



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Founded in 2015, the Trinity Edwards Springs Protection Association (TESPA) was founded to fight the threat posed by Electro Purification (EP) who was attempting to develop a commercial groundwater field between Kyle and Wimberley with the intent to pump 2.5 million gallons per day from the Trinity Aquifer in Hays County. TESPAs fought back with court filings, administrative law filings, and channeling public outcry. Ultimately, TESPAs and very vocal, local citizens successfully challenged EP.

Currently, TESPAs is engaged in a legal action before the Public Utility Commission of Texas challenging Aqua Texas, an investor-owned, for-profit, water utility with a history of over-pumping groundwater in Western Hays County during critical drought conditions.

Adding insult to injury, Aqua Texas has failed to repair leaking water lines that show loss of more than 30 percent.

TESPA continues to monitor and protect groundwater in the region. Their work is far from over. The Hill Country is hot and dry, yet development still continues and investor-owned utilities like Aqua Texas continue to violate groundwater permits. Local groundwater conservation districts do their best to enforce withdrawal permits and apply penalties while avoiding lawsuits that tight budgets cannot support.

TESPA board members are local landowners who not only care about our natural water resources, but are willing to take up a big legal stick to protect them. Their members and supporters understand that litigation is not always an action of last resort—but can sometimes be just the deterrent or tool needed to get the protection community members deserve.

GEAA is honored to have TESPAs as one of our member organizations and recognizes their great work, which serves as an example of successful strategies that can be adopted throughout the Hill Country.

More information at tespatexas.org