



May 20, 2015

Paula DiFonzo
New Braunfels Utilities
263 Main Plaza
New Braunfels, Texas 78130

Mrs. Difonzo:

This letter is written in support of the Comal Springs Conservation Center, from the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) Implementing Committee.

The Klingemann site owned by New Braunfels Utilities (NBU) provides a unique opportunity to protect critical habitat of the Endangered Species at Comal Springs. As the IH-35 corridor between San Antonio and Austin is rapidly urbanizing, endangered species habitats are being threatened. At 16 acres, the NBU property is one of the largest parcels in the vicinity of Comal Springs, which is available for natural area preservation and ecological restoration. The proposed project rewinds the clock of human development by taking an industrial property back to its original natural state and restoring critical components of the riparian and aquatic habitats.

As the property contains Spring Run #4 of the Comal River system, it is potentially home to twelve (12) different threatened or endangered species. Currently, storm water runoff flows over acres of asphalt and directly into these critical habitats. Phase I of the Comal Springs Conservation Center involves removing 85% of the impermeable cover on the site, restoring natural habitats and creating bioswales to slow and naturally filter water runoff into the springs. This project is important to the overall health of the Comal Springs and our EAHCP efforts, as it will restore sensitive riparian ecosystems, improve water quality and provide a demonstration area for New Braunfels and surrounding communities for habitat preservation and low impact design techniques.

The EAHCP Implementing Committee is currently considering support of the NBU Conservation Center on multiple levels, from this letter of support to potential funding.

The Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan Implementing Committee hereby supports your efforts to construct the Comal Springs Conservation Center- Phase I.

Sincerely,

Tom Taggart
Chair, EAHCP Implementing Committee

Nathan Pence
Program Manager, EAHCP Implementing Committee