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 11, 2025

The Honorable Armando Walle
House Committee on Appropriations - S/C on Articles VI, VII, & VIII

Dear Representative Walle,

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 Barry to provide funding to the Texas Water Development Board to express legislative intent for the TWDB to conduct and publish a study of the technical and economic feasibility of the use of recycled municipal wastewater and dry plant operations by aggregate production operations (i.e., quarries) currently using Edwards and Trinity groundwater wells.

Quarries are vital to the state's economy and to the development and maintenance of Texas infrastructure. While they are not the main consumer of groundwater in Central Texas, quarries represent a unique opportunity to conserve Trinity and Edwards aquifer water. Many quarries in the fast-growing Hill Country and adjacent counties are located close to existing wastewater treatment plants. If determined technically and economically feasible, certain quarries in Central Texas and elsewhere could feel encouraged to replace the majority of their groundwater use with treated recycled wastewater. Alternatively, quarries could choose to adopt proven dry plant techniques to phase out the majority of water use altogether.

Transitioning away from groundwater use is common-sense:

- recycled wastewater is often provided by suppliers at a lower cost than potable water supplies and is of high-enough quality for outdoor and industrial use;
- recycled wastewater is considered a drought-proof supply and is often not restricted during droughts or shortages, meaning operations would be less likely to be curtailed if they relied on reuse water;
- transitioning from groundwater to reuse water or dry plant operations can engender goodwill within the community in which the quarry is located; and
- partnerships with wastewater providers could assist with the cost of reuse infrastructure.

The TWDB study can help clarify these and other opportunities and can help quarries and the state understand the benefits and challenges present in making the transition. Enclosed is the proposed rider and 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, GEAA

Rachel Hanes
Policy Director, GEAA