

Dear GEAA members and friends,

First off, I really want to thank all of you who have already responded to our annual membership renewal drive. So far, sixty of you have contributed nearly \$9,000 – about 2/3rds of which is eligible for the match from the [Steve and Marty Hixon Foundation](#). Thank you!!!

The main factor stretching our budget this year is newly rampant growth throughout the Hill Country region. The recession had halted many of these projects in 2009, when we had a full time staff member devoted to addressing new development in our region. Carol Fisher, GEAA's Technical Director, was hugely successful for several years in opposing and renegotiating projects proposed for environmentally sensitive areas in the Texas Hill Country. For the past few years, challenges to the integrity of the Trinity and Edwards aquifer ecosystems were mercifully few. But, the housing boom has come back full force here in Texas. Once again we need to employ full time staff to deal with it.

To illustrate this point, I offer the following chart that was presented to the Board of the San Antonio Water Systems at their monthly meeting this morning:

EDU/Acreage Comparison Totals

2013 – 2012 EDU/Acreage Comparison Totals 2013 - 2012 (Year to Date - All Categories)	Total Acreage	Total Water EDU's	Total Waste Water EDU's
TOTAL (January – March 2013)	6,006.29	28,591	19,867
TOTAL (January – March 2012)	580.35	4,011	3,601

To put it in plain English, during the first three months of 2013, requests for service to new developments in the San Antonio area have increased more than tenfold. And, it is not only San Antonio that is being impacted. Our office is getting calls from Williamson, Hays, Comal, Medina and Travis counties from folks concerned about inappropriate new development in their communities.

Often, callers were directed to call GEAA by other organizations because we are recognized for our success in helping citizens oppose bad projects. We need your help in order to continue to provide this vital service.

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so today. You can help us leverage even more cash from the Steve and Marty Hixon Foundation by recruiting new members to GEAA. (They have generously volunteered to match the full amount of each new membership donation!) We seriously need all the help we can get this year

to advocate sustainable development in the Hill Country. Please pass this message on to your friends.

You can send membership donations to us at **GEAA, PO Box 15618, San Antonio, Texas 78212**. Or, if you are so inclined, **you can donate right now by clicking [here](#)**.

Thank you!

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director
www.AquiferAlliance.org