

Dear GEAA members and friends,

GEAA was on hand last night to present [comments on the Cities of San Antonio and Fair Oaks Ranch Water Policy Analysis](#). We have not had time to review the [new draft of the Water Policy Analysis](#) that was released on November 7th. So, our remarks were confined to the [July 2015 draft](#) of the Cities of San Antonio and Fair Oaks Ranch Water Policy Analyses.

I am pleased to report that there was much good news in the draft Study in the form of solid recommendations and action steps that San Antonio should take to better protect the Edwards Aquifer. These included recommendations to consider adding protections to the Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone and [banning coal-tar sealants](#) that are known to contribute toxic sediment into our waterways and groundwater supplies, as well as revisiting San Antonio's water quality ordinances and how they will be applied to [the areas slated for annexation](#).

I just took a look at the final draft of the Water Policy Analysis, which was independently reviewed by a "Science Review Panel" that "provided an independent assessment of the draft report". The final report does not name who the "five water experts" were who reviewed the Draft Study, and I was frankly confused by how the final Analysis relates to the earlier draft.

That said, I think that both drafts of the Water Policy Analysis clearly spell out marching orders for actions needed to protect the Edwards Aquifer. Now, it will be up to all of us to light a fire under our City Council representatives so that they act sooner, rather than too late, on the recommendations of the Draft Analyses: *"It would be a disaster for the Edwards Aquifer water source to fall victim to its vulnerability to contamination. To better protect the city's most important water resource, the City of San Antonio and SAWS action items in the Comprehensive Plan should include the action recommended in this paper about the gaps in EARZ rules, the initiative to protect water quality over the contributing zone, review of the coal-tar sealant threat, expansion of the conservation-easement program, and continued leadership in the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation."* A word to your Council Representative would certainly not be amiss*.

Thank you and have a great weekend!

Annalisa Peace
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Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance