

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
Cibola Center for Conservation
Citizens for the Protection of Cibola 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

April 17, 2023

House Natural Resources

RE: Comments on SB 28 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). 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.

The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance is neutral on SB 28. While we agree with the need for financial assistance for programs aimed at increasing the state's available water supplies, we believe that these funds should prioritize the following:

* Reducing water loss in public water supply systems - According to a study release by the Texas Living Waters Project, "Texas is losing an average of over 50 gallons of water per connection every day". GEAA found this to be true in working with under-resourced rural communities pumping from the Edwards Aquifer, some of which had water losses as high as 70% of the water they pumped from the Edwards.

* Financing water reuse systems to encourage the beneficial use of waste water - Where appropriate, the state should be doing all it can to foster water reuse in new residential developments. Encouraging the integration of purple pipes into new subdivisions in Texas' high growth areas could provide a significant source of water that would reduce dependence on ground and surface water resources for residential irrigation, would not be subject to drought restrictions and, in the case of the state's forty-eight "pristine streams", could enhance protection of these waterways by directing wastewater to be used beneficially through land application. We should consider public financing of projects that would transform "waste" water into an asset.

In our opinion, the abovementioned options would provide more certain water supplies that could be more readily available and are more practical than some of the options preferred for funding in SB 28. We believe we should be making the most of the water we are wasting before seeking to import water from other states.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Respectfully,

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance