



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



### **CREAM**

**Coalition for Responsible  
Environmental Aggregate Mining**

*A different kind of rock group.*

### **Mission**

The Coalition for Responsible Environmental Aggregate Mining (CREAM) is a coalition of local communities in Williamson County seeking for quarries and concrete batch plants to be 'Good Neighbors.' CREAM advocates for best management practices and environmental stewardship in aggregate mining operations, working toward a vision of a healthier, safer Texas that thrives alongside mining industries.

According to a news article written by District 20, State Representative Terry Wilson, "APO quarry mines require about 50 gal/ton of aggregate processed.....the Texas APO industry produced 380M tons of product in 2024, using 19 billion gallons of water, mostly from groundwater sources - equal to about 190,000 homes".

(Source: <https://www.terrywilsonfortexas.com/articleslist/op-ed32>)

CREAM agrees that water conservation is a critical topic not only for Texas, but for the Aggregate Production Operations (APOs) industry as well. CREAM seeks to ensure responsible water use, minimized consumption, and preservation of resources for both industrial and community needs.

(Note: APOs may also include sand & gravel sites and asphalt plants)

### History & Progress

Williamson County has the most quarries out of all the 254 Counties in Texas. CREAM continues to ask all these APOs to be better neighbors and regulate blasting, cover quarry transport truck loads, conserve water from the Edwards Aquifer, and keep the air clean.

In February 2024, CREAM held a [panel discussion](#), where State Representative Terry Wilson and three other legal and regulatory experts spoke to about 250 community members and neighborhood representatives, who also had a chance to voice their concerns. The results of the panel discussion were included in a [detailed report](#), including information on the rapid expansion of the aggregate industry in Williamson County, weak enforcement of existing regulations that has enabled bad actors, the failure of previous legislative efforts, and the popularity of future local and state policies to curb the industry's impact on residents. The report ends with a look toward potential efforts that might lead to improvements, such as the Citizens Advisory Council.

"I and many of my neighbors had no idea when we bought our homes that we had moved next to a quarry, and we soon felt blindsided by how the quarry would disrupt our lives," **said Dana Martin, a mother and local resident.** "Almost daily we are subjected to frequent blasting that cracks our drywall and foundations, loud vibrations that disrupt our peace and ability to homeschool and work from home, bad air quality, or driving hazards from trucks carrying uncovered loads over the speed limit. This isn't fair – or safe – for our communities and our kids, and we've had enough. We are ready for the people in charge to pay more attention and make things right."

CREAM created an online survey that was available to the public from January to March 2024. The event received extensive promotion over a period of several weeks via various channels, including the *Williamson County Sun* newspaper, the Nextdoor platform, and multiple Facebook groups such as "The Nature of Sun City," "My Florence Texas," and the CREAM Facebook page.

In June 2024, CREAM released the results of the online survey to quantify the impact of rock quarries in northwestern Williamson County. The aggregate industry provides gravel, sand, and stone that helps sustain the rapid growth of Central Texas. Weak local and state regulation has led some of these APOs to be poor neighbors. As the first of its kind, the CREAM survey gathered input from almost 200 Georgetown-area residents, illustrating a widespread problem and the desire for change.

Some of the most important findings included:

- 97% of respondents have personally experienced negative impacts that have damaged their property or degraded their quality of life.
- 90% have felt quarry blasts and 44% have had property damage from blasts.
- 60% have experienced excessive dust on their property.
- 53% have experienced damage to their vehicles from trucks transporting materials from APOs.
- 97% want legislation to curb nuisance issues associated with APOs.
- 98% want the County and/or City to be more proactive.

In December 2024, CREAM received the 2024 Air Central Texas Environmental Education Award for its efforts in improving public awareness of environmental issues associated with quarries and CBPs in Williamson County. One of CREAM's primary issues of concern is fugitive dust around the industrialized area of Georgetown and SH 195 corridor. CREAM is working with CAPCOG's (Source: <https://www.capcog.org/about/committees/cac/>) Clean Air Coalition to ensure Air Quality is addressed in Williamson County, especially concerning PM, which corresponds to fugitive dust from quarries and concrete batch plants.

In 2025, CREAM partnered with former Quarry Owner / Consultant, Jill Shackelford, and Martin Marietta in Georgetown to form the Wilco APO Citizen Council (WACC). The meetings started in January and we've already held 3 meetings which included a tour of the local Georgetown quarry, and discussed blasting and fugitive dust (Source: <https://aircentraltexas.org/en/news/CREAM-CBP-Article>)

In addition, the meetings also included local officials from the City of Georgetown and Williamson County. CREAM hopes to expand the WACC to include other quarries and concrete batch plants in the area in the future.

### **Upcoming Events**

CREAM is partnering with Texans for Responsible Aggregate Mining (TRAM), Jill Shackelford, Martin Marietta and other experts to host a State-wide virtual event on Commercial Vehicle Enforcement. This event is tentatively scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup>. The event will cover topics related to Quarry and Concrete Batch Plant trucks.

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, CREAM will participate in the Sun City Recycles Town Hall event. CREAM will have a table and posters to display at the event where people can stop by to chat with us and sign up for our newsletters. Last year, CREAM was given a brief time to share our organization's story. This event will take place in Sun City, Georgetown, Texas.

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, CREAM has been invited to present to the Sierra Club's Water for People and the Environment Committee. The committee will serve as a platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and collective action, bringing together water advocates, experts, and concerned residents. This will be a virtual meeting and a link to further information on the Committee can be found here:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/texas/blog/2024/11/get-involved-protect-texas-water-water-people-environment-committee>

### **How to follow and support**

Learn more about CREAM by checking out their Facebook page [here](#).

### **News features**

All our news stories and interviews have been posted to our Facebook page. See link above for our written articles, interviews with the local Austin news station and meeting notes from our Wilco APO Citizens Council.