending the 4th of July, 2006 (my third since I began working with GEAA) out on a lovely patio on the banks of Helotes Creek working on a “Citizens’ Master Plan for the Hill Country area of Northwest Bexar County, Texas” with the newly forming Bexar CLAWS (Clean Land Air Water Scenery) Group, which later became the Hill Country Planning Association. The draft document began with a preamble stating that “We hold these truths to be self-evident”.

Citizens' "Master Plan"
for the Hill Country area of Northwest Bexar County, Texas

PREAMBLE

We hold these truths to be self-evident:

- that our representative democracy form of government is at serious risk and cannot long endure, as long as so many of our elected officials represent exclusively the special interests of corporations, theocracies, and wealthy patrons, instead of their constituent citizenry,
- AND
- that laws, regulations, and procedures enacted by these elected officials who appoint lackey bureaucrats to enforce them are for the exclusive benefit of these special interests and to the detriment of the *majority of the citizenry*,
- AND
- that those laws, regulations, and procedures designed to result in land misuse, water pollution and plundering, toxic air, infrastructure destruction, and other so-called developmental tools are made by the elected officials and administered by their *political appointments* to benefit the development interests solely, without regard for the concerns of and adverse impacts on the citizenry and their communities,
- AND
- that because of this corrupt situation, unsustainable and mindless development is occurring in the magnificent hill country area northwest Bexar County that is rapidly leading to the degradation and destruction of entire ecosystems that sustain life,
- AND
- that our tax dollars are being fraudulently used to enrich the elected officials' special interest groups which buy their special candidates' election while ignoring their stated purposes of providing a solid education for our children, protecting our environment, and improving living conditions for *all* citizens,
- AND
- that our election process is seriously flawed and lacks credibility when so many potential voters refuse to exercise their right to vote since they have the justifiable perception that their votes are not counted, miscounted, or changed,
- AND
- *to encourage meaningful public participation in the publicly-funded infrastructure and other projects, the affected citizen stakeholders must be included in all public planning processes from conception to implementation,*

THEREFORE,

- *we, the embattled citizenry of the Hill Country area of Northwest Bexar County, in order to defend our constitutional rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and to defend our homeland against greed and corrupt elected officials intent on destroying our life-sustaining natural resources and the area's ambience, character, charm, culture, heritage, and uniqueness, do hereby issue and endorse this Citizens' Master Plan.*

I recall at the time thinking that this was the most patriotic thing I could be doing on Independence Day. Since then, I have had many such opportunities to work with folks from Del Rio to Lick Creek in organizing to exercise their rights as citizens. It is a part of my job that I treasure – I get to work with the best folks in Texas on issues that are dear to their hearts.

I also recall the folks at that 4th of July meeting, ranchers all, sharing recipes for cooking feral hogs. At the time, I didn't know what they were talking

about. When I asked, they told me what tasty pests these hogs were. I instantly thought, free meat for a party! And, that November we had GEAA's first Feral Hog Roast at the Rancho Blanco in Helotes.

This year, you can help make this tradition a great success by volunteering, donating silent auction items, securing corporate sponsorships, or simply by inviting your friends and buying tickets to GEAA's Feral Hog Roast 2016. The celebration will be held on October 15th at the Don Strange Ranch, featuring hogs roasted to perfection by the Hill Country's finest celebrity chefs, music by Ken Little and the Swingbillies, and plenty of cold Alamo Beer.

GEAA

Annual

**FERAL HOG
ROAST**

October 15, 2016
at the Don Strange Ranch
6:pm—10:pm

if you didn't receive this card in the mail, let us know.

Give us a call at 210-320-6294 if you have anything to contribute to GEAA's big fundraising event - and plan to join the best folks in Texas for a wonderful party on October 15th.

Best wishes for a wonderful Independence Day!

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director
[Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#)

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

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