

### Member Organizations

Act Now Comal  
Alamo, Austin, and Lone Star chapters of  
the Sierra Club  
ARK Ecological Consulting  
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  
Coalition for Responsible Environmental  
Aggregate Mining (CREAM)  
Comal Conservation  
Comfort Neighbors  
Congregation of Divine Providence  
Dry Comal Creek Neighbors  
Environment Texas  
First Universalist Unitarian Church of SA  
Fitzhugh Neighbors  
Friends of Canyon Lake  
Friends of Castroville Regional Park  
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 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  
Texans for Environmental Awareness  
Texas Cave Management Association  
Trinity Edwards Spring Protection Assoc.  
Water Aid – Texas State University  
Watershed Association  
Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation

September 16, 2025

Honorable Mayor Jones and Members of City Council,

These comments are submitted on behalf of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of the Edwards and Trinity aquifers, their springs, watersheds, and the land that sustains them. Our alliance has 63 member groups across 21 counties in the South-Central Texas region. We work in this field to ensure the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of all those who rely on these sources of water.

San Antonio and its residents continue to endure the impacts of flooding, droughts, heat waves, freezing weather, energy outages, and poor air quality. And yet, the [proposed FY 2026 budget highlight](#) does not address any of these factors that negatively affect San Antonians. Addressing homelessness, investing in affordable housing, repairing and maintaining streets and sidewalks, and keeping San Antonio safe by investing in police services and fire departments are all valuable and crucial city priorities. But these investments, critical as they are, will not reduce flood deaths, keep people safe from overheating or freezing, protect children and the elderly from poor air quality, or make our city more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

The day-to-day well-being of San Antonio residents depends on public funding of programs that improve resiliency, energy efficiency, and sustainability across the city. The funding for the Resiliency, Energy Efficiency, and Sustainability (REES) Fund will, however, be reduced. Many of the most vulnerable in San Antonio – those who do not have a personal vehicle or cannot afford to “prep” for natural disasters – rely on efforts by the city to keep them safe from the impacts of a changing climate. Instead, the city’s proposed FY 2026 budget zeroes out funding for Bus Shade Structures and Resiliency Hubs. As a whole, the REES fund will be reduced by nearly \$10 million ([pg. 238](#)).

Shade is needed to reduce the heat island effect contributing to [record numbers of heat deaths and illness](#). Trees are one of the best sources of shade, but the proposed budget does not expand the tree canopy preservation and mitigation fund, meant to be spent on tree preservation, tree planting, and educational activities ([pg. 246](#)).

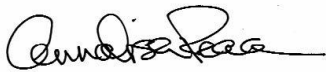
Triple-digit temperature days could be four times more likely ten years from now than they were 40 years ago. Droughts will be more impactful than those of the 20<sup>th</sup> century due to increased temperatures. Extreme rainfall intensity will likely increase 20 percent compared to rainfall levels from the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Urban flooding is expected to be over 100 percent more frequent by 2036 than it was between 1950 and 1999. Wildfire seasons will likely grow longer and more intense. Large hailstorms could become more frequent. ([2024 ClimateReport.pdf](#)). San Antonio should continue investing in funds, offices, and programs that prepare the city and its residents for these increased climate impacts. Attempting to save the city

money in these areas in 2026 could come back to haunt San Antonio in 2036 and well into the future.

The newly combined City departments of Sustainability and Resilience are staffed by some of the most creative, competent, and respected individuals to be found nation-wide. It makes no sense to hire people of this caliber and subsequently approve severe cuts to the amount of funding they have to initiate and implement programming needed to protect the people of San Antonio. We suggest that you should recognize the talent that you have in the Office of Sustainability and continue to fund programs and grants to advance community resilience, combat heat island, improve air quality, and address increased risks from extreme weather due to climate change at their current levels.

We further suggest that every effort should be made to secure additional funding from other sources, and to consider dedication of appropriate City assessed fees to be devoted to sustainability and resiliency projects and programs.

Thank you for your consideration, we look forward to working with you to improve and sustain the quality of life for all San Antonians.



Annalisa Peace  
Executive Director



Rachel Hanes  
Policy Director