

Alamo, Austin, and Lone Star chapters of  
the Sierra Club  
Aquifer Guardians in Urban Areas  
Bexar Audubon Society  
Bexar Green Party  
Boerne Together  
Cibolo Nature Center  
Citizens Allied for Smart Expansion  
Citizens for the Protection of Cibolo Creek  
Environment Texas  
First Universalist Unitarian Church of  
San Antonio  
Friends of Canyon Lake  
Friends of Dry Comal Creek  
Friends of Government Canyon  
Fuerza Unida  
Green Party of Austin  
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 Nature Center  
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  
West Texas Springs Alliance  
Water Aid – Texas State University  
Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation  
Wimberley Valley Watershed Association

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May 17, 2017

House Natural Resources Committee

Chair: Rep. Lyle Larson

Vice Chair: Rep. Dade Phelan

Rep. Trent Ashby

Rep. DeWayne Burns

Rep. James Frank

Rep. Kyle J. Kacal

Rep. Tracy O. King

Rep. Eddie Lucio III

Rep. Poncho Nevárez

Rep. Four Price

Rep. Paul Workman

cc: Shannon Houston via e-mail

Dear Chairman Larson and Members of the House Natural Resources  
Committee,

On behalf of the fifty-two member organizations of the Greater Edwards  
Aquifer Alliance (GEAA) I am registering opposition to S.B. 862, relating  
to the award of attorney's fees and other costs in certain proceedings  
involving a groundwater conservation district.

Having participated in stakeholder groups for the creation of two  
groundwater conservation districts (GCD's), and as one who regularly  
works with GCD's in rural areas, foremost on the minds of those  
governed by these bodies is that the GCD budgets be as lean as  
possible. This does not include the prospect of exorbitant legal fees  
that might be accrued as a result of decisions by the trustees that are  
subject to challenge.

For the most part, GCD's are well governed and represent the best of  
participatory democracy here in Texas. S.B. 862 would unnecessarily  
tilt the balance away from this democratic process in favor of water  
marketers and other deep pockets who have the resources to challenge  
decisions. We know from experience that challenges are often based on  
allocations by the GCD that interfere with their plans for profit.

Additionally, GCDs need to use their limited financial resources for  
aquifer science; additional money needed for fighting lawsuits will have  
to come from increased fees or taxes if expenditures for aquifer science  
are to be maintained at current levels. I guarantee you that no one in  
any district wants their fees or taxes to go up.

We believe, and hope you agree, that S.B. 862 would compromise good  
governance of groundwater resources and is not worthy of your  
approval.

Sincerely,



Annalisa Peace, Executive Director