



David Baker, Executive Director
Malcolm Harris, President
Scott Price, Treasurer
Jason Pinchback, Secretary
Dorothy Knight
Pokey Rehmet
Parc Smith
Vanessa Puig-Williams

City of Blanco
Attn: Kelly Kuentler, Interim City Administrator
300 Pecan St.
Blanco, Texas 78606

November 9, 2021

Dear Ms. Kuentler:

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support from the Wimberley Valley Watershed Association (WVWA), which counts over 19,000 members across our shared Blanco River basin, the Hill Country, and all of Texas. WVWA firmly supports the Blanco Water Reclamation Task Force recommendation to the City of Blanco dated October 30, 2021.

We agree with no discharge. By relying on wastewater solutions that do not include discharge into the Blanco River, the City of Blanco best serves its citizens and downstream neighbors, as well as all who enjoy swimming and other recreation in the river, or simply enjoying a pristine view. We trust the scientists and researchers who have studied effects of treated wastewater in the Blanco River and concluded that no level of treatment fully avoids degradation of stream quality. The Blanco River downstream of the City of Blanco provides thousands of gallons a day of recharge to the Trinity Aquifer, which is the sole drinking water supply for thousands of Central Texans.

Therefore, we support your stated option: "The City of Blanco should pursue a phased and/or hybrid permitting approach through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to obtain a Texas Land Application Permit (TLAP) that would ensure no direct discharge of municipal effluent within a time period not to exceed 18 months or until the City gets TLAP infrastructure in place, whichever occurs first."

For a quarter century, WVWA has worked with trusted partners of the Texas Hill Country Conservation Network, including Trinity Edwards Springs Protection Association, Save Our Springs Alliance, Save Barton Creek Association, The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, Hill Country Alliance, Environmental Defense Fund, National Wildlife Federation, and Protect Our Blanco to protect the quality and quantity of groundwater in the Guadalupe-Blanco watershed. We enjoy productive, mutually beneficial relationships with Hays and Travis counties, and multiple groundwater conservation districts, municipalities, water suppliers, and other public and private entities in the quest for sustainable, enduring Texas rivers, creeks, and aquifers for generations to come.

We applaud your deliberate, thoughtful months spent considering the options and contingencies you face. You have taken great care to gather the necessary data you need for an informed decision. We encourage that your final important step be to choose TLAP for an outcome your citizens and all who enjoy the Blanco River valley can cheer.

With gratitude for your public service,
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin H. Gary', written in a cursive style.

Robin H. Gary, WVWA Managing Director