

Alamo, Austin, and Lone Star chapters of the
Sierra Club
Bexar Audubon Society
Bexar Green Party
Boerne Together
Bulverde Neighborhood Alliance
Cibolo Nature Center
Citizens Allied for Smart Expansion
Citizens for the Protection of Cibolo Creek
Comal County Conservation Alliance
Environment Texas
First Universalist Unitarian Church of San
Antonio
Friends of Canyon Lake
Friends of Dry Comal Creek
Friends of Government Canyon
Fuerza Unida
Green Party of Austin
Green Society of UTSA
Guadalupe River Road Alliance
Guardians of Lick Creek
Headwaters at Incarnate Word
Helotes Heritage Association
Hill Country Planning Association
Kendall County Well Owners Association
Kinney County Ground Zero
Leon Springs Business Association
Medina County Environmental Action
Native Plant Society of Texas – SA
Northwest Interstate Coalition of
Neighborhoods
Preserve Castroville
Preserve Lake Dunlop Association
San Antonio Audubon Society
San Antonio Conservation Society
San Geronimo Valley Alliance
San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance
San Marcos River Foundation
Save Barton Creek Association
Save Our Springs Alliance
Scenic Loop/Boerne Stage Alliance
Securing a Future Environment
SEED Coalition
Solar San Antonio
Sisters of the Divine Providence
Travis County Green Party
Water Aid – Texas State University
West Texas Springs Alliance
Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation
Wimberley Valley Watershed Association

April 1, 2019

House Natural Resources Committee
Chair: Rep. Lyle Larson
Vice Chair: Rep. Will Metcalf
Members: Rep. Alex Dominguez
Rep. Jessica Farrar
Rep. Cody Harris
Rep. Tracy O. King
Rep. Mike Lang
Rep. Poncho Nevárez
Rep. Tom Oliverson
Rep. Four Price
Rep. Ana-Maria Ramos

RE: HB 3324, HB 3099, and HB 4110

Honorable Members of the House Natural Resources Committee,

The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA) supports HB 3324 relating to groundwater impact contingency planning by pipeline operators. Given the importance of protecting our groundwater resources, it does not seem too much to ask to require pipeline operators to submit plans to control, contain, and collect any discharge of fluids from a pipeline to minimize impacts to groundwater.

Regarding HB 3099 relating to standards for water management in certain area pertinent to the management of the Pecos River, Devil's River, and San Filipe Springs, GEAA strongly supports management of groundwater in Val Verde County that would protect the flows of these Edwards Aquifer fed rivers and springs. Since 2005 we have worked with the City of Del Rio and other parties to oppose various plans for large withdrawals of Edwards Aquifer water for export to other areas because of the negative impacts that massive pumping would pose to these Texas treasures. Having something in place to predicate rational management of the Edwards Aquifer in Val Verde County would, indeed, be most welcome.

Regarding HB 3843 relating to the use of a priority groundwater management area study in certain areas, we support this legislation for the reasons mentioned above in support of HB 3099.

We also call your attention to HB 4110, which has been assigned to your committee. HB 4110 calls for TCEQ to conduct a study to evaluate and make recommendations for the regulation of on-site sewage disposal systems (OSSF) in the recharge zone of the Edwards Aquifer. This excellent bill would require TCEQ to submit a report on the effects, regulation, and best management practices for on-site sewage disposal systems on the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone by March 1, 2020. Should this bill pass, stakeholders, including groundwater

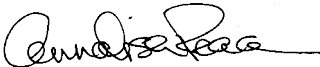
management districts, river authorities, water suppliers, impacted municipalities and counties, and agency and academic experts will be able to work with TCEQ on new rules to better protect the Edwards from sewage contamination.

We ask that the House Natural Resources Committee schedule a hearing on HB 4110 as soon as possible. It is urgent for the Legislature to consider this bill during this session due to unprecedented growth over the Recharge Zone. Several agencies, including the Edwards Aquifer Authority, the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority, Canyon Lake Water Supply Company, and others have indicated that they support this legislation.

We urge you to send HB 3324, HB 3099, and HB 3843 for a vote of the House and to schedule a hearing as soon as possible on HB 4110.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annalisa Peace", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance