

## SUPPORT OUR MISSION

**AGUA** is a coalition of concerned individuals and citizen groups working together to preserve the Edwards Aquifer. Our goals are to strengthen the regulations designed to protect the aquifer, ensure enforcement of existing laws, alert the public to impending threats, and mobilize public opinion to support aquifer protection efforts.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

## WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPPORT AGUA

\$10    \$25    \$50    \$100    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, list me as an AGUA Supporter!

I would like to be recognized as: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your resolution of support to:

# AGUA

AQUIFER GUARDIANS IN URBAN AREAS

P.O. BOX 15618 SAN ANTONIO TX 78212

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*"The lack of adequate comprehensive standards and regulatory controls to protect the aquifer against water quality degradation, coupled with the rapid pace of development over the Recharge Zone at this time... suggests that degradation of water in the Edwards is imminent."\**

\* -Report from the Edwards Underground Water District, August 1993



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[www.aquiferguardians.org](http://www.aquiferguardians.org)

## THE FOCUS: POLLUTION PREVENTION

*The Edwards Aquifer is a remarkable resource that sustains our entire region with clean, fresh water.*

Rapid unplanned growth threatens the natural system that channels rainfall through the fractured limestone and caverns to our underground reservoir. Because of the complex, cavernous nature of our aquifer, it is both highly vulnerable to contamination, and it could be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to clean up should high levels of contamination occur.

Hazardous substances are reaching our aquifer through a variety of pathways. Leaking septic systems and sewer lines, leaking underground storage tanks and piping, accidental spills, storm water runoff from streets and lawns, improper handling of toxic materials, and illegal dumping pose risks to the health of present and future citizens who must rely on the Edwards Aquifer as their source of drinking water.



As the landscape of the Recharge and Contributing Zones of the Edwards Aquifer change from ranchland to urban development, the number of potential contaminant sources is increasing. The obvious course of action that will preserve our community's healthy environment and economy is to prevent the contamination through responsible land management.

In addition to preventing contamination, responsible land management over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone will:

- Reduce deadly downstream flooding
- Minimize the need for costly drainage projects
- Redirect economic development to other parts of our city

Existing regulations and management programs are inadequate and ineffective. Despite the multiple levels of government oversight of development on the Recharge Zone, development continues at unacceptable levels without controls to protect our water supply. Homeowners and businesses located over the Recharge Zone are not required to restrict the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and other hazardous materials.

## OUR LOCAL POLICY-MAKERS HAVE THE ABILITY AND THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT OUR WATER.

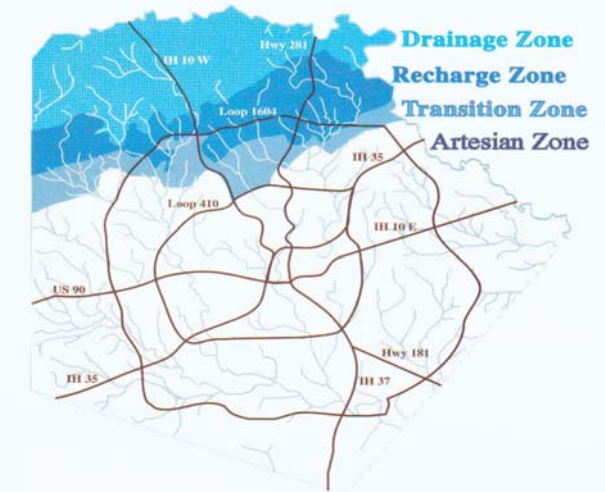
*AGUA recommends the following measures:*

- Acquire sensitive recharge and watershed areas to protect public health and the safety of our water supply.
- Enforce the existing regulations designed to prevent the degradation of our drinking water.
- Challenge illegitimate claims of property rights ("grandfathering") and defend the public's right to a healthy and safe water supply.
- Strengthen development standards and land use controls that will preserve the waters of the Aquifer. Required reforms should include strict impervious cover limits, adequate buffer zones, building density limits, and more intensive analysis of subsurface geology by both developers and regulatory agencies.
- Base approval of further development on cumulative "Big Picture" reviews of contaminant sources and risks to public health.
- Regulate storage and control the transport of hazardous materials over the Edwards Recharge Zone.
- Implement prudent fiscal policies, such as ban on tax incentives for businesses locating on the Recharge Zone and sensitive areas of the Contributing and Transition Zones.
- Increase drainage and water development impact fees for development on the Recharge Zone.
- Require increased park set asides for new residential development on the Recharge Zone.
- Mark streets within the recharge zone with signage and other visual reminders that this area is fragile and must be treated with care.
- Recognize that government's legitimate purpose is to properly manage our natural resources to assure the health, safety, and economic vitality of our community.

*Join us today to save our Aquifer!*

## WE HAVE IT WITHIN OUR POWER TO PROTECT OUR DRINKING WATER

The State of Texas has ranked our Edwards Aquifer as the *most vulnerable* to contamination. Water enters the aquifer on the **Recharge Zone** without filtration. What goes in is what we drink.



*The Drainage* or *Contributing Zone* catches rainfall and channels it down streambeds into the **Recharge Zone** where it enters the ground through caves, creek beds, faults, and fractures. The **Transition Zone** is less sensitive than the Recharge Zone, but is also vulnerable to contamination. Most of the water in the Aquifer is stored in the **Artesian Zone**.

## SOURCES OF POLLUTION ON THE RECHARGE ZONE ARE SPREADING

Over the past twenty years contaminants associated with human activity have been found in the Edwards Aquifer with increasing frequency. Low levels of chlorinated solvents have been detected in public and private supply wells. Other contaminants such as pesticides, gasoline components (benzene and toluene) and fecal coliforms have also been detected in the aquifer.

We can design, implement and enforce aquifer protection programs that will leave a legacy of clean drinking water for our children and grandchildren. We must do so now.