

My name is Margo Denke Griffin. I am here today on behalf of my community, Friends of Hondo Canyon. My local community has spent the past 4 years fighting two wastewater permit applications in our area. We were able to stop both discharge permits, but we have remained on edge, wondering where the next wastewater discharge application will be, and whether or not we would have the financial resources to fight it. Direct wastewater discharge is already prohibited in the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone and in the Highland Lakes – why couldn't it be prohibited into pristine streams? We decided we needed to stop these discharge applications from even being considered.

We first had to define what we were defending. We adopted a narrow definition based on water quality analyses taken as part of the Texas Clean Rivers Program. Any classified stream segment with levels of naturally occurring phosphorus below 0.06 milligrams per liter in 90% of all water quality tests over the past 10 years is considered pristine. In the over 1800 classified stream segments in Texas, only 22 classified stream segments met this criteria. We have submitted a rule change petition to TCEQ to prohibit consideration of new wastewater discharge permits in these few remaining pristine segments. The Upper and Lower Blanco River Segments are two such segments.

I am here today to ask the City of Blanco to join us by signing a resolution in support of this rule change. The rule change will not change the City's current wastewater discharge permit nor any renewal permit for the current volume of discharge.

Besides maintaining the beauty of the Blanco River, this rule change will prevent a landowner or developer from obtaining a direct discharge permit upstream from your City. If this were to happen, your beautiful river at Blanco State Park and Birdseil City Park could become impaired. And if the Blanco River becomes a source for the City's public water supply, your drinking water will contain not only nitrogen and phosphorus from the wastewater, it will contain many other substances

that are not removed in the sewage treatment process - such as personal care products and prescription drugs. Only a rule change or legislation will assure that this won't happen.

Supporting this rule change doesn't stop development, it just stops developers from putting wastewater into our pristine streams. I urge you to consider joining us.