

Alamo, Austin, and Lone Star chapters of the Sierra Club
Bexar Audubon Society
Bexar and Travis-Austin Green Parties
Bexar Grotto
Boerne Together
Bulverde Neighborhood Alliance
Bulverde Neighbors for Clean Water
Cibolo Center for Conservation
Citizens for the Protection of Cibolo Creek
Comal County Conservation Alliance
Environment Texas
First Universalist Unitarian Church of SA
Fitzhugh Neighbors
Friends of Canyon Lake
Friends of Castroville Regional Park
Friends of Dry Comal Creek
Friends of Government Canyon
Fuerza Unida
Green Society of UTSA
Guadalupe Riverkeepers
Guadalupe River Road Alliance
Guardians of Lick Creek
Headwaters at Incarnate Word
Helotes Heritage Association
Hill Country Alliance
Kendall County Well Owners Association
Kinney County Ground Zero
Leon Springs Business Association
Native Plant Society of Texas – SA
Northwest Interstate Coalition of NA's
Pedernales River Alliance – Gillespie Co.
Preserve Castroville
Preserve Lake Dunlop Association
Preserve Our Hill Country Environment
RiverAid San Antonio
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
Sisters of the Divine Providence
Solar San Antonio
Texas Cave Management Association
Trinity Edwards Spring Protection Assoc.
Water Aid – Texas State University
Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation
The Watershed Association
PO Box 15618, San Antonio, Texas 78212

March 28, 2023

House Natural Resources

RE: Comments on HB 3990 for the 88th Regular Texas Legislature

Honorable Chairman King and Members of the House Natural Resources Committee,

These comments are submitted on behalf of the 55 member groups of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA) in support of HB 3990, introduced by Representative Kacal. GEAA unites 25,000 Texans in 21 counties in advocacy of protections for the Edwards and Trinity aquifers and the streams and rivers within these watersheds.

Since our founding in 2004, we have often been confounded by lack of recognition, at the state level, of hydrological connections between ground and surface water. These interactions are especially pertinent to the karst hydrology that characterizes most of our service area, where storm water rapidly infiltrates to replenish our aquifers and, during times of plenty, resurfaces as spring flows to replenish our streams and rivers. Having additional data to clarify these interactions would greatly enhance our ability to manage and maintain the water quality of our local water resources.

For example, additional studies might identify sites especially suited to groundwater recharge and stormwater infiltration, thereby enhancing our management of the Edwards Aquifer, which is recognized as one of the most prolific aquifers in the world. With proper management, as indicated by additional information such as that which HB 3990 proposes to provide, we might be able to significantly enhance our groundwater supplies while also, perhaps, mitigate flooding and preserve spring flows. Making the most of the unique natural attributes of the Edwards Aquifer could provide us with a renewable and reliable resource to better serve the citizens and economy of Central Texas.

The state has built a good framework of agencies, including the TWDB and TCEQ, our river authorities and local groundwater conservation districts, to direct management of the waters of Texas. Missing is the data sufficient to fully inform the policy, decisions, and regulations shaped by these agencies. We strongly urge you to approve the passage of HB 3990.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Respectfully,

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance