



Dear GEAA members and friends,

We have been working diligently to get the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs and the House Environmental Regulations Committee to approve [SB 1796 / HB 3036](#). These are the bills that will prohibit direct discharge of wastewater into waterways that recharge the Edwards Aquifer. **We only have until Monday to get these bills out of committee; then they are dead** (“left pending”). At this time, we believe that calls from you might be the push that is needed to get them to take favorable action. (See talking points below.)

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs

Senator Charles Perry	charles.perry@senate.texas.gov	(512) 463-0128
Senator Jose Rodriguez	Jose.Rodriguez@senate.texas.gov	(512) 463-0129
Senator Brandon Creighton	Brandon.Creighton@senate.texas.gov	(512) 463-0104
Senator Bob Hall	Bob.Hall@senate.texas.gov	(512) 463-0102
Senator Juan Hinojosa	Juan.Hinojosa@senate.texas.gov	(512) 463-0120
Senator Lois Kolkhorst	Lois.Kolkhorst@senate.texas.gov	(512) 463-0118
Senator Borris Miles	Borris.Miles@senate.texas.gov	(512) 463-0113

House Committee on Environmental Regulations

Representative Joseph

Pickett	joseph.pickett@house.texas.gov	512-463-0596
Representative Ed		
Thompson	ed.thompson@house.texas.gov	512-463-0707
Representative John		
Cyrier	john.cyrier@house.texas.gov	512-463-0682
Representative Tony		
Dale	tony.dale@house.texas.gov	512-463-0696
Representative Kyle		
Kacal	kyle.kacal@house.texas.gov	512-463-0412
Representative Brooks		
Landgraf	brooks.landgraf@house.texas.gov	512-463-0546
Representative J.M.		
Lozano	j.m.lozano@house.texas.gov	512-463-0463
Representative Ron		
Reynolds	ron.reynolds@house.texas.gov	512-463-0494
Representative Eddie		
Rodriguez	eddie.rodriguez@house.texas.gov	512-463-0674

You can also [Click here to sign the petition](#) that will be sent to Committee members. We only need 65 more signatures to make it to 2,000. Please sign and forward the petition to everyone you know.

It might also help to call your own [Senator and Representative](#) and ask them to contact members of the committees to request that the bills be approved and sent on. Especially important are calls to Senator Campbell's office.

Please forward this to all your neighbors and everyone who worked with y'all to oppose your discharge permits. **We hear that the committee members just need to hear from citizens to bump these bills on to becoming law. A few minutes today or tomorrow can make a difference.** I really hope we can get this passed!

Thank you!

Annalisa Peace

Executive Director
[Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#)

Key Talking Points

The Edwards Aquifer is a critical sources of pure water for ranchers and communities in the Texas Hill Country.

The TCEQ definition of the Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone is not the entire contributing zone. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality defines the contributing zone of the Edwards Aquifer, but it does not include all of the watershed that feed streams in the contributing zone.

The quality of water in the aquifer is driven by the quality of surface water in the contributing zone. During dry periods, streams in the contributing zone may naturally stop flowing. With wastewater discharge, the only water in streams under those conditions would be wastewater effluent so no dilution of contaminants would occur.

Scientific evidence clearly demonstrates the sensitivity of the Edwards Aquifer to wastewater discharge. Streams in the contributing and recharge zones of the Edwards Aquifer currently have exceptionally high water quality and clarity due to low nutrient levels, and [are very sensitive to wastewater discharge](#). Even highly treated wastewater will have extreme adverse water quality impacts due to phosphates and nitrates in treated effluent. These chemicals function as “fertilizer” in clear streams and rivers, causing microbial growth, algae blooms and choking moss beds. Additional contaminants like pharmaceutical and personal care products in wastewater effluent may impact human health but are not currently regulated by the EPA or TCEQ.

There is no prohibition on wastewater discharge in the contributing zone. Although there are rules prohibiting wastewater discharges in the recharge zone, there are currently no prohibitions on discharge in the contributing zone of Edwards Aquifer. The TCEQ has the authority to approve discharge permits over the objections of downstream landowners and ranchers. Contesting a wastewater discharge permit application is a daunting task for a downstream property owner, consuming large amounts of time and money.

Land application is the primary alternative to direct discharge of wastewater. Land application of wastewater effluent is more protective of water quality than discharge due to the infiltration of effluent on land and the absorption of the nutrients in effluent by green spaces. Land application of treated wastewater effluent is currently required for wastewater disposal in the contributing zone of the Barton Springs Segment of the Edwards Aquifer and in the vicinity of the Highland Lakes. **Thank you!**

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

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