

April 29, 2025

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

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 this request 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 consideration in your committee of House Bill 1633 by Representative Gerdes, which was referred to your committee on April 28th.

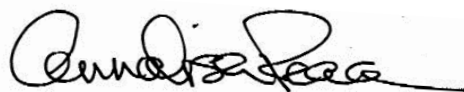
HB 1633 directs Groundwater Conservation Districts to consider, before granting or denying a permit or permit amendment issued in accordance with Section 36.1146 of the Water Code, whether the proposed use of water unreasonably affects wells that are registered within the district and exempt from the 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 hearing HB 1633 in your committee and pass it favorably out of committee to the full Senate.

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