



The Hon. Austin City Council,
Austin, TX

Dear Council,

As directed by its Board of Directors, the Llano River Watershed Alliance, representing stakeholders up and down the watershed of the North, South and Main Llano, fully supports Item #80, on the schedule for your Sept. 14 meeting, Austin City Hall. LRWA adamantly opposes the construction of a private recreational dam and impoundment of water on the South Llano River as requested by Waterstone Creek LLC, TCEQ Application No. WR PERM 13524 as well as the unpermitted dam being built and recently discovered on the James River, a tributary of the Main Llano. Furthermore, the LRWA supports the City of Austin's request for a contested case hearing. This would be in concert with the City of Junction, the City of Llano (both of which depend on the Llano rivers for their drinking water) and Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, that in turn represents 56 member organizations throughout the Hill Country.

A summary of reasons include: 1) a dangerous precedent set for more private dams on the Llano Rivers anywhere in the watershed, 2) interruption of an already fragile flow rate of the Llano system all the way to the Highland Lakes/ Austin's water supply, 3) such a difficult-to-regulate dam and resulting private lake would threaten the entire in-stream ecosystem, and 4) negative personal, financial, economic, and social consequences for all Watershed and Austin stakeholders. The Llano River is an integral component of watershed communities. Preserving its flow is not only an environmental issue, but an economic, cultural and historical one as well.

Adopted on September 7, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Fawcett".

Linda Fawcett, President LRWA

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