

Dear GEAA members and friends,

I am writing to draw your attention to another example of TCEQ acting badly. In this case, very badly. For over two years, stakeholders in the Bay and Basin Stakeholders' Committee, including Dianne Wassenich of the San Marcos River Foundation and Tyson Broad of the Lone Star Sierra Club representing GEAA's interests, worked very hard to come up with a consensus plan that would ensure continued flows to Texas bays and estuaries. TCEQ has disregarded the recommendations of the Stakeholders in favor of rules that threaten the continued health of our rivers and coastal ecosystems. Please take a minute to read the message below and contact the TCEQ to let them know that this is unacceptable.

If you do not want to use the connection provided by Sierra Club, you can write directly to :

Ms. Charlotte Horn
MC 205
Office of Legal Services
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Electronic comments may be submitted to: [eComments system](#). File size restrictions may apply to comments being submitted via the eComments system. All comments should reference Rule Project Number 2011-059-298-OW. **The comment period closes May 14, 2012.** For more information [click here](#).

Keeping waters flowing from Edwards Springs to the bays and estuaries is an important part of our mission. There are those who would profit from diverting these waters to serve new development in the Hill Country. We must make sure that we maintain the balance of fresh and salt water that makes our Texas estuaries a unique haven for wildlife while supporting a vibrant coastal economy.

Thank you so much for your support,

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director
[Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#)

Message from the Lone Star Sierra Club

Fish and wildlife throughout Texas and along the Texas coast depend upon flowing water in our rivers and freshwater inflows into our bays and estuaries -- and we Texans depend upon those fish and wildlife for our recreational enjoyment, our economy, and our quality of life. That balance is in peril!

In 2007, the Texas Legislature created the environmental flows process whereby a team of scientists and informed stakeholders work together to determine the balance between needed future water supplies and how much water needs to remain flowing in our rivers and into our bays to protect fish and wildlife.

Please take action NOW to urge TCEQ staff to propose a set of rules that will maintain the water flows for our rivers and bays.

Crabs, shrimp, and oysters require a mix of fresh water and saltwater to reproduce. In turn, migratory birds depend upon these species for their food supply. Adequate flows of freshwater are necessary to maintain healthy populations of these species. **This critical relationship is specifically what the stakeholder group's recommendation is designed to protect!**

Recently, stakeholder groups in the Colorado/Lavaca and the Guadalupe/San Antonio basins submitted recommendations to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) that represent their year and half long effort to reach a balance between water supply needs for both humans and the environment. As mandated by the Legislature, TCEQ is to analyze these recommendations and propose environmental protection rules on new water rights.

Unfortunately, TCEQ has proposed rules that undermine the efforts of the science teams and stakeholder groups. Rather than adopting the

Blue Crabs and other wildlife need your help!



Take Action

stakeholder recommendations, TCEQ drafted proposed rules that will undermine the health of Central and South Central Texas rivers and bays and undermine the environmental flows process.

The stakeholder groups created recommendations that both protect future water supplies and the environment. Yet TCEQ rules dismantle this balance and provide more water for future water supplies at the expense of the environment. Scientist and stakeholders who devoted a year and half to the environmental process feel as if their efforts have been wasted.

[Please take action NOW to urge TCEQ staff to propose a set of rules that will maintain the water flows for our rivers and bays.](#)

TCEQ staff should use recommendations adopted by the Colorado/Lavaca and Guadalupe/San Antonio Stakeholder committees (BBASC) in developing their rules package. The Stakeholder committee members devoted thousands of hours working together to develop recommendations that strike a balance of providing water for the environment and that allow for future water development for human needs. Striking such a balance is a key to resolving and preventing future water-resource conflicts.

The rules developed by TCEQ will affect not only the rivers and bays of Central and South Central Texas – they will help determine the future of businesses, industries, and nature lovers that rely on healthy flowing rivers and abundant bays.

[Send comments NOW to the TCEQ staff urging them to propose standards for environmental flows that are truly protective of Texas rivers and bays and the important fish and wildlife species dependent upon them!](#)

Don't squander this opportunity to move Texas forward.

Thanks for all you do for Texas' environment,

Tyson Broad
Research Associate
Sierra Club, Lone Star Chapter

Jennifer Walker
Water Resources Specialist
Sierra Club, Lone Star Chapter