

March 10, 2015  
Request for Coverage

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## **Friends of Dry Comal Creek Protest Creation of WCID in Comal County**

**Where:** Comal County Courthouse, 100 Main Plaza, New Braunfels, Texas

**When:** Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

**What:** Friends of Dry Comal Creek, local business owners, and Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance voice opposition to the creation of the Meyers Ranch Water Control Improvement District (WCID) (item # 9 on the [Agenda](#))

Plans for a new subdivision, and attendant sewage infrastructure and discharge at the headwaters of Comal River have mobilized the [Friends of Dry Comal Creek](#) to protest this latest development. They will be asking the Comal County Commissioners to deny approval of a request by the Meyers family to create the Meyers Ranch WCID for the purpose of developing 735 acres situated in an unincorporated part of southwest Comal County. Plans to build 4 or more houses per acre in the sparsely developed region are being met with well organized resistance from neighboring land and business owners. The main point of contention is a plan to build a sewage treatment plant at the headwaters of the Comal River to discharge treated sewage effluent into Dry Comal Creek. Local well owners are concerned about the water quality impacts to their wells, as well as lack of information on how developers plan to supply water to support so many new families moving into the area.

Says Friends of Dry Comal Creek founder, Ed Harris, whose property is traversed by the creek, "Much of this WCID sits directly on top both Edwards Aquifer Contributing and Recharge zones. Of primary issue is the quantity and quality run-off from streets treated with tar and other contaminants, oil from a leaky car on someone's driveway, roofs treated with contaminants to enhance longevity, and lawns and green areas recently fertilized....all that water now goes into the Edwards Aquifer and is now our drinking water. This WCID, in the here and now, just doesn't make sense. I'm not against development but I should be able to expect respectful development that ensures the quality and conservation of nature's resources."

Owner of the Dry Comal Creek Vineyards, Sabrina Houser, is concerned about the impact that sewage effluent flowing past her tasting room will have on business, and the impact additional development will have on her wells. "It is a well-known fact that groundwater needs of Comal County are growing exponentially. With a WCID, there is no enforceable conservation and there are NO regulations or laws currently that prohibit the Board Members of the WCID and/or developers from pumping and exporting as much water as they want, thus increasing the need for those around them to dig deeper wells at great expense, or just drain the source dry. If I have no water, then I have no ability to grow grapes and subsequently maintain the livelihood of this winery."

Annalisa Peace, of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance notes that there are plans for four or five high density housing developments in the immediate area. "We are very concerned about the impacts of a cumulatively large amount of sewage effluent being discharged on the land that supplies fresh water to local wells and the Comal River and Springs. The current development pattern of large acre lots in this area is much more protective of the Edwards Aquifer watershed."

Tours of the area are available upon request.

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