Robert Probe

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Edwards Aquifer Protection Program

Re: Ongoing monitoring and protection of the Northern Edwards Aquifer in Bell County

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Robert Probe, and I am a resident of Salado in Bell County. I am writing as a concerned citizen to support continued water-quality monitoring of the northern Edwards Aquifer and to ask TCEQ to begin evaluating the extension of the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program into Bell County.

I am not a groundwater expert, but I understand how important clean water is to the health of our families and the future of our community. As someone who calls Salado home, I want to know that we are taking reasonable steps today to protect the water that our children and grandchildren will depend on tomorrow.

As our area grows, I believe we need a clear understanding of how development may affect groundwater. Local water professionals have raised concerns about the aquifer's vulnerability to contamination. Those concerns deserve careful study and continued attention. It makes sense to identify potential problems early, while we still have an opportunity to prevent them.

I encourage TCEQ to work with the Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District and other local partners to support regular water-quality testing, track changes over time, and make the findings readily available to the public in understandable terms. Monitoring should help residents understand the condition of our groundwater and provide an early warning when additional investigation or protective action is needed.

I also support beginning the scientific review and public process necessary to determine whether, and where, the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program should be extended into Bell County. I would look to qualified experts to recommend appropriate boundaries and safeguards, with meaningful opportunities for residents, property owners, local governments, and businesses to participate.

Our community needs housing, businesses, and infrastructure, and I believe we can meet those needs while protecting our water. Careful planning, reliable monitoring, and reasonable preventive measures are investments in the long-term well-being of everyone who lives here.

Please make continued monitoring and evaluation of protections for the northern Edwards Aquifer a priority. I would much rather see our community act thoughtfully now than face a water-quality problem later and wish we had done more.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your work to protect Texas water resources.

Respectfully,

Robert Probe
Salado, Texas