



Request For Coverage: September 1, 2026



Environmental Groups Reach Wastewater Settlement with Reserve at Salado Creek Developer

Groundbreaking Agreement Features Wastewater Reuse, Tighter Permit Limits, and Lower Wastewater Volumes to Protect Water Quality

After a 10-month negotiation, key Central Texas environmental groups have reached a settlement with Salado Creek Land Partners regarding their pending wastewater permit for The Reserve at Salado Creek development in southern Bell County and northern Williamson County. The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA), Save Our Springs (SOS), and Save Salado Creek (SSC) have signed off on a visionary agreement with the developer that allows their wastewater permit to move forward while protecting environmentally sensitive Salado Creek and the underlying Edwards and Trinity Aquifers.

The original permit application would have discharged up to 700,000 gallons per day of treated wastewater into Salado Creek, with relatively high amounts of Phosphorous, Ammonia Nitrogen, and other pollutants. The modified permit will restrict Salado Creek wastewater discharges from the development to roughly 10% of that amount. It will also reduce Phosphorous and Ammonia Nitrogen by 33% and other pollutants by up to 50%. Dallas-based Unity Water Solutions, who are providing the development's utility infrastructure, were instrumental in putting the settlement together, working closely with all parties in order to reach consensus.

"We are so excited to announce this agreement with the developer's team" says GEAA Executive Director Annalisa Peace. "Salado Creek is so important, not only to the Village of Salado that was built around the creek but to all of the area landowners who have water wells that tap into the underlying aquifers along the creek".

Salado Creek Land Partners President Todd McCullough agrees. "We envision The Reserve at Salado Creek as a different, more environmentally friendly development. That meant sitting down with environmental leaders and working out specifics as to how that could best be accomplished. It was quite a bit of work since we had to change our wastewater treatment plant design and our plant operator." That new operator is reUse Engineering, whose COO Randall Nelson added "We look forward to implementing reUse's advanced technology to protect Salado Creek and its underlying groundwater."

Save Salado Creek is hosting a fundraiser October 1st featuring singer/songwriter Michael Martin Murphey, a legendary performer with multiple grammy award nominations, six gold albums, and many chart-topping singles including his beloved platinum-selling song "Wildfire". The event will raise funds to support creek testing and other SSC activities; tickets may be purchased at savesaladocreek.org.

The Reserve at Salado Creek development near Jarrell will feature 889 single-family homes as well as commercial development and is slated to begin buildout in 2027.

The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance unites 59 member organizations behind a comprehensive plan to protect regional karst aquifers, their springs and watersheds, and the Texas Hill Country. For more information, visit www.aquiferalliance.org or contact Mike Clifford at mike@aquiferalliance.org or by phone at (512)426-4463.