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## **Request for Coverage**

# **TCEQ is Hearing but not Listening on Rules to Protect the Edwards Aquifer**

It is once more time for the [annual TCEQ Hearing on the rules that regulate development on the Edwards Aquifer](#). The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will conduct hearings to receive comments from the public on what actions the commission should take to protect the Edwards Aquifer.

**When: Wednesday, December 4th at 9:30 am**

**Where: Alamo Area Council of Governments Board Room, Tesoro Building  
8700 Tesoro Drive, Suite 100**

The fifty member groups of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA) are unanimous in regarding current rules as insufficient to adequately protect and maintain the high quality of our groundwater. GEAA has been submitting the same comments since [2005](#). In [2006](#), [2007](#), and [2009](#), 2010, and 2011 we added recommendations to those previously submitted but never implemented.

GEAA's recommendations include requiring adequate buffer zones to protect streams, springs and recharge features, limits to impervious cover on the Edwards Recharge and Contributing zones, establishing rules for protecting the Contributing Zone, expanding the pollution reduction standards to include toxic metals, organic chemicals and nutrients, prohibiting discharge of treated effluent into waterways that recharge the Edwards, prohibiting installation of sewage infrastructure in creek beds of intermittent streams that recharge the Edwards, more effective rules for the design and installation of engineered structures required to protect the aquifer, and other measures and strategies that we believe will protect our water quality.

We also ask that TCEQ provide adequate funding for trained and experienced staff, and that monitoring and enforcement of the Edwards rules, where appropriate, be delegated to local agencies that are better equipped to handle these duties.

Water Quality monitoring reflects low levels of chlorinated solvents, unmetabolized drugs, and other constituents that should not be present if the Edwards Rules were adequately protecting the aquifer. Rather than just adhering to an annual ritual of taking comments while adopting no significant changes to the Edwards Rules, we ask that the TCEQ act now to adequately protect this irreplaceable groundwater resource.

Now is our time to draw attention to their lack of due diligence in protecting our water supply. We invite everyone who is concerned about potential pollution of the Edwards to join us.

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The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance unites fifty member organizations behind a comprehensive plan to protect regional karst aquifers, their springs and watersheds, and the Texas Hill Country.

For more information visit [www.AquiferAlliance.org](http://www.AquiferAlliance.org)