Lauren Smith

As a resident of Fischer, Texas, I am deeply concerned about the long-term impact that the proposed Canyon Ranch and Broken Cedar Ranch wastewater treatment plants could have on our water supply and aquifers. Our community already faces concerns about water availability, and protecting our groundwater must be a priority as development continues in Comal County.

I believe these developments should be held to the same standards as other nearby developments, including established wastewater reuse practices. If 100% beneficial reuse is being successfully implemented elsewhere in our county and in other Texas communities, I ask TCEQ to seriously consider requiring the same approach for Canyon Ranch and Broken Cedar Ranch, rather than allowing treated wastewater to be discharged into waterways within the Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone.

My concerns are especially personal because my parents live in Summit North. They worry about whether their private well will continue to provide a reliable water supply over time, particularly given discussions about Broken Cedar Ranch potentially accessing or impacting local water resources. Residents who depend on private wells should not have to live with uncertainty about the long-term availability and quality of their water.

The potential consequences of groundwater contamination and damage to sensitive recharge features could be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to reverse. We cannot afford to take unnecessary risks with the water sources our families, neighbors, and future generations depend on.

I respectfully urge TCEQ to require the highest level of groundwater protection for both developments, including evaluating and requiring 100% beneficial reuse of treated wastewater with no discharge into the Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone. Development should not come at the expense of our water supply, private wells, or the long-term health of our Hill Country environment.

Please ensure that these projects are held to consistent, protective standards and that the concerns of existing residents are given serious consideration before permits are approved. Once our groundwater is compromised, the damage may be irreversible. We must protect this resource before it is too late.

Thank you for considering my comments.