



Neighbor to Neighbor

www.hillcountryalliance.org

The Mission of the Hill Country Alliance is to bring together an ever-expanding alliance of groups throughout a multi-county region of Central Texas with the long-term objective of preserving open spaces, water supply, water quality and the unique character of the Texas Hill Country.

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Recent News

TCEQ ignores stakeholder's recommendations for Edwards Aquifer rule on Direct Discharge Permits

Imagine the Hill Country stream near you with a wastewater treatment plant dumping treated effluent into it. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality identified a stakeholders committee to review and comment on wastewater discharge rules for the Barton and Onion Creek watersheds of the Edwards Aquifer. This came after the much debated Belterra permit application which was granted in spite of multi-jurisdiction united opposition. The stakeholder's committee says don't do it, but TCEQ seems to be moving ahead with a proposed new rule to make direct discharge permits in this fragile region okay. Read more [here](#).

Water- Will We Have Enough? Breakfast sponsored by ULI Austin October 15th

Central Texas' population is projected to double by 2060, and a significant increase in regional water needs will surely accompany such considerable growth. Please join us as Tom Mason, General Manager of LCRA, and Austin Water Utility Director Greg Meszaros address how Austin and Central Texas will cope with the increasing demand on our limited water resources. [Details and Registration](#)

Intensity of drought surpasses previous droughts

Despite scattered rainfall, the Colorado River basin remains in a severe drought that is affecting water supply, LCRA staff told the Board of Directors this week. As a result, LCRA is considering whether to take additional drought management actions. Read full LCRA media release [here](#).

PUC Moves to Protect Texas Hill Country Region

Today, the Public Utility Commission (PUC) took a monumental step to protect the Texas Hill Country region from the effects of ill-planned energy sprawl. With the support of the Clear View Alliance (CVA) and its network of like-minded organizations and individuals, the PUC granted the LCRA's motion to extend the deadline for filing the proposed routes for the high-voltage transmission lines slated to be built in the region. The delay will give the LCRA time to study a broader area that includes an existing 138 kV transmission line right-of-way and the I-10 corridor. Read full media release [here](#). San Antonio Express story [here](#). OpEd by Bill Neiman [here](#).



The 2010 Hill Country Calendar has arrived!

[Click here](#) to meet the winners of the 2009 HCA photo contest and purchase the new 2010 calendar!

Upcoming Events

October 1 in Mason - The Texas AgriLife Extension Service of Mason County to conduct their Fall Hill Country Expo from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Mason. - [Details](#)

October 2 in San Antonio - The Austin and San Antonio Business Journals will host the 2009 Austin-San Antonio Growth Summit from 11:00 am until 1:30 pm at the Embassy Suites San Marcos Hotel, Spa & Convention Center - [Details](#)

October 3 in Brenham - South Central Texas Water Conservation Conference - [Details](#)

October 7-9 in Austin - U.S. Drought Monitor Forum - Sponsored by the National Drought Mitigation Center - [Details and Registration](#)

October 10 in Concan - Texas Hill Country River Region Annual Bicycle Classic - [Details](#)

October 10 in San Antonio - Leon Springs Family Greenfest - [Details](#)

October 12 in Austin - CAMPO Transportation Policy Board meeting - [Details](#)

October 12 in San Antonio - Caring for Earth: The Edwards Aquifer - part two in a four part course presented by Attorney Libby Cormeaux - [Details and Registration](#)

October 15 in Austin - Water - Will We Have Enough? - Breakfast sponsored by Urban Land Institute Austin's Sustainability Committee - [Details](#)

October 15 in Burnet - Central Texas Landowners Drought Management Series - Central Texas AG. Day and Hay Producers Clinic - [Details](#)

October 17 in Wimberley - Eco Fest 2009: Living Greener in the Hill Country - [Details](#)

October 18 in Driftwood - Wimberley Valley Watershed Association Fundraiser with Eliza Gilkyson - 5 to 9pm at the Salt Lick

October 22 in Burnet - Central Texas Landowners Drought Management Series - Wildlife Management programs that work for Ag. Tax Valuation - [Details](#)

October 24 in Johnson City - 6th annual Pedernales Wildlife Management Coop Meeting, Predators: The Good the Bad and the Ugly - Public Welcome - [Details](#)

October 26-27 in San Antonio - Rainwater Harvesting Workshops - Co-sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension Service and The Antique Rose Emporium - [Details](#)

October 28 in Burnet - Central Texas Landowners Drought Management Series - Private Pesticide Applicators School - [Details](#)

October 29 in Burnet - Central Texas Landowners Drought Management Series - Brush control tactics which can save water - [Details](#)

Check the **HCA Website** for continuous updates on all of the latest Hill Country [news](#) and [events](#)

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