

Kris Smale

To Whom It May Concern,

I am concerned that the proposed list of Best Management Practices for Aggregate Production Operations is grossly inadequate. For starters, they do not address practices to minimize water consumption, noise, and light pollution, as was directed to by the Texas Legislature. The BMPs for the areas they do address — dust and water storage — also warrant serious improvement.

The quarry on Highway 290 between Dripping Springs and the junction of 290/281 is a disaster. Not only have they destroyed the landscape impacting wildlife, but the subdivision directly next door has to put up with the noise, dust and impact on water. The state of Texas is doing a horrible job of environmental preservation, water preservation and combatting the negative impact on wildlife. TCEQ continues to underperform in looking out for the best interests of land and water resources in Texas. This agency should be mandating to all developers and quarry businesses that water and land preservation best practices should focus not just on business and profit but quality of life for wildlife and residents. Your agency continues to disappoint Texans who care deeply about the unique environment of Texas, especially in Hill Country, as it is being destroyed by unmanaged growth and land and water use. Do better. This area is on one of the major migration paths for birds, has a declining population of native species due to unchecked and poorly managed development and seemingly no concern for preserving the unique and special nature of Hill Country. It is devastating to witness. DO BETTER!

The TCEQ should further develop their list of BMPs, making sure to thoroughly address all of the issues that the Legislature directed them to address. You should be most concerned about eliminating wasteful water use practices given the long-term drought conditions Texas has suffered through. Support rainwater capture, greater well spacing for groundwater, reduce the amount landowners can pull from the ground - there are many best practices this agency should embrace and enforce. DO BETTER!

Sincerely,

Kris Smale
Blanco, Texas