

## Hill Country Coalition

While development pushes west out of Austin, citizens are becoming aware of the impact unplanned, unregulated development has on the health, beauty and sustainability of the Texas Hill Country. September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004, several community groups joined together to form the Hill Country Coalition and bring a stronger voice to the LCRA, County Governments, and the Texas Legislature. The Hill Country Coalition is here to stay. **We understand that growth is inevitable. We believe in the regional planning process and we will see it through.**

### **Who we are:**

The Hamilton Pool Road Scenic Corridor Coalition, The Guardians of Lick Creek, Citizens in the Bee Creek Valley, Lakeway First, Concerned Citizens of Spicewood, The Friendship Alliance, Blanco County Citizens Assembly, La Tierra Property Owners Association, and we are growing.

### **What we believe:**

The Lower Colorado River Authority should use its authority to protect and preserve the environmentally sensitive watersheds it serves. The LCRA should not approve the southwest master plan or commit water service through letters of intent to developers in the Hill Country, without substantial regulations in place to eliminate non-point-source (NPS) pollution. We believe these widespread commitments for surface water will irresponsibly promote urban sprawl in the Hill Country and pollute our creeks, rivers, lakes and aquifers.

The LCRA should not seek a CCN for Southwest Travis County because a CCN would obligate the LCRA to provide surface water. The LCRA should instead institute strict controls, and the means to enforce them, to protect the environmentally sensitive Lake Travis watershed and Barton Creek watershed. Such controls need to be required independent of who supplies water to the area.

The Envision Central Texas study was a valid assessment of peoples wants and needs for the Hill Country and it is a good start. Now, there is an overwhelming consensus of the Hill country community who are concerned about the aggressive growth approach the LCRA is taking.

Travis County and neighboring Urban Counties should exercise the authority granted to them by SB 873 to create planning and subdivision rules in unincorporated areas that protect watersheds from NPS pollution, manage density, and offer incentives for creating conservation areas and conservation development.

We ask the LCRA to join us in our request of the Texas Legislature to support any and all county authority to protect land within the county from unnecessary degradation caused by irresponsible development.

The Texas Legislature should support the LCRA's mission to protect water quality within its jurisdiction.

The LCRA, Hill Country Counties and the Texas Legislature should acquire a substantial amount of open space and park set-a-sides in the Hill Country to protect this jewel of Texas forever.

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