

Alamo Group of the Sierra Club  
Aquifer Guardians in Urban Areas  
Austin Regional Sierra Club  
Bexar Audubon Society  
Boerne Together  
Cibolo Nature Center  
Citizens Allied for Smart Expansion  
Environmental Stewardship  
Committees of the Episcopal Church of Reconciliation & Episcopal Diocese of West Texas  
Environment Texas  
First Universalist Unitarian Church of San Antonio  
Friends of Canyon Lake  
Fuerza Unida  
Government Canyon Natural History Association  
Hays Community Action Network  
Helotes Heritage Association  
Helotes Nature Center  
Hill Country Planning Association  
Guardians of Lick Creek  
Kendall County Well Owners Association  
Kinney County Ground Zero  
Medina County Environmental Action Association  
Northwest Interstate Coalition of Neighborhoods  
OST 100  
Preserve Castroville  
Preserve Lake Dunlop Association  
Preserve Our Water-Blanco County  
San Antonio Audubon Society  
San Antonio Conservation Society  
San Geronimo Valley Alliance  
San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance  
San Marcos River Foundation  
Santuario Sisterfarm  
Save Barton Creek Association  
Save Our Springs Alliance  
Scenic Loop/Boerne Stage Alliance  
Securing a Future Environment  
Sisters of the Divine Providence  
Smart Growth San Antonio  
SEED Coalition  
Texas Water Alliance  
West Texas Springs Alliance  
Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation  
Wimberley Valley Watershed Association

October 28, 2000

The Honorable Mayor Castro and Members of City Council  
Office of the City Clerk  
2nd Floor, City Hall  
City of San Antonio  
P.O. Box 839966  
San Antonio TX 78283-3966

Re: Agenda Item #21  
UDC Amendment - Tree Preservation in Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Dear Mayor Castro and City Council Representatives,

I am writing on behalf of the 46 member organizations of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance in support of amendments to the Unified Development Code to promote Tree Preservation in Environmentally Sensitive Areas. We realize that these amendments are based upon a report from a stakeholders committee, and therefore do not recommend certain measures that we feel would more adequately protect our environmental resources.

Specifically, we recommend that the ordinance be changed to increase tree preservation requirements on slopes greater than 15% grade as in Austin's Hill Country Roadways ordinance.

We would also feel more comfortable with a variance procedure that requires approval of City Council, rather than approval contingent upon decision of the Planning Commission.

Otherwise, we feel that these amendments are worthy of passage, and urge you to accord them your support. We applaud the fact that these amendments are being considered before you today, and regret only that the rezoning request for the Steubing Ranch property could not have been delayed until after these amendments were passed so that they would also apply to that Environmentally Sensitive Area.

These amendments, as applied in the future, will ensure that what remains of the gateway to the Hill Country within our City Limits achieves development more consistent with the aesthetic and environmental value that this landscape provides our community.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Respectfully,



Annalisa Peace  
Executive Director