



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

Sustainable Economics for the Texas Triangle Conference

A new dialogue about the future. How will we develop strategies for sustainable solutions that reduce sprawl, develop a new transportation network, ensure the region's economic competitiveness, and preserve natural resources and scenic landscapes? Houston, September 24-25. Learn more [here](#).

The Reality of drought

The ongoing drought has kept water not only in the local headlines, but regionally throughout the Hill Country from San Antonio to Austin. As the drought persists, water availability, which by definition of State water planners is "the maximum amount of water available during the drought of record, regardless of whether the supply is physically or legally available", is being reduced. Read full article [here](#).

Drought will force some tough choices

After the 1930s and the construction of the massive Highland Lakes, our water supply seemed more or less infinite. Today, with our regional population topping 1.6 million, it is becoming very clear that the reservoirs do indeed have a bottom. Read full Statesman.com commentary [here](#).

Then & Now: San Antonio River dangers

The San Antonio River drew settlers here in the 1700s, and now, with the River Walk, fuels a tourism industry that pumps an estimated \$7.2 billion annually into the local economy. But the river also has long had hidden dangers for those who have taken a dip in its murky water. Aside from drownings, parasites and bacteria pose a threat to humans, sometimes with deadly results. Read full MySanAntonio.com article [here](#).

Cities petition to release treated wastewater in Highland Lakes Watershed

Cities up and down the Colorado River, including Marble Falls, are being asked to join in a petition to change rules that have stood for a decade against releasing discharge from wastewater treatment plants into the watershed. Read full Highlander article [here](#).

Sand and gravel decision delayed

A decision on an application to remove sand and gravel from the Llano River may not come before next summer. Under state law, TPWD manages, controls, and protects sand and gravel extraction in navigable rivers of the state and requires a permit for its removal or disturbance. In May, Brad Rockwell, the attorney representing six neighboring landowners opposed to the permit, filed a contested case hearing request with TPWD. That agency granted the request for the contested case hearing in June. Read full Llano News article [here](#).

Edwards Aquifer Authority contemplates new regulations to strengthen water quality protection

The board of directors of the Edwards Aquifer Authority, at its meeting Tuesday, August 11, agreed to explore a new regulatory program that would further protect the Edwards Aquifer from pollution risks associated with development on the environmentally sensitive recharge zone. Read full media release [here](#).

Upcoming Events

August 17-21 in Bandera - Texas Watershed Planning Short Course - Seats limited - [Details and Registration](#)

August 18 in Kerrville - Region J water planning group meeting - [Details](#)

August 19 in Helotes - The Fate of a Raindrop - Presented by Matt Wagner, Texas Parks and Wildlife - 6pm at Helotes Creek Nature Center - [Website](#)

August 20 in Junction - South Llano Watershed Alliance meeting - [Details](#)

August 22 in Killeen - Save the Lampassas River Fundraiser - [Details](#)

August 31 in Austin - Envision Central Texas 81st Legislative Roundup Luncheon - [Details](#) and [Registration](#)

September 9th at Westcave Preserve - Community meeting with Travis County TNR and TxDot Staff to discuss proposal for Hammett's Crossing - 6:00pm

September 11-13 in Wimberley - 2009 For the Love of Water (F.L.O.W.) Conference - [Details and Registration](#)

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

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