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Texas Water Code §26.046; Title 30, Texas Administrative Code Chapter 213
To whom it may concern:
I submit comments prior regarding wastewater and the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program. I'd like to submit the following regarding depletion.
The notice of this meeting states: "These annual public hearings assist the commission in its shared responsibility with local governments, such as cities, counties, and groundwater conservation districts, to protect the water quality of the aquifer."
Protecting the aquifer's water quality necessarily requires protecting the availability of water in the aquifer. An aquifer cannot be protected if it is depleted.
I respectfully ask TCEQ to support giving groundwater conservation districts stronger authority to regulate overdevelopment and non-exempt, for-profit wells. We are approaching historic low levels in the aquifer, yet development continues without sufficient safeguards for rural communities, including Comal County, where I reside.
Our groundwater districts currently have little to no authority to prevent water utility companies from overpumping. A utility company may have the financial resources to drill a deeper well; individual families often do not. Without meaningful regulation of groundwater withdrawals, households may lose access to their water supply while commercial water users continue pumping.
I urge TCEQ to request that the Governor, Legislature, and any other appropriate governmental entities take action to regulate excessive development and groundwater pumping in rural areas. Protecting the Edwards Aquifer must include preserving its water levels for the households, communities, and ecosystems that depend upon it.
Thank you for considering these comments and I look forward to additional protections being put in place.