

## PRESS RELEASE / REQUEST FOR COVERAGE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance Analyzes Housing Affordability and its Intersection with Water Resources**

**The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance releases a report outlining solutions that address the water supply crisis while facilitating housing affordability in Texas. The report provides an overview of the state of housing policy and the water crisis facing the Texas Hill Country.**

San Antonio, TX – February 4, 2024 – The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA) is releasing a new report, *Water for Residents: Ensuring housing solutions do not worsen the water crisis in the Edwards and Trinity aquifer region.*

Texas is short on housing and shorter still on affordable housing. But it is also facing water shortages and threats to water quality from increasingly frequent droughts and floods, population growth, increases in temperatures, and the loss of agricultural and conservation lands. Solutions to one issue, such as rolling back regulations, should not exacerbate the other. Thankfully, there are a variety of solutions Texas lawmakers could adopt that can work towards increasing affordability while also protecting water supplies.

GEAA aims to bring a nuanced approach to the housing affordability conversation in Texas in order to ensure solutions for housing affordability adopted by the Texas Legislature do not exacerbate long-term affordability and do not worsen the ongoing water crisis in the state. In preparation for a housing oriented legislative session, GEAA has prepared this report to provide an overview of the housing affordability situation in Texas including some of the root causes of supply shortages; an overview of water availability and quality concerns in the Hill Country; specific recommendations for ensuring that housing solutions do not further aggravate water supply concerns; and specific recommendations for ensuring long-term housing affordability for Texans.

GEAA appreciates the Texas Legislature for working to tackle the housing problem but cautions against rolling back regulations that protect water quality and supply as a means of achieving affordable housing goals. Instead, to ensure long-term affordability and water supply protection, GEAA recommends the legislature encourage responsible increased housing density in the existing urban core; support stronger, more resilient building codes and standards; support measures to reduce FEMA flood insurance rates; and restrict growth over sensitive karst aquifer recharge and contributing zones.

**Report available:** [GEAA-Housing-and-Water-Concerns-in-the-Hill-Country-2.3.24.pdf](#)

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The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance unites fifty-nine member organizations behind a comprehensive plan to protect regional karst aquifers, their springs and watersheds, and the Texas Hill Country.

**For more information visit [www.AquiferAlliance.org](http://www.AquiferAlliance.org)**