

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 4532 / SB 2540 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 4532. 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.

This bill would require the Texas Water Development Board to calculate the
modeled sustained groundwater pumping volumes for aquifers in Texas. This is
defined as the maximum amount of groundwater that the executive administrator,
using the best available science, determines may be produced annually in
perpetuity from an aquifer. The bill amends Section 36.108 of the Texas Water
Code to add this volume to the list of things a groundwater conservation district
must consider when adopting a desired future condition.

This is especially pertinent to our efforts to ensure that the Trinity Aquifers, which
are slow to recharge, do not go into water deficit. As population and reliance on
groundwater resources proliferate in Central Texas, the prospect of permanently
depleting these aquifers is real and imminent. Hydrologists warn us that much of
the water currently being pumped from these systems is water that entered the
Trinity in ancient times, indicating that recent recharge is not sufficient to meet
current needs.

As large ranches are broken up into smaller parcels, each afforded under state law
with exempt wells for household use, the number of our members who have to drill
their wells deeper increases. We need to make sure that our groundwater
resources are managed so as to be reliably sustainable. This bill will provide our
groundwater conservation districts and priority groundwater management areas
with much needed data that they can use when setting long-term management
goals, or desired future conditions.

We strongly urge you to approve the passage of HB 4532.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.
Respectfully,

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance