



## Neighbor to Neighbor

[www.hillcountryalliance.org](http://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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### Water Conference This Friday

Please join the Environmental Defense Fund in Austin Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> for *Water 2.0: New Ideas for a Secure Water Future*. Click [here](#) for complete details. We hope to see you there. To make planning easier for EDF, send in your registration form today.

### Texas Groundwater Management: Change urgently needed

Surface water in Texas belongs to the state. It can only be used with the state's permission. The management of groundwater is another rather complicated, even strange story, considering how critical and urgent groundwater conservation is for Texas. Action by this legislative session to move toward more effective groundwater management is ongoing. Read the full article [here](#).

### Some Bills Strengthen, Some Weaken Groundwater Conservation Districts

Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCD) are local units of government authorized by the state legislature and ratified at the local level to manage and protect groundwater. Ninety-seven GCDs have been created in the state. The total includes 93 established (confirmed) districts and four unconfirmed districts. The 93 established districts cover all or part of 145 of the state's 254 counties. This leaves about half of Texas subject to the rule of capture. Read the full article [here](#).

### Hill Country Counties Unite

Hill Country County Commissioners and Judges have been working for close to two years towards a united legislative ask for expanded County Authority specifically for the Hill Country region. HB 3265 authored by Representative Patrick Rose along with Representatives Miller and Gallego was voted favorably in the House County Affairs Committee. Helpful one sheet [here](#). More about the County Authority issue [here](#).

### Legislative Briefs

More updates on legislation affecting groundwater, scenic beauty, ranchland protection and the LCRA [here](#).

### The HCA Photo Contest is Heating Up

The HCA Photo Contest is heating up! [Submit your photos](#) before May 31<sup>st</sup> and you may see your photos in the 2010 Hill Country Calendar. View a slideshow of last year's winners and top finalists [here](#).

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

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