



Member Organizations

Alamo, Austin, and Lone Star chapters
Sierra Club

AGUA

Bexar Audubon Society

Bexar and Austin Green Parties

Boerne Together

Cibolo Nature Center

Citizens Allied for Smart Expansion

Citizens for the Protection of Cibolo Creek

Environment Texas

Environmental Stewardship Committees
of the Episcopal Church of Reconciliation
& Episcopal Diocese of West Texas

First Universalist Unitarian Church of
San Antonio

Friends of Canyon Lake

Friends of Dry Comal Creek

Friends of Government Canyon

Fuerza Unida

Headwaters at Incarnate Word

Hays Community Action Network

Helotes Heritage Association

Helotes Nature Center

Hill Country Planning Association

Green Society of UTSA

Guadalupe River Road Alliance

Guardians of Lick Creek

Kendall County Well Owners Association

Kinney County Ground Zero

Leon Springs Business Association

Medina County Environmental Action
Association

Native Plant Society of Texas – SA

Northwest Interstate Coalition of
Neighborhoods

Preserve Castroville

Preserve Lake Dunlop Association

San Antonio Audubon Society

San Antonio Conservation Society

San Geronimo Valley Alliance

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

SEED Coalition

Solar San Antonio

Sisters of the Divine Providence

Travis County Green Party

Water Aid – Texas State University

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation

Wimberley Valley Watershed Association

April 4, 2017

Chairman, Representative Joseph Pickett
Vice Chairman, Representative Ed Thompson
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Representative Tony Dale
Representative Kyle J. Kacal
Representative Brooks Landgraf
Representative J. M. Lozano
Representative Ron Reynolds
Representative Eddie Rodriguez

Honorable Chairman Pickett and Members of the House Environmental Regulations
Committee,

On behalf of the fifty-two member groups of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, I
present these comments in support of H.B. 3036, authored by Tracy O. King. This bill
specifically addresses concerns of those charged with protecting our drinking water
by prohibiting the discharge of sewage effluent into waterways that recharge the
Edwards Aquifer.

During the past several years I have had to learn way more about sewage than I ever
wanted to know. Still, I am not an expert on this topic. I rely on the testimony of
experts such as John Dupnik, who is here testifying before you today.

I stress that passage of this bill will not prohibit development within the region. Of all
the development that has been built within the region, only two have applied for
permits to discharge effluent directly into streams that recharge the Edwards Aquifer.

In Hays County, the *Belterra* subdivision's application to discharge wastewater into
Bear Creek was opposed by the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation
District, by Hays and Travis counties, and by 95% of the municipalities within that
District. *Belterra's* permit was recently granted. In their ruling, TCEQ Commissioners
cited their reluctance to effect a rule change that should, in their opinion, be a taken
up by the State Legislature.

In 2008, *The Hills of Castle Rock* in Medina County applied for a permit to discharge
wastewater into the San Geronimo Creek. This application was being contested by
San Antonio Water Systems and the San Geronimo Valley Alliance on the basis that
it would harm the quality of the water of the Edwards Aquifer. Additionally, both the
SAWS Board of Directors and the City of San Antonio cited concerns about Hills of
Castle Rocks plans to discharge into the San Geronimo as among their reasons for
denying water service to this subdivision.

The more common practice, recommended by experts in this field, is that of applying
the treated effluent to land. Treated effluent could also be used to advantage by
installation of gray water systems for non-potable use such as watering lawns. We
realize that our region is growing, and that there will be additional development within
these environmentally sensitive areas. We are asking you to ensure that new

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development does not compromise or degrade the quality of water in the Edwards Aquifer by voting in support of H.B. 3036.

I stress that passage of this bill will not prohibit development within the region. Lakeway and Marble Falls are growing rapidly and prospering under a 'no discharge' regime. Except the Hills of Castle Rock, which is now being developed by another entity, all of the aforementioned applicants are proceeding to develop their property using TLAP permits.

Thank you for hearing testimony on this bill today. Please rely on GEAA as a resource regarding this and other bills related to protection of the Edwards Aquifer.

Respectfully,

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director