



Dear GEAA members and friends,

Things are going fast and furious at the Capitol. This is the time when a few minutes from you can make all the difference in how we manage and protect our water resources here in Texas.

This Wednesday (4/19) the [House Natural Resources Committee](#) will consider [HB 2240](#) filed by Eddie Lucio III. This bill would require water purveyors who seek financial assistance from the State to adopt common sense restrictions to insure that their customers are not wasting water.

Also being heard in House Natural Resources on Wednesday is [HB 3417](#) filed by Rep. Tracy King. The bill would require groundwater districts to consider impacts to exempt wells when issuing permits. This is important to insure that folks who rely on private wells for their households do not suffer from excessive drawdown of their groundwater source.

We strongly support these bills and ask you to contact the [members of the Committee](#) to voice your support for HB 2240 and HB 3417. Or, you can call the House Natural Resources Committee office at 512-463-0802 to register your support.

On Thursday (4/20) [HB 2684](#) will be heard by the [House Land and Resource Management Committee](#). This bill is part of a [suite of bills](#) filed to reform eminent domain by [Texans for Property Rights](#), of which GEAA is a member. To sign a petition in support of these common sense landowner protections, [click here](#).

While GEAA certainly supports protecting landowners' rights, we draw the line at legislation proposed by developers to prohibit enforcement of our water quality protections. [HB 1135](#) filed by Paul Workman would require cities to purchase easements as the only means of protecting the Edwards Aquifer. Impervious cover regulations enforced by San Antonio, San Marcos, Austin, and Sunset Valley would be moot. **Please contact the members of**

the [House Land and Resource Management Committee](#) and ask them to vote NO on HB 1135.

[SB 1796](#) and [HB 3036](#) were both heard in committee this past week. These bills would protect the Edwards Aquifer and its pristine Hill Country streams and springs by prohibiting discharge of sewage effluent into waterways in the Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone. Our thanks go out to the folks, some of whom traveled great distances to be there, who provided excellent testimony to support our common cause. Many thanks, too, to those of you who called the committee members. At each visit we made to their offices, we heard that you had called in support of these bills, which was incredibly helpful!

We were startled that the [Guadalupe Blanco River Authority](#) (GBRA) testified against both bills on the grounds that they would like to reserve the right to increase their existing sewage discharge permits to allow for greater volumes. A scary prospect, indeed.

We also hear that [Representative Isaac](#) (512-463-0647) is trying to undermine these bills. A call from his constituents is definitely in order. You might mention that nearly 2,000 Texans have signed a petition to support this legislation. **If you have not yet signed the petition, [click here](#).**

Stay tuned for a report on [more good bills](#) that we'd like to see passed this session.

And, if you would like to get more involved you can join members of the [Alliance for a Clean Texas](#) from across the State for ACT Lobby Day at the Capitol on Tuesday, April 25th. For more information and to sign up, [click here](#). You can also share this event with your friends on [Facebook](#).

Don't feel guilty if you can't participate in the aforementioned actions. You can support many of the groups that are working hard for you at the Capitol, including GEAA, through the [HEB Tear Pad Campaign](#). All you have to do is tear off a slip and pay at the register. So easy!

If you read this all the way through, thank you!

Wishing you a happy Easter 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

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