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**Edwards Aquifer Advocates from Across the Hill Country
Deliver "Greetings from the Heart of Texas" to Legislators**

"MORE LOCAL DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF OUR RESOURCES!"

Wednesday, May 4, 1:15 pm, South Steps, Capitol

With several bills in the legislature focusing on taking away local democratic control of our resources, namely those measures taken to protect Texas' most valuable and vulnerable resource: the Edwards Aquifer, the **Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance** has been calling on groups across central Texas to engage in a campaign to plead with their representatives to *Save the Heart of Texas!*

Tomorrow afternoon members of GEAA and others who want to retain their ability to protect the Edwards Aquifer will be coming to the Capitol from across the Edwards region to speak to their elected representatives.

"In a state that already disproportionately favors property and development rights over environmental and democratic rights, we are asking legislators to not gut the small gains made in the name of the people..." --(Annalisa Peace, Director, GEAA)

Of particular concern are bills coming up for a vote soon:

- HB 2833 and its companion bill SB 1647 that will gut local ordinances made to protect water quality by limiting impervious cover over sensitive recharge zones. This bill will force local taxpayers to essentially bribe land developers to NOT pollute the aquifer via local ordinances already in place.
- Senate Bill 1857/House Bill 3571 will abolish the Kinney County Groundwater District, which has been doing a good job of regulating water resources. Part of this portion of the Edwards Aquifer district will then be regulated by the Edwards Aquifer Authority, though without specific elected representation from Kinney County, and the rest will be unregulated – allowing for unlimited pumping of the aquifer.
- SB 1858 – This bill subjects cities' ability to regulate water quality to approval by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). GEAA would like this bill to be amended to ensure that local governments have the right and the latitude to set water quality standards above those currently required by the TCEQ, which are considered too weak to be effective

GEAA member groups include the Alamo Group of the Sierra Club, Aquifer Guardians in Urban Areas, Austin Regional Sierra Club, Bexar Green Party, Hays CAN, Helotes Heritage Association, Medina County Environmental Action Association, San Antonio Conservation Society, San Geronimo Watershed Alliance, San Marcos River Foundation, Save Barton Creek Association, Save Our Springs Alliance, Smart Growth San Antonio, SEED Coalition, Wimberley Valley Watershed Association, and West Texas Springs Alliance. Spokespersons from these and other organizations will be available for comment. Press Packets will be distributed at the event.

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