Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance

Member Organizations

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
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
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
Sisters of the Divine Providence
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

PO Box 15618
San Antonio, Texas 78212

March 10, 2025

The Honorable John Lujan
House Committee on Appropriations
S/C on Articles VI, VII, & VIII

Dear Representative Lujan,

We submit this letter on behalf of the sixty-two member groups of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA), a nonprofit dedicated to effective broad-based advocacy across a 21-county region in Central and South Texas for the protection and preservation of the Edwards and Trinity aquifers, their springs, watersheds, the Hill Country land that sustains them, and sustaining flows to the Gulf Coast bays and estuaries.

We encourage you to support the proposed rider by Representative Morales Shaw to provide funding to the Texas Water Development Board to implement the "Adaptive Management" provisions of the state's environmental flow standards process.

Environmental flows are the flows necessary to maintain ecologically healthy streams and rivers and to maintain the bays and estuaries that those waterways feed. Ecologically healthy aquatic ecosystems not only support aquatic life and biodiversity, they also support the recreation, tourism, fishing, transportation, and water supply industries. Environmental flows are vital to Texas' natural environment and to its economy. As the state's population continues to grow, adequate measures to protect environmental flows are needed.

Environmental flows are governed under SB 2 (2001) and SB 3 (2007), which require environmental flow standards be reviewed for several river basins and their associated bay systems – and revised as necessary – every 10 years. This type of review is called adaptive management. The required adaptive management review has not occurred in these river basins and bay areas, largely due to the lack of funding provided by the state. The proposed rider by Representative Morales Shaw would provide the necessary appropriations to the Texas Water Development Board for the 2026/2027 biennium to perform the required and critical adaptive management reviews of the environmental flows standards process.

Enclosed is additional information on why we support this rider. We hope you continue to consider GEAA as a resource available to you during the Legislative Session and we look forward to working with you on this and other issues.

Respectfully,

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance

Rachel Hanes
Policy Director
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance