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Request for Coverage

Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance Challenges San Antonians to Know Your BMP's

Press Conference

When: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.

Where: TPC Parkway

GEAA celebrates [National Groundwater Awareness Week](#) with release of an investigation on aquifer protection basins, commonly called BMP's.

What is a BMP?

BMP stands for "Best Management Practice". These BMP's are permanent structures required by State law to mitigate pollution from high density development on the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. BMP's come in many shapes and sizes, and are site specific in design. Most commonly in San Antonio, a BMP is a concrete lined ditch filled with sand, which is meant to filter out some pollutants from the first flush of rain water. They can be found behind many of the businesses and homes located on the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone.

GEAA findings reveal that these structures are not really a reliable method of preventing non-point source pollution in rainwater from entering the aquifer, and calls upon the public to help make sure that the BMP's in San Antonio are working properly.

Among the findings reported in [Permanent Stormwater Pollution Prevention Systems within the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone in Bexar County, Texas](#):

- At least 10 to 15% of structural BMP's are persistently non-compliant.
- Owners of properties with BMP's, and the general public, are often unaware of the sensitivity of the Edwards Aquifer to pollution from storm water run-off. Many property owners are unaware of the function of the BMP on their property, and that the BMP requires regular maintenance to keep it working properly.

GEAA calls on those who live and work on the Recharge Zone to be on the look out for improperly maintained BMP's. The presence of trees more than 3" in diameter, or of stagnant water within the basin several days after a rain are a sign that a BMP is not working properly. Citizens who notice BMP's that are not being properly maintained should contact **San Antonio Water Systems Aquifer Division** at **210-704-SAWS** or **TCEQ** at **888-777-3186**.

For a copy of the GEAA report: http://www.moxiamo.com/aquiferalliance/images/BMP_Final.pdf

The [Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#) unites 48 organizations behind a comprehensive plan to protect the Edwards Aquifer, its springs, rivers and streams, and the Texas Hill Country.