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Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance

Request for Coverage

Proposed Flood Control Dam Threatens Historic Maverick Ranch

When: Monday, February 11, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

Where: Maverick Ranch-Fromme Farm - 27487 Boerne Stage Road

From San Antonio exit IH 10 West at Leon Springs; turn left at light onto Boerne Stage Rd. going under overpass. At light continue on up Boerne Stage Rd. for about 3 miles until reaching stop sign. Turn right onto Boerne Stage Rd.; continue about two miles and you will see signs at gate entrance on left (west) saying Maverick Ranch-Fromme Farm Press Conference.

Directions coming from Comfort/Boerne/ Kerrville: Exit IH10 just south of Boerne at Boerne Stage Rd./Scenic Loop/Cascade Cavern Rd. exit; turn right at intersection onto Scenic Loop. (Scenic Loop becomes Boerne Stage Road after crossing Balcones Creek) From IH10 drive approx. 3.2 miles - gate will be on right (west) and marked by sign.

What: The Maverick Ranch-Fromme Farm, a national landmark and endangered species wildlife refuge located in Northwest Bexar County, has withstood four eminent domain fights in order to retain its rare and sensitive open space. Today it faces inundation from a \$16 million dam proposed by the Bexar Regional Water Management (BRWM). BRWM, a cooperative of Bexar County, San Antonio River Authority, and the City of San Antonio proposes to take the land by eminent domain to build Upper Leon Creek dam LC16A-site #5. (for more info: <http://www.bexarfloodfacts.org/committees.php>)

The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, Texas Wildlife Association and others are asking the BRWM to schedule a public hearing to facilitate the discussion of alternatives to the Upper Leon Creek Dam. At issue:

- The need for this proposed dam is in question. Why is it placed at the very top of the watershed, where it drains so little area?
- Downstream developers have gotten governmental variances to flooding laws. Subdivision housing on the Leon Creek downstream continues to be platted and approved in known floodplains. Why are these areas, so subject to flooding, granted variances for development?
- To date no facts have been presented by the entities regarding this dam, while their spokespersons use unsubstantiated scare tactics at public meetings.

“This land has been in our family for six generations”, says Bebe Fenstermaker. Her sister Mary adds, “We feel responsible for protecting the land, its creek, springs, and endangered warbler habitat in their natural state for future generations.”

“Ranchers who manage their land to contribute clean water to feed the Edwards Aquifer should be rewarded for their efforts.” says Annalisa Peace, executive director of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, “All too often Hill Country ranches that preserve the land become targets for eminent domain actions because land already slated for development is deemed too costly.”

“We must include voluntary land stewardship — on a grand scale — as one of the cornerstone solutions for water issues in Texas because it is complementary, cost-effective, sustainable, efficient, environmentally sensitive, multifaceted and governable.” adds David Langford, Vice President Emeritus of the Texas Wildlife Association.