

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Charles Perry, Chair  
The Honorable Kelly Hancock, Vice-Chair  
The Honorable Members Birdwell, Blanco, Gutierrez, Hinojosa, Johnson, Kolkhorst, Sparks  
Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs

**Re: House Bill 1633, An Act Relating to the Criteria Considered by Groundwater Conservation Districts Before Granting or Denying a Permit or Permit Amendment**

The [Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#) (GEAA) appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments on behalf of our sixty-two member groups that are allied in advocacy for the preservation of our ground and surface water resources in twenty-one counties within Central and South Texas. We respectfully ask for your support for House Bill 1633 by Representative Gerdes.

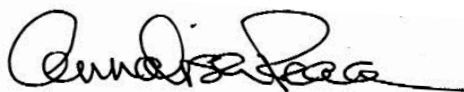
HB 1633 directs Groundwater Conservation Districts to consider, before granting or denying a permit or permit amendment issued in accordance with Section 36.1146 of the Water Code, whether the proposed use of water unreasonably affects wells that are registered within the district and exempt from the requirement to obtain a permit under this chapter or district rules.

We feel that this bill is critical to aid Texas GCDs in planning for water availability. More than 318,000 exempt wells for domestic or livestock use are not currently considered when decisions are made as to whether to permit additional pumping of groundwater. Domestic and livestock wells make up 55% of all water wells in Texas; more than irrigation, rig supply, municipal supply, or electric generation combined. As Texas works to secure its future water supply, exempt wells and the private property rights of well owners should be included in the decision-making process.

According to the HRO, registered exempt wells have seen significant drawdowns in water access due to the approval of major water projects. These projects have forced exempt well owners to dig increasingly deeper wells, which imposes a significant financial burden on landowners. This bill would ensure the permitting process weighs registered exempt wells equitably to permitted commercial wells and may also encourage landowners to register their wells due to these added protections.

The HRO did not identify any concerns with this bill. The bill was voted favorably without amendment out of the House Committee on Natural Resources and passed unanimously out of the full house. We hope that you consider supporting this simple but instrumental bill.

Thank you for your consideration. Please consider GEAA as a resource at your disposal. We look forward to working with you on this issue.



Annalisa Peace, Executive Director  
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance



Rachel Hanes, Policy Director  
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance

Act Now Comal  
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 Neighborhoods for Clean Water  
Cibolo Center for Conservation  
Citizens for the Protection of Cibolo  
Creek  
Comal Conservation  
Comfort Neighbors  
Congregation of Divine Providence  
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  
Hays Residents for Land & Water  
Protection  
Headwaters at Incarnate Word  
Helotes Heritage Association  
Hill Country Alliance  
Kerr County Water Alliance  
Kendall County Well Owners Association  
Las Moras Springs Association  
Leon Springs Business Association  
Llano River Watershed Alliance  
Native Plant Society of Texas -- NB  
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  
River Aid San Antonio  
San Antonio Audubon Society  
San Antonio Conservation Society  
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 (SAFE)  
SEED Coalition  
Signal Hill Area Alliance  
Solar San Antonio  
Texans for Environmental Awareness  
Texas Cave Management Association  
Trinity Edwards Spring Protection Assoc.  
Water Aid -- Texas State University  
Watershed Association  
Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation