

Member Organizations

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
Neighborhoods

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

Watershed Association

PO Box 15618, San Antonio, Texas 78212

April 19, 2023

To the House Committee on Land and Resource Management
Re: H.B. 5217

Honorable Chairman Burns and Members of the House Committee on Land and
Resource Management,

On behalf of the fifty-six member organizations of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, I wish to register strong opposition to H.B. 5217. If passed, this bill would have deleterious impacts on Texas municipality's efforts to manage growth in a civilized manner within their ETJ's. In the high growth areas in the Texas Hill Country, enforcing municipal ordinances within the ETJ is particularly important because most growth is occurring in unincorporated areas where Texas counties are restricted from regulating most aspects of development. Municipal codes enforced within the ETJ are the only way to ensure that development occurs in a manner that is consistent with the needs of the community.

Municipalities such as San Antonio, which rely on groundwater as their major source of public supply, have passed ordinances to insure protection of this precious resource. So important is protection of this resource that the citizens of San Antonio have contributed \$325 million to purchase land and easements on the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. It is not possible, however, to secure all the land needed to ensure permanent protection of this extremely environmentally sensitive area. The city must rely on ordinances passed to insure that new development within the Recharge Zone does not pollute the water supply. Based on the consensus of scientists, San Antonio has limited impervious cover on the Recharge Zone to 15% in its ETJ. If H.B. 5217 becomes law, these protections would become irrelevant.

We urge you to deny approval of H.B. 5217.

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

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance