

During 2023 the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA) staff was very productive. To follow are some of the accomplishments achieved with operational support from our Water Guardians:

GEAA staff represented our members on the following committees and stakeholder groups. None of these activities were funded by project grants, though participating in these activities is integral to fulfilling GEAA's mission of preserving and protecting the environment and water resources of central Texas.

- Texas Water Development Board's Regional Flood Planning Groups for the Guadalupe and San Antonio Watersheds. - Executive Director, Annalisa Peace and Technical Director, Deborah Reid respectively
- Region L Water Planning Group representing environmental interests – Ms. Peace
- City of San Antonio Stormwater Advisory Committee – Ms. Reid
- Mayfair Reuse Study Committee of New Braunfels – Policy Director, Rachel Hanes
- Texas Chapter of the American Water Works Association – Conservation & Reuse committees – Ms. Hanes
- Texas Water Action Collaborative – Ms. Peace
- Texas Riparian Association, Board Member At-Large – Technical Director, Nathan Glavy
- Wastewater Conservation Coalition – Ms. Peace and Mr. Glavy
- San Antonio River Authority Environmental Advisory Committee – Ms. Peace
- Texas Hill Country Conservation Network – Ms. Peace
- Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape Project – Ms. Peace, Ms. Reid, Mr. Glavy
- GEAA Chairs Sentinel Soil Committee, Ms. Peace serves on Executive Committee
- Federal Regional Conservation Partnership Program – Ms. Peace
- Centennial Parks Coalition – Ms. Peace
- Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan – Ms. Peace
- Joint Base San Antonio Comprehensive Land Use Plan – Ms. Peace
- Environmental Protection Agency San Antonio Urban Waters Partnership – M. Peace
- Medina River Watershed Protection Plan – Ms. Peace
- Stone Oak Land Use Plan Update for City of San Antonio – Ms. Peace

During the spring of 2023, Nathan Glavy led a research project engaging students of the Texas State University Geography Department, which resulted in an interactive map¹ and a report² on waste water treatment plants within the Edwards and Trinity aquifer regions.

In August of 2023 GEAA published *Building a Healthy Soil to Reduce Climate Impact*³ by Deborah Reid – a guide for citizens instructing them on how to increase soil organic matter in their yards to enhance carbon capture and groundwater infiltration.

¹ <https://aquiferalliance.org/2023/06/continued-partnership-with-texas-state-university-students-expands-geaas-wastewater-project-efforts/>

² <https://aquiferalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Final-Report.docx>

³ <https://aquiferalliance.org/2023/08/you-can-mitigate-the-impacts-of-climate-change-in-your-own-yard/?fbclid=IwAR2Ow3t33IKSDrgGadWOuJEHJakDSNhAtXdo4V7H1NvxYfOQSLY2xEqtlVs>

In September 2023, GEAA published *Water Reuse in the Hill Country: Analyzing Opportunities in Comal County*⁴, Texas by Rachel Hanes outlining the opportunities present in the Texas Hill Country to use recycled water to alleviate the burdens placed on the Edwards and Trinity Aquifers by focusing on the present and future state of recycled water use in Comal County.

Six opinion pieces⁵ authored by GEAA staff were published in the San Antonio Express News, the New Braunfels Herald Zeitung, and the San Marcos Daily Record. GEAA staff was quoted as a source in forty-five newspaper, magazine, television, and radio news reports, including the Texas Tribune and Texas Monthly. We sent out twenty-two press releases and called eight press conferences, all of which were widely covered by news media.

GEAA submitted expert comments as follows:

- TCEQ- Guajolote Ranch WWTP; GEAA submitted comments on January 12, 2023, and GEAA participated in the Public Meeting on May 9, 2023.
- TCEQ- Waterstone Dam Water Use Permit; GEAA submitted comments⁶ on August 10, 2023, and GEAA participated in the Public Meeting on August 10, 2023.
- TCEQ- City of Kyle WWTP Amendment; GEAA submitted comments⁷ on March 3, 2023, and GEAA participated in the Public Meeting on March 30, 2023
- TCEQ- Harrison Tract WWTP; GEAA submitted comments on January 12, 2023, and GEAA participated in the Public Meeting on June 8, 2023.
- TPWD- Flat Rock Creek Sand and Gravel Permit; GEAA submitted comments on July 7, 2023
- EPA – GEAA submitted comments⁸ on proposal to regulate PFAS in drinking water.
- TCEQ- Lockhart Landing WWTP; GEAA submitted comments on March 28, 2023, and GEAA participated in the Public Meetings on March 28, 2023, and June 13, 2023.
- TCEQ- Hays Commons MUD Permit - GEAA submitted comments⁹ on September 20, 2023.
- TCEQ- Hays Commons TLAP; GEAA submitted comments¹⁰ on October 11, 2023.

⁴ <https://aquiferalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Water-Reuse-in-the-Hill-Country-Comal-County-Analysis-September-2023.pdf>

⁵ <https://aquiferalliance.org/2023/10/digging-into-healthy-soil-to-battle-climate-change/>
<https://aquiferalliance.org/2023/08/key-update-will-help-san-antonio-better-track-carbon-emissions/>
<https://aquiferalliance.org/2023/10/water-for-the-future-comal-county-has-opportunities-for-reuse/>
<https://aquiferalliance.org/2023/11/how-new-legislation-and-growth-threaten-edwards-aquifer/>

⁶ https://aquiferalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/GEAA-Comments_WaterstoneLLC_091223_ACC-1.pdf

⁷ https://aquiferalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/GEAA-Comments-CityofKyle_KyleTX_030323.pdf

⁸ <https://aquiferalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/EPA-Regulation-of-Per-and-Polyfluoroalkyl-Substances-PFAS-Proposed-National-Primary-Drinking-Water.pdf>

⁹ <https://aquiferalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/GEAACommentsHaysCommonsMUD.pdf>

¹⁰ https://aquiferalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/GEAACommentsHaysCommonsTLAP_final101123.pdf

- TCEQ- Needmore Quarry EAPP application; GEAA submitted comments¹¹ on November 16, 2023.
- TCEQ- Diamante Ranch; GEAA submitted comments on June 29, 2022, participated in the Public Meeting on January 26, 2023, and was granted a Contested Case hearing on November 8, 2023.
- TCEQ- Fitzhugh Music Venue/Rockingwall Ranch WWTP; GEAA submitted Comments on February 1, 2023, and GEAA participated in the Public Meetings held on November 29, 2023
- City of Garden Ridge – Guadalupe Readymix Variance; GEAA submitted comments¹² on April 5, 2023.
- City of San Antonio zoning changes – GEAA submitted comments¹³ on April 3, 2023.
- Comments to the state legislature during the 88th session on twenty-four bills.

GEAA staff made six presentations to schools and universities. GEAA staff was featured speakers at ten public events, both in person and broadcast virtually. We hosted six events to inform the public about topics of interest to our member, including a movie night featuring films about Texas wildlife, two programs on growth in the Texas Hill Country, a seminar on TCEQ's contested case process, and two Earth Day events. Fifty-six GEAA member alerts on various topics were sent out via e-mail and Kellie Fichter created and sent twelve monthly newsletters that highlighted activities of GEAA and our member groups.

This report does not include information about the many grant funded projects that GEAA worked on during the past year, but focuses on work produced by salaried GEAA staff that is funded by contributions from individuals. Not specifically mentioned in this report are the administrative and event planning duties performed by Office Manager & Special Projects/Marketing, Kellie Fichter. She is the glue that holds us all together and empowers us to function smoothly as an organization.

We are extremely grateful for the unspecified operational support from our Water Guardian members that enabled GEAA staff to dream up new projects, host informative events, and address the many unanticipated issues of concern that accompany growth and change in our region.

¹¹ https://aquiferalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/GEAAComments_NeedmoreQuarry_111623Final.pdf

¹² <https://aquiferalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/4-5-2023Gardridge-GuadalupeReadymix.pdf>

¹³ <https://aquiferalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/GEAA-Comments-ZoningCommission-Item6-PrueRdv04-03-23.pdf>