Ian Pierce

I strongly urge TCEQ to strengthen protections for the Edwards Aquifer.

Water is one of Texas's most precious and limited natural resources, and the Edwards Aquifer is especially important because it supports millions of people, wildlife, springs, rivers, agriculture, recreation, and the long-term health of Central Texas communities.

As Texas continues to grow, the pressure on our water resources is only increasing. That makes it more important, not less, to strengthen protections for the recharge, contributing, and transition zones of the aquifer and to ensure that new development does not compromise water quality or long-term water availability.

TCEQ should also account for emerging sources of very large water demand, including data centers, cryptocurrency mining facilities, and other water-intensive industrial development. These projects can place significant new demands on local water supplies, particularly during drought, and their cumulative impacts should be considered when evaluating development in and around sensitive aquifer areas.

I encourage TCEQ to adopt stronger safeguards, require rigorous review of large water-intensive projects, improve monitoring and enforcement, and coordinate closely with local governments and groundwater conservation districts to protect both water quality and water quantity.

Texas cannot afford to treat its water supply as unlimited. Protecting the Edwards Aquifer now is far less costly than trying to repair damage after it occurs.

Thank you for considering my comment.