



Member Organizations

Alamo, Austin, and Lone Star chapters of the Sierra Club

Bexar Audubon Society

Austin, Bexar and Travis Green Parties

Bexar Grotto

Boerne Together

Bulverde Neighborhood Alliance

Bulverde Neighbors for Clean Water

Cibolo Nature Center

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 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

Preserve Our Hill Country Environment

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

Signal Hill Area Alliance

Solar San Antonio

Sisters of the Divine Providence

Texas Cave Management Association

Trinity Edwards Spring Protection Association

Water Aid – Texas State University

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation

Wimberley Valley Watershed Association

April 23, 2021

House Natural Resources Committee:

The Honorable Rep. Tracy O. King, Chair

The Honorable Rep. Cody Harris, Vice Chair

The Honorable Rep. Rhetta Andrews Bowers

The Honorable Rep. Kyle J. Kacal

The Honorable Rep. Lyle Larson

The Honorable Rep. Eddie Lucio III

The Honorable Rep. Dennis Paul

The Honorable Rep. Four Price

The Honorable Rep. Ana-Maria Ramos

The Honorable Rep. Armando Walle

The Honorable Rep. Terry M. Wilson

Sam Bacarisse

Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance comments FOR HB 4618

I submit this letter of support on behalf of the fifty-four member organizations, four of which serve Hays County, and thousands of individual members of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA).

The State Legislature mandates the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (HTGCD) to protect the long-term reliability of groundwater in Western Hays County, which is one of the five fastest growing counties in the US. The population of Hays County relies almost entirely on groundwater managed by the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (HTGCD).

The proposed legislative revisions represent an honest attempt at establishing consensus from a variety of stakeholders including legislators, county commissioners, permittees, water utilities, and exempt well owners. These revisions will improve data collection capabilities, conform with national utility standards, and protect HTGCD's long-term financial stability.

These changes would not affect exempt users – residential and agricultural wells would remain exempt from any permit requirements. HB 4618 will enable the district to move away from a fee structure that necessitates the issuance of permits as its only source of funding, and will allow decisions on groundwater to be allocated in a sustainable manner. Protecting groundwater property rights is critical for the health of the communities of Hays County.

We note that HB 4618 has a resolution of support from the Hays County Commissioners, as well as many other local stakeholders. We hope you, too will support this much needed legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please contact me at your convenience.

Respectfully,

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director, Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance

CC: Scott Gilfillan
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Kathy Haigler
Hal Talton
Hanna Lisenbe
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Rachel Piotrkowski
Jordan Dickens
Rahul Sreenivasan
Wasiq Javed
Jeff Frazier