

By: Dorazio

H.C.R. No. 121

# CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Edwards Aquifer is one of the most prolific and  
2 pristine artesian aquifers in the world, and it is a vital source of  
3 clean and sustainable groundwater for millions of Texans; and

4 WHEREAS, The aquifer covers approximately 4,350 square miles  
5 of South Central Texas, and for generations, residents and  
6 policymakers in the region have worked to preserve and responsibly  
7 manage this invaluable natural resource, which supplies the region  
8 with essential water for agricultural, industrial, recreational,  
9 and domestic use; the aquifer is also the primary sustainable  
10 source of clean drinking water for 1.7 million Texans, including  
11 residents of San Antonio, America's seventh largest city; and

12 WHEREAS, A karst geological system with extremely high  
13 porosity and permeability, the Edwards Aquifer allows for rapid  
14 infiltration of surface water through an extensive network of  
15 conduits, fractures, and faults; this makes it highly susceptible  
16 to irreversible contamination from wastewater discharge and other  
17 emerging contaminants that pose severe and potentially fatal health  
18 risks to humans, wildlife, and ecosystems; and

19 WHEREAS, The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is the  
20 primary regulatory body responsible for ensuring that no  
21 development within the region compromises the purity and safety of  
22 the aquifer; the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program, created by the  
23 TCEQ, was designed to establish and enforce best management  
24 practices that prevent contaminants from reaching the Edwards

1 Aquifer during and after construction activities; and

2 WHEREAS, A study by the Southwest Research Institute, funded  
3 through the city of San Antonio's Edwards Aquifer Protection Plan,  
4 found that any type of wastewater system releasing treated effluent  
5 in the Helotes Creek watershed, such as the proposed Guajolote  
6 Ranch wastewater disposal plan in Bexar County, would  
7 "significantly degrade the watershed and the quality of water  
8 recharging the Edwards Aquifer"; and

9 WHEREAS, The Edwards Aquifer is an irreplaceable state  
10 treasure, requiring immediate and long-term protection, and  
11 elected officials at every level, along with non-elected regulatory  
12 bodies, should advocate for and implement policies and practices  
13 that safeguard the quality and sustainability of one of the most  
14 valuable natural resources in Texas; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas  
16 hereby urges the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to take  
17 immediate and decisive action to protect the Edwards Aquifer and  
18 its recharge zones and contributing zones from irreversible  
19 contamination from treated effluents discharged by any wastewater  
20 systems or toxic substances released through construction or other  
21 activities; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward an  
23 official copy of this resolution to the commissioners of the Texas  
24 Commission on Environmental Quality.