WHEREAS, Chapter 573 of the Texas Local Government Code allows certain counties to regulate stormwater to comply with the requirements of the stormwater permitting program under the national pollutant discharge elimination system; and

WHEREAS, Travis and Bexar counties were granted this authority due to their reliance on the Edwards Aquifer as a source of drinking water and the risk that polluted storm water entering the recharge zone can harm this important water source; and

WHEREAS, if aquifers are not reasonably protected, irreparable damage could be done to our natural resources and landowner property rights may be negatively impacted; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has designated an area which covers much of the Texas Hill Country as the Hill Country Priority Groundwater Management Area (PGMA); and

WHEREAS, a PGMA is an area designated and delineated by TCEQ that is experiencing, or is expected to experience, within 50 years, critical groundwater problems including shortages of surface water or groundwater, land subsidence resulting from groundwater withdrawal, or contamination of groundwater supplies; and

WHEREAS, counties within the Hill Country Priority Groundwater Management Area lie simultaneously within Flash Flood Alley wherein recent major flood events have led to major economic and property losses and loss of life; and

WHEREAS, increased development within the fast-growing Hill Country counties contributes to downstream flood impacts and losses; and

WHEREAS, counties within the Hill Country PGMA not currently granted Section 573.001 authority are therefore not granted the full extent of tools necessary to appropriately protect residents, property, and natural resources from flood impacts; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 State Flood Plan recommends increased county authority related to floodplain management; and

WHEREAS, without increased attention to the regulation of stormwater in the fast-growing Hill Country counties, already stressed aquifers will continue to face increased risk of pollution and flood impacts will continue to increase; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the XXX County Commissioners Court supports legislation to amend Section 573.001 of the Texas Local Government Code to expand the authority to regulate storm water to any county that contains a portion of the Edwards Aquifer or any county located wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Hill Country PGMA.