



Greetings Spring Branch City Council,

My name is Brendan Gibbons, and I'm staff member of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on preserving the Edwards and Trinity aquifers, their springs, their watersheds, and the Texas Hill Country that sustains them.

I'm here today to spread the word about a wastewater treatment plant permit application that will affect your local waterways here in Spring Branch. Applicant SJWTX, Inc., which is affiliated with Canyon Lake Water Service Company, has applied for a permit through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to discharge an average of 265,000 gallons per day of wastewater effluent into Cypress Creek, where it would flow through multiple downstream properties on its way to the Guadalupe River.

According to permit information submitted by the applicant, this facility, to be called the "Simmons Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility," would provide wastewater treatment to 718 homes and more than 25 acres of commercial development here along Highway 281.

GEAA is opposed to this discharge permit due to the negative environmental impact of treated wastewater effluent flowing into Cypress Creek and the Guadalupe River, as well as the increased demand for drinking and irrigation water to serve the proposed subdivision. Replacing the current open ranch land with a high concentration of impervious cover — asphalt, concrete, and rooftops — will also exacerbate flooding and increase the flow of stormwater contaminants flowing downstream. The dense nature of this housing development is also out of place with the rural nature of the surrounding area.

GEAA has extensive experience working on these issues throughout the Hill County. We are hopeful that we can partner with Spring Branch community members to help you advocate for the best possible outcome for this project.

Please feel free to contact me 210-320-0098 or brendan@aquiferalliance.org to provide any assistance you may need.

Thank you,

Brendan Gibbons
Assistant Manager
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance