

**Lori Rowe**

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**From:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 3:22 PM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC2; PUBCOMMENT-OPIC; PUBCOMMENT-ELD; PUBCOMMENT-WQ  
**Subject:** FW: Public comment on Permit Number WQ0014488001  
**Attachments:** POW letter to TCEQ - public comments for amended draft permit WQ0014488001 - January 17 2022.pdf

PM  
H

**From:** richardobeggs@hotmail.com <richardobeggs@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 1:04 PM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC <PUBCOMMENT-OCC@tceq.texas.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment on Permit Number WQ0014488001

**REGULATED ENTY NAME:** CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

**RN NUMBER:** RN104005434

**PERMIT NUMBER:** WQ0014488001

**DOCKET NUMBER:**

**COUNTY:** HAYS

**PRINCIPAL NAME:** CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

**CN NUMBER:** CN602491284

**FROM:**

**NAME:** MR Richard O Beggs

**E-MAIL:** [richardobeggs@hotmail.com](mailto:richardobeggs@hotmail.com)

**COMPANY:** Protect Our Water

**ADDRESS:** 100 COMMONS RD Suite 7155  
DRIPPING SPRINGS TX 78620-4400

**PHONE:** 5122993442

**FAX:**

**COMMENTS:** Letter uploaded.



100 Commons Rd., Suite 7155, Dripping Springs, TX 78620

January 17, 2022

Office of the Chief Clerk  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
MC-105  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

RE: City of Dripping Springs Water Quality Permit No. WQ0014488001

Dear Chief Clerk:

Protect Our Water (POW) requests a public meeting regarding the City's amended draft permit No. WQ0014488001. Our members would appreciate having a forum to ask questions about the permit application during a public meeting.

POW appreciates and is supportive of the City's plans to expand its land application permit to enable additional volumes of treated wastewater being used for irrigation purposes. However, we believe a public hearing would provide greater transparency and allow our public community and potentially impacted residents to better understand the City's plans.

POW has the following questions/comments:

- 1) Management Plan. With increased irrigation sites, we would like to understand the City's overall management and staffing plan for monitoring, managing and operating the overall subsurface, irrigation system.
- 2) Due Diligence.
  - a. We would like to understand what due diligence efforts have been made/completed to ensure the proposed irrigation fields do not contain aquifer re-charge features.
  - b. Regarding the irrigation field close to Onion Creek, how will the City prevent run-off risk into Onion Creek? A dye/trace study was conducted on Onion Creek and it confirmed creek surface water interacts with the aquifer (as noted by dye showing up on local wells in our area), so we would like to understand what measures will be in place to prevent run-off to ultimately protect drinking water.
- 3) Capacity. POW is interested in understanding the term anticipated this additional volume will provide for the City.
- 4) Increased visibility. We understand Dripping Springs is likely compliant with public notices, but these can be quite difficult for the general public to see/find/understand. POW requests that future permitting requests with TCEQ be also published on the applicant's website as a press release. We believe this will aid/help the public from a transparency perspective.

We appreciate seeing the City seek to expand its Land Application permit and look forward to hearing more from the City @ a Public Hearing.

Sincerely,

Richard Beggs  
Managing Directors, Protect Our Water

Jeff Shaw

Wes Pitts

WQ  
111720

**Debbie Zachary**

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**From:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 23, 2022 10:12 AM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-WQ; PUBCOMMENT-ELD; PUBCOMMENT-OCC2; PUBCOMMENT-OPIC  
**Subject:** FW: Public comment on Permit Number WQ0014488001  
**Attachments:** City of Dripping Springs TLAP WQ0014488001 Contested Case Hearing Request.pdf

H

**From:** bill@sosalliance.org <bill@sosalliance.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 22, 2022 4:56 PM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC <PUBCOMMENT-OCC@tceq.texas.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment on Permit Number WQ0014488001

**REGULATED ENTY NAME CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS**

**RN NUMBER: RN104005434**

**PERMIT NUMBER: WQ0014488001**

**DOCKET NUMBER:**

**COUNTY: HAYS**

**PRINCIPAL NAME: CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS**

**CN NUMBER: CN602491284**

**FROM**

**NAME: Bill Bunch**

**EMAIL: [bill@sosalliance.org](mailto:bill@sosalliance.org)**

**COMPANY: Save Our Springs Alliance**

**ADDRESS: 4701 W GATE BLVD Ste. D-401  
AUSTIN TX 78745-1479**

**PHONE: 5124772320**

**FAX:**

**COMMENTS: Please find Save Our Springs Alliance's Request for Contested Case Hearing in the attached PDF.**

Laurie Gharis  
Chief Clerk  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087 – MC 105  
Austin, Texas 787011 – 3087

June 22, 2022

**Via: Online Submission Form**

**RE: Request for Contested Case Hearing on the Application and Draft Permit of City of Dripping Springs, for Proposed Amendments to TLAP Permit No. WQ0014488001**

Dear Ms. Gharis:

Save Our Springs Alliance (SOS) requests a contested case hearing on proposed amendments to TLAP Permit No. WQ0014488001.

The City of Dripping Springs (“the Applicant”) has applied to amend TLAP Permit No. WQ00148801 (“Amended Draft Permit”), to authorize the addition of two irrigation sites and an increase effluent disposal from 319,000 gallons per day to 429,000 gallons per day. The proposed surface irrigation site is close to the banks of Onion Creek, one of six major creeks that originate in the Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone that carries water across the recharging limestone geology to sustain flow in the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer.

**I. The Requesting Party Meets the Requirements to be Considered an “Affected Person.”**

SOS is a non-profit conservation organization located in Austin, Texas that works to “protect the Edwards Aquifer, its springs and contributing streams, and the natural and cultural heritage of the Hill Country region and its watersheds.” SOS’s mission encompasses the protection of Onion Creek and groundwater that will be harmed as a result of the Amended Draft Permit. SOS regularly participates in the wastewater permitting process and submitted timely comments on the Amended Draft Permit.

SOS has financed and carried out scientific research to document the aquatic life and quality of Onion Creek just upstream of the location of the proposed "Carter Ranch" irrigation area, next to Onion creek. This research, carried out by Ryan King and Jeff Back of Baylor University, also included a site downstream of the proposed irrigation area. SOS members, including Executive Director Bill Bunch, have participated and intend to continue assisting in this research. Considering the soils, geology, proposed application rates, and problems with Dripping Springs existing wastewater irrigation, which has caused pollution of Onion Creek and a small tributary of Onion Creek even though the irrigation field is set back from the creek in the past, the wastewater irrigation, as allowed under the Amended Draft Permit would harm SOS's interests in the protection of water quality, aquatic life, property values, and aesthetic beauty of Onion Creek, as well as in SOS scientific interest in the area.

SOS has members who would otherwise have standing to request a contested case hearing in their own right. Among these are SOS member and Executive Director Bill Bunch and SOS members Chris and Karen Hill.

SOS Executive Director Bill Bunch has swum in Onion Creek in the Caliterra Park, as well as in the creek downstream on the Turkey Hollow Ranch and CharRo Ranch. Mr. Bunch intends to continue swimming in these locations and observing the fish, water birds, wildlife, and water quality. The high degree of likelihood of contamination of Onion Creek in these areas by wastewater irrigation at the Carter Ranch site, as allowed under the Amended Draft Permit, poses a direct harm to Mr. Bunch's and thus to SOS's recreation, conservation, scientific, aesthetic, and personal health and safety interests. Mr. Bunch lives at 1307 Oxford Ave, Austin, TX 78704 and may be reached during the daytime at 512-784-3749.

SOS members Chris and Karen Hill's recreation, conservation, aesthetic, and personal health and safety interests will be harmed by the Amended Draft Permit. Mr. and Mrs. Hill receive their drinking water from the Dripping Springs Water Supply Corporation. Some of the water provided to the Hills comes from groundwater wells near Onion Creek that could be contaminated by irrigated wastewater recharging into the Trinity Aquifer. Mr. and Ms. Hill also enjoy walking along the creek in the Caliterra parks and common areas and observing wildlife. Mr. and Mrs. Hill intend to continue enjoying Onion Creek within the Caliterra subdivision in these ways as long as it is safe and enjoyable to do so, however, the Hills' health, conservation, and recreation interests would be harmed by wastewater from the Amended Draft Permit entering the creek and flowing into Caliterra. Chris and Karen Hill live at 806 Bridge Water Loop, Dripping Springs TX, 78620.

For these reasons, SOS is an "affected person" entitled to a contested case hearing on the application and Amended Draft Permit.

## **II. The TCEQ Executive Director Did Not Sufficiently Address the Issues Raised by SOS, and SOS Requests a Contested Case Hearing on These Issues.**

SOS remains concerned about the impacts of the Amended Draft Permit on nearby surface and groundwater in light of the geological factors and other environmental factors at play in the nearby area. The following relevant and material issues were timely raised by SOS during the comment period for the Amended Draft Permit and were not sufficiently addressed by the TCEQ Executive Director ("ED"). SOS reiterates the concerns raised during the comment period as the basis for SOS's request for a contested case hearing, and to further show that the ED did not adequately address SOS's comments.

These issues were raised by SOS and not adequately addressed in the ED's Response to Comments ("RTC"):

1. Whether the Amended Draft Permit is protective of groundwater.
2. Whether the Amended Draft Permit is protective of surface water quality.

3. Whether the Amended Draft Permit complies with the federal Clean Water Act.
4. Whether the Amended Draft Permit contains sufficient conditions and monitoring and operating requirements to avoid discharges of wastewater into surface or groundwater.
5. Whether recharge-features were adequately identified and protected.
6. Whether the Amended Draft Permit requires sufficient wastewater storage.
7. Whether the Amended Draft Permit should set effluent limitations on nitrate and total nitrogen.
8. Whether the Applicant complied with all applicable notice requirements.
9. Whether the Amended Draft Permit complies with all applicable siting requirements.
10. Whether the information contained in the Application and Draft Permit is accurate.

This Request for Contested Case Hearing identifies specific comments made by SOS related to the above issues (as numbered by the ED), the ED's corresponding response in his RTC and the factual basis of each dispute, as well as any related disputed issues of law.

**Issue 1: Whether the Amended Draft Permit is protective of groundwater.**

Comments 3, 4, 9, 26, and 30. Several aspects of the Amended Draft Permit place groundwater at risk of contamination from wastewater effluent, and the practice of land applying treated wastewater effluent frequently results in unauthorized discharges into groundwater. The location of the irrigation fields, a location that sits atop the Trinity Aquifer outcrop with karst features and shallow groundwater, leaves the nearby groundwater at risk for contamination. Moreover, the soils at the proposed irrigation sites are not suitable for wastewater effluent disposal based on data from the Natural Resources Conservation Service which indicates that the irrigation sites sit atop thin soils with low permeability that will restrict effluent filtration and cause erosion and run off. Concerningly, in light of the important role that soil quality plays in the land application of wastewater and the safety of groundwater, the Application does not include soil data from all of the irrigation sites.

The ED responded that the Amended Draft Permit includes provisions to protect groundwater quality, including buffer zones. The ED also stated that the Applicant will be required to submit a Springs and Seeps Monitoring Plan.

The ED's response is inadequate because it failed to explain why or how the groundwater protection provisions are adequate and failed to address the local geology including the Trinity Aquifer outcrop and nearby wells that intersect with caves, crevices, and fractures. The ED also failed to explain how the Amended Draft Permit differs from the current permit and other nearby TLAP permits that have resulted in the unauthorized discharge of wastewater in the past. Moreover, the ED cannot state that the Springs and Seeps Monitoring Plan will protect

groundwater as it is not required to be submitted until after the permit has been issued, and it is speculative at this point whether or not it will result in the protection of groundwater.

Furthermore, the ED failed to address the unsuitability of the soils or to explain why the soils are indeed suitable, choosing instead to cite the requirements of an application without analysis. The ED also failed to discuss the negative impacts that the discharge of water will have on nearby groundwater wells, including dangerously high levels of nitrates in drinking water.

### **Issue 2: Whether the Amended Draft Permit is protective of surface water quality.**

Comments 5, 9, 21, 26, 39. The Amended Draft Permit will likely result in the unauthorized and harmful discharge of wastewater into the nearby surface water of Onion Creek. As discussed under Issue 3 below, the disposal sites for the Amended Draft Permit are located in an environmentally sensitive area with unique geological features that make an unauthorized discharge into surface water due to a TLAP likely. Unauthorized discharges into waters of the state regularly occur as a result of the sensitive environmental features and mismanaged TLAPs in the Hill Country, damaging the downstream aquatic ecosystems. And, as discussed in Issue 1, the soils at the disposal sites are thin, creating a high risk for channelization and run off of wastewater effluent. Any unauthorized discharge into Onion Creek will result in degradation of water quality due to the high levels of nutrients and other pollutants contained in the wastewater effluent.

The ED responded that the Amended Draft Permit does not authorize the discharge of pollutants to water in the state.

The ED's response is inadequate because it did not justify the conclusion that the current conditions imposed by the Amended Draft Permit are adequate to prevent an unauthorized discharge, and the ED failed to address the dangers posed to surface water in the event of an unauthorized discharge. The ED also failed to explain how the Amended Draft Permit is different from other TLAPs, including current WQ001448801, that have resulted in unauthorized discharges into surface water.

### **Issue 3: Whether the Amended Draft Permit complies with the federal Clean Water Act.**

Comment 21. The Clean Water Act has the goal to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters," 33 U.S.C. § 1251(a), and to achieve this goal, the Clean Water Act requires a permit for any discharge into waters of the U.S. 33 U.S.C. § 1341. As discussed in other comments and sections of this Contested Case Hearing Request, the Amended Draft Permit will result in what is the functional equivalent of a discharge into Onion Creek, and the wastewater effluent will harm the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of Onion Creek. In order to comply with the Clean Water Act and protect the surrounding waters from an unauthorized discharge, the Amended Draft Permit needs to contain additional provisions that reflect the environmental sensitivity of the area. All of the irrigation fields are located in the Contributing Zone of the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer over the Trinity Aquifer outcrop. The Carter site (proposed outfall 4) is near the banks of Onion Creek on stretch of the stream that recharges the Trinity Aquifer.

The ED responded by referring to comments #3, #8, and #13.

The ED's response is insufficient because it failed to address the mandates of the Clean Water Act and the detrimental impact that the unauthorized discharge from the Amended Draft Permit will have on Onion Creek. The ED's response is also insufficient because the response to comments referenced by the ED fail to fully address the fact that the Amended Draft Permit will likely cause an unauthorized discharge, in light of the geology and the Applicants' compliance history, and the ED's response provides only conclusory remarks that the monitoring and compliance will prevent unauthorized discharges rather than a rigorous assessment of the facts. Furthermore, the ED fails to explain how the Amended Draft Permit accounts for the specific sensitive environmental features pointed out by SOS.

**Issue 4: Whether the Amended Draft Permit contains sufficient conditions and monitoring and operating requirements to avoid discharges of wastewater into surface or groundwater.**

Comments 8, 24, 28, and 31. Sufficient monitoring and operation requirements in the Amended Draft Permit are imperative to avoid discharges of wastewater into surface or groundwater, however, the Amended Draft Permit does not contain such necessary provision. Given the location of the two additional irrigation fields, they are far from the wastewater treatment plant and existing irrigation fields, it is unlikely that they will be adequately monitored so that the disposal fields could be oversaturated, polluting nearby water, for hours or days before an operator becomes aware of the problem. The nature of subsurface irrigation itself will also lead to leaks that go undetected and unremedied for significant periods of time. Moreover, poor operation, poor management improper maintenance, improper siting in areas where soils are limited or unsuitable, vulnerable environmental features, and lax enforcement of permit standards will contribute to the likelihood of an unauthorized discharge into surface or groundwater.

The ED responded that the monitoring and operating requirements are sufficient to avoid unauthorized discharges into surface and groundwater.

The ED's response is insufficient because the response fails to explain why the monitoring and operating requirements in the Amended Draft Permit are sufficient, particularly in light of the Applicant's spotty compliance history. The ED provides no justification for asserting that the Applicant will comply with the terms of the Amended Draft Permit or that TCEQ will diligently enforce the terms of the Amended Draft Permit.

**Issue 5: Whether recharge-features were adequately identified and protected.**

Comment 14. By driving past the Heritage irrigation site without leaving the comfort of their car, the Applicant failed to identify karst features using a generally accepted or thorough method. At a minimum, the Applicant should have exited their car and walked around the disposal fields to identify karst features. However, to ensure that all karst features are identified, the Applicant or TCEQ should conduct a field-study investigation of karst features.



The ED responded that a Texas-licensed professional engineer with experience preparing Recharge Feature Plans conducted the required field survey and submitted required documentation.

The ED's response is insufficient because it failed to address the fact that neither the engineer hired by the Applicant nor the Applicant, as set out in the application, conducted a site inspection to identify karst features. The ED failed to explain how the cursory, drive by examination of the Heritage irrigation site complied with the requirements for the Applicant to identify karst features at the disposal sites. The ED also dismissed SOS's concern that all karst features were not identified by Applicant's cursory search by stating that the Recharge Feature Plans would be updated if new karst features were identified. However, the ED's response is inadequate because it is speculative that the Applicant would appropriately report the discovery of such features and that appropriate action would be taken to protect the features.

**Issue 6: Whether the Amended Draft Permit requires sufficient wastewater storage.**

Comment 25. The Amended Draft Permit does not require storage adequate to prevent irrigation on days when the ground is frozen and/or saturated. It is also unclear how much storage is needed since storage requirements differ for spray and subsurface irrigation, and the Amended Draft Permit allows for both. It is also unclear when the Applicant will decide to store wastewater effluent versus irrigate as the Applicant currently applies wastewater to disposal sites when the ground is already saturated or ponding.

The ED responded that the facility has sufficient existing and proposed storage for effluent at the disposal sites. The ED's response is inadequate because it failed to address the difference in storage required for spray and subsurface irrigation and failed to address the storage inadequacies under the current permit. Moreover, the ED failed to provide sufficient factual information to support the conclusion that there is sufficient existing and proposed storage for wastewater effluent.

**Issue 7: Whether the Amended Draft Permit should set effluent limitations on nitrate and total nitrogen.**

Comment 39. The Amended Draft Permit should set effluent limits on nitrate and total nitrogen to protect groundwater and surface water. Wastewater effluent currently treated under WQ0014488001 contains 16.3 mg/L nitrate-nitrogen, while natural groundwater concentrations in the area are usually less than 1 mg/L. The current concentrations of nitrate in wastewater effluent from WQ0014488001 are 6.3 mg/L higher than the 10 mg/L limit placed on nitrates (measured as total nitrogen) by the EPA for drinking water. High levels of nitrates in drinking water are closely linked with negative human health impacts. With the high likelihood of unauthorized discharges into groundwater and surface water, the nitrate concentration allowed in the Amended Draft Permit poses a risk to drinking water safety and human health. Additionally, increased nitrogen in streams and springs in the Hill Country leads to excessive algae growth, depleted dissolved oxygen, and other water quality problems.

The ED responded that effluent limitations are set based on crop requirements for continued growth and the crops' ability to consume the nutrients in the effluent.

The ED's response is insufficient because it fails to account for the likelihood that the wastewater effluent, including nitrogen, will not be taken up by the crops and will instead leach into groundwater and runoff into surface water, posing a risk to groundwater and surface water quality. The ED also fails to address the negative impacts that nitrates and total nitrogen have on human health and the environment, disregarding the reasons for including such an effluent limitation in the Amended Draft Permit.

**Issue 8: Whether the Applicant complied with all applicable notice requirements.**

Comment 34. There was an error in the public notice published for the Amended Draft Permit. The Spanish language notice published in the Austin American Statesman on December 16, 2021 included a typo in the URL for submitting comments that led to the error message of "We're sorry, but that page does not exist..." This deficiency left Spanish speakers without accurate information for submitting online comments to TCEQ about the Amended Draft Permit.

The ED responded that the Applicant properly published all of its notices with the correct information.

However, the ED's response is inadequate because the ED's characterization of the accuracy of the Applicant's is incorrect and does not address the error in the Spanish language notice. The ED also did not state that a corrected Spanish public notice was published to remedy the mistake.

**Issue 9: Whether the Amended Draft Permit complies with all applicable siting requirements.**

Comment 41. Some areas of the proposed disposal sites are located within the 100-year floodplain or contain wetlands, specifically, portions of the Caliterra disposal site is located within the 100-year floodplain. The Caliterra and Carter disposal sites also contain wetlands mapped by the USFWS.

The ED responded by reciting the siting requirements and stating that an Environmental Assessment conducted by Horizon Environmental did not identify any wetlands or waters of the U.S. in the area.

The ED's response is insufficient because the ED did not state that the Amended Draft Permit does not allow for disposal sites within the 100-year flood plain nor that the treatment plant is protected from inundation during a flood event. The ED also failed to explain that the Amended Draft Permit complies with the other siting requirements and issues raised by SOS.

**Issue 10: Whether the information contained in the Application and Draft Permit is accurate.**

Comments 41 and 42. The Application failed to identify wetlands on the Carter and Caliterra disposal fields despite the presence of wetlands as identified by the USFWS. The Application also contains inconsistencies about the depth of groundwater below the surface. One section of the Application states that groundwater is 485-655 feet below the surface. However, the rest of the data in the Application, including driller's logs for wells and water measurement level data indicate that groundwater can be found as shallow as 110 feet below the surface. Moreover, the maps provided in the Application are confusing and make it impossible to discern exactly where irrigation will occur, the size of buffers, and the size and location of irrigation sites.

The ED responded that no wetlands were identified in a 2014 Environmental Assessment. The ED's response is inadequate because it failed to address the existence of wetlands identified by USFWS on the Carter and Caliterra disposal fields.

The ED also responded that depth to groundwater beneath proposed land application areas is variable. The ED's response is insufficient because it fails to account for the discrepancies in the depth to groundwater reported in the Application versus the actual depth to groundwater that the data in the Application indicated.

### **III. Conclusion**

SOS respectfully requests a contested case hearing on the application and Draft Permit for amended TLAP Permit No. WQ0014488001. SOS requests that the TCEQ Commissioners refer the case to the State Office of Administrative Hearings on the issues listed and discussed above.

Thank you for considering SOS's comments and concerns associated with the Amended Draft Permit and for considering SOS's Contested Case Hearing Request.

Please use the contact information below for all communications with SOS on this matter.

Sincerely,

Bill Bunch  
Save Our Springs Alliance  
Executive Director

4701 Westgate Blvd.  
Bldg. D, Suite 401  
Austin, Texas 78745  
Tel.: 512-477-2320  
Fax: 512-477-6410  
bill@sosalliance.org

*Attorney for Save Our Springs Alliance*

**Lori Rowe**

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**From:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 3:40 PM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC2; PUBCOMMENT-OPIC; PUBCOMMENT-ELD; PUBCOMMENT-WQ  
**Subject:** FW: Public comment on Permit Number WQ0014488001  
**Attachments:** 22.01.18\_SOS Suppltl. Comm. re TLAP Amendment\_WITH ATTACH.pdf

PM

**From:** kelly@sosalliance.org <kelly@sosalliance.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 3:32 PM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC <PUBCOMMENT-OCC@tceq.texas.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment on Permit Number WQ0014488001

**REGULATED ENTY NAME** CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

**RN NUMBER:** RN104005434

**PERMIT NUMBER:** WQ0014488001

**DOCKET NUMBER:**

**COUNTY:** HTML Email

**PRINCIPAL NAME:** CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

**CN NUMBER:** CN602491284

**FROM**

**NAME:** Kelly Davis

**E-MAIL:** [kelly@sosalliance.org](mailto:kelly@sosalliance.org)

**COMPANY:** Save Our Springs Alliance

**ADDRESS:** 4701 W GATE BLVD STE D401  
AUSTIN TX 78745-1467

**PHONE:** 5124772320

**FAX:** 5124776410

**COMMENTS:** Please see the attached supplemental comments submitted on behalf of Save Our Springs Alliance.



January 18, 2022

Office of the Chief Clerk  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
MC-105  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

RE: Water Quality Permit No. WQ0014488001

Dear Chief Clerk:

Save Our Springs Alliance (SOS) files these supplemental comments on the proposed amendment of TCEQ Permit No. WQ0014488001 (Draft Amended Permit), held by the City of Dripping Springs (City). These comments are in addition to the comments submitted to TCEQ by SOS dated January 14, 2022.

The Draft Amended Permit creates a potential for excessive application of sewage. Although the permit includes an applicator rate limit, the required storage is not sufficient to prevent oversaturation of irrigation fields. Adequate storage is necessary to avoid land applying when the ground is frozen or saturated from rain events. Although the City's current permit (see Special Provision No. 5) explicitly prohibits land application when the ground is frozen or saturated, according to the City's own site logs, effluent is regularly applied when the ground is already saturated or ponding.<sup>1</sup> The concerns over storage and current practices of application when the ground is saturated are issues the City should address at a public meeting.

Also, the City's compliance history raises concerns about granting this permit amendment. The City has a track record of broken pipes, plant malfunctions, and overwatering at its current site near the wastewater treatment plant, where wastewater has been discharged to the neighboring property. Chemical analyses of water from Onion Creek and a tributary downstream from the irrigation field shows that wastewater is being discharged indirectly to waters of the State.

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<sup>1</sup> In January 2015 alone, the City's site logs indicate that effluent was applied to saturated irrigation fields on eight separate occasions.

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*Austin's water watchdog since 1992*

4701 West Gate Blvd, D-401, Austin, TX 78745 • 512-477-2320 • SOSAlliance.org

On June 20, 2018, the City received a Notice of Violation that it had: 1) Failed to prevent an unauthorized discharge; 2) failed to prevent pooling/ponding in the drip irrigation field; and 3) failed to meet the BOD effluent limit. Prior to that, on August 22, 2017, the City and TCEQ entered an agreed order assessing penalties based on allegations that:

During an investigation conducted on November 16, 2016, an investigator documented that the Respondent failed to properly operate and maintain the facility in a manner to prevent an unauthorized discharge of wastewater into or adjacent to water of the state, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 305.125(1), TEX. WATER CODE § 26.121(a)(1), and TCEQ Permit No. WQ0014488001, Permit Conditions No. 2.g and Operational Requirements No. 1. Specifically, on November 14, 2016 and November 15, 2016, an inoperable valve leading to irrigation zone Nos. 26 and 28 caused a discharge of approximately 26,000 gallons of treated wastewater to flow offsite onto adjacent properties and into a tributary of Onion Creek.

The City's repeated violations suggest that the City already has issues operating its current system. Thus, any expansion of that system should include stringent monitoring and enforcement requirements.

Based on the City's past application of effluent to saturated fields, the TCEQ should require the City to review its settlement agreement with SOS and incorporate certain provisions into its Draft Permit, specifically provisions requiring the City to record rainfall daily, install a well to monitor subsurface water, and implement a vegetation management plan. Because the City has repeatedly applied effluent to saturated irrigation fields under its current permit, application that likely caused effluent to seep into the subsurface water and not be used by vegetation, the Draft Permit should require increased monitoring to ensure the violation does not continue. These records should be kept for at least three years and made available for public review.

SOS has members neighboring the existing wastewater treatment plant who are concerned about the additional noise, light, odor, and truck traffic associated with expanding operations at the plant. The Amended Permit should include provisions to protect neighboring landowners from any nuisance conditions.

Finally, there is an error in the public notice published on this draft permit, rendering the notice legally inadequate. In the Spanish language notice published in the Austin American-Statesman on December 16, 2021, there is a typo in the URL provided for submitting comments to TCEQ online. See the attached notice, with the URL highlighted. The URL provided is: [www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComrment](http://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComrment). When that URL is typed into a web browser, the page that comes up is "We're sorry, but that page does not exist..." Thus, Spanish speakers reading the notice do not have accurate information on how to submit an online comment to TCEQ on this draft permit. This is a significant deficiency. A corrected version of this notice should be published in the newspaper, and the 30-day clock for public comment must be restarted.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at 512-477-2320 ext. 6.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kelly D. Davis

Kelly D. Davis  
Senior Staff Attorney

Save Our Springs Alliance  
4701 West Gate Blvd., D-401

/s/ Bill Bunch

Bill Bunch  
Executive Director

Austin, TX 78745  
512-477-2320





**Lori Rowe**

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**From:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 2:46 PM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC2; PUBCOMMENT-OPIC; PUBCOMMENT-ELD; PUBCOMMENT-WQ  
**Subject:** FW: Public comment on Permit Number WQ0014488001  
**Attachments:** 22.01.14\_SOS Comm. re TLAP Amendment\_FINAL.pdf

PM  
H

**From:** kelly@sosalliance.org <kelly@sosalliance.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 4:09 PM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC <PUBCOMMENT-OCC@tceq.texas.gov>  
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**PRINCIPAL NAME:** CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

**CN NUMBER:** CN602491284

**FROM**

**NAME:** Kelly Davis

**E-MAIL:** [kelly@sosalliance.org](mailto:kelly@sosalliance.org)

**COMPANY:** Save Our Springs Alliance

**ADDRESS:** 4701 W GATE BLVD STE D401  
AUSTIN TX 78745-1467

**PHONE:** 5124772320

**FAX:** 5124776410

**COMMENTS:** Please see the attached comments submitted on behalf of Save Our Springs Alliance.



January 14, 2022

Office of the Chief Clerk  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
MC-105  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

RE: Water Quality Permit No. WQ0014488001

Dear Chief Clerk:

Save Our Springs Alliance (SOS) files these comments and a request for a public meeting in response to the proposed amendment of TCEQ Permit No. WQ0014488001 (Draft Amended Permit), held by the City of Dripping Springs (City).

The Draft Amended Permit authorizes the addition of two irrigation sites (one surface, one subsurface drip) and an increase in effluent disposal from 319,000 gallons per day (gpd) to 429,000 gpd. The new proposed surface irrigation site is very close to Onion Creek. Onion Creek is one of six major creeks that originate in the Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone and carry water across the recharging limestone to sustain flow in the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer.

SOS is a Texas non-profit that works to protect the Edwards Aquifer, its springs and contributing streams, and the natural and cultural heritage of the Hill Country region and its watersheds, with special emphasis on Barton Springs. SOS has members who own property adjacent to and near the irrigation fields, and/or have drinking-water wells downgradient from the proposed irrigation fields, who would be adversely affected by the Draft Permit Amendment. SOS requests a public meeting and would like the opportunity to submit comments and ask questions about the permit application during a public meeting. We also request a contested case hearing; however we may withdraw our contested case hearing request if our questions and concerns are addressed.

#### **A. General Comments about TLAPs in the Texas Hill Country.**

First, we recognize that this permit amendment represents the City's efforts to dispose of its wastewater via land application, the preferred alternative to direct discharge. Land application and beneficial reuse, when done correctly, are far superior for water quality

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*Austin's water watchdog since 1992*

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protection. However, poor operation, improper or lagging maintenance, improper siting where soils are limited or unsuitable and/or there are steep slopes, floodplains, or other vulnerable environmental features, and/or insufficient treatment, storage, or monitoring of effluent treatment or land application practices can lead to degradation of area creeks and streams. Lax enforcement of permit standards compounds these issues. It is imperative that this permit contain sufficient conditions and monitoring and operating requirements to avoid any de facto discharges of wastewater into surface or ground water.

In 2011, SOS completed a study of current wastewater irrigation practices in the Edwards Aquifer watershed.<sup>1</sup> We undertook this study after research by the U.S. Geological Survey and the City of Austin showed elevated levels of nitrogen in Barton Creek and Barton Springs.<sup>2</sup> Together, these studies pointed to wastewater irrigation facilities as a likely source of the nitrogen increases. Elevated nitrogen in Hill Country streams and springs leads to excessive algae growth, depleted dissolved oxygen, and other water quality problems.

Although Texas Land Application Permits (TLAPs), including the City of Dripping Springs' Draft Permit, do not allow for the discharge of wastewater, SOS respectfully submits that the practice of land applying treated effluent in the Hill Country has and will continue to result in the unauthorized discharge of wastewater to surface and ground waters, whether such discharges are considered "direct" or "indirect." The elevated nitrogen in Hill Country streams and springs is evidence of these discharges. Thus, the terms and conditions of a TLAP permit that may be approved pursuant to Dripping Springs' request are important.

### **B. Specific Comments about Draft Permit No. WQ0014488001**

Specifically, the draft permit terms fail to achieve adequate water quality protection because:

**The draft permit should contain additional provisions to reflect the environmental sensitivity of the irrigation areas.** The two additional irrigation fields (like the existing fields) are located in the Contributing Zone of the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer over the Trinity Aquifer outcrop, both major aquifers as defined by the Texas Water Development Board. Both irrigation areas need to be carefully inspected to assure adequate soils and the absence of recharge or other features that could result in channelizing irrigated wastewater into surface or ground water. The Carter site (proposed outfall 4) is near the banks of Onion Creek on a "losing reach" of the stream—meaning that water in the creek recharges the Trinity Aquifer via swallets and caves along Onion Creek. There may be recharge features in this area in the uplands as well as in the creek bed. Considering the sensitive setting of the proposed sewage irrigation areas, the proposed

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<sup>1</sup> *Land-Applied Wastewater Effluent Impacts on the Edwards Aquifer*, by Dr. Lauren Ross, available at: <http://www.aquiferalliance.net/Library/GEAAPublications/GlenroseEdwardsWastewaterReport20111103.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> *Nitrate concentrations and potential sources in the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards aquifer and its contributing zone, Central Texas*; USGS Fact Sheet 2011-3035; <https://doi.org/10.3133/fs20113035>

draft permit terms and conditions fail to adequately protect downstream surface water, the Trinity Aquifer, and the Edwards Aquifer. Effluent limits, treatment, storage, and disposal area requirements in the proposed permit are inconsistent and will not achieve the proposed permit standards or Clean Water Act standards to protect downstream surface water.

**It is unclear how the City will effectively manage, monitor, and operate a surface and subsurface irrigation system on multiple, scattered sites.** The draft permit allows the City to dispose of wastewater via both surface irrigation and subsurface drip dispersal irrigation. It is unusual for a permittee to use both methods in a TLAP—generally, permittees commit to one method, which has implications for storage and land area. Further compounding matters is that the draft permit allows the City to dispose of wastewater by irrigating five dispersed sites. This is also unusual and not suitable for a standard TLAP permit that fails to require careful tracking of effluent delivered to the multiple sites and/or provides inadequate monitoring at each of the sites. These combined scenarios create a system rife with logistical difficulties, creating a risk of mismanagement that could result in surface and/or groundwater contamination.

There is no discussion in the application or draft permit of how the City will decide, manage, and operate the combined disposal system. Nor is there discussion of how the City will manage operation and storage at many small and isolated locations. It is not clear how the City will decide how much storage is needed, because storage requirements differ for spray and subsurface irrigation. It is equally unclear, operationally, how, and when the City is going to send effluent to a field versus put it in storage, and how the City will ensure distribution lines and irrigation heads are not disturbed in all of the irrigation areas.

Additionally, SOS has concerns that the two additional irrigation sites will not be adequately monitored. The two additional irrigation sites are far from the wastewater treatment plant and the existing irrigation fields. Having numerous far-flung locations increases the risk that there will be operational malfunctions that are not detected and remedied in a timely manner. Fields could be oversaturated and polluting adjacent waterways hours or days before the operator even becomes aware of the problem.

**SOS is also concerned that the required storage is inadequate to prevent irrigation on days when the ground is frozen and/or saturated.**

**The location of the irrigation fields creates a risk for groundwater contamination.**

There is a relatively high number of wells in the vicinity of the proposed irrigation fields, according to the application and maps prepared by the Texas Water Development Board. Thus, many people are using groundwater as a domestic water supply, and it is important that irrigation practices not contaminate that groundwater.

The Heritage irrigation site sits atop the Trinity Aquifer outcrop (where the formation is at surface and therefore recharge happens). According to the well logs submitted with the application, several wells intersect with caves, crevices, and fractures in the sub-surface, especially at 150 feet below ground, suggesting some Trinity Aquifer groundwater flow in

these wells. It is therefore very important to ensure that all measures are taken to avoid groundwater contamination, particularly identifying all karst features and maintaining a buffer around these features.

**The draft permit should set effluent limitations on nitrate and total nitrogen, given the potential risk to contaminate groundwater.** SOS is also concerned that disposal of wastewater effluent with high nitrate concentrations will increase naturally low nitrogen concentrations in existing groundwater. According to the Pollutant Analysis of Treated Effluent (Section 7 of the Domestic Wastewater Permit Application Technical Reports), the effluent currently has 16.3 mg/L Nitrate-Nitrogen. Groundwater concentrations in the area are naturally low in nitrate, often not detectible, usually less than 1 milligram per liter. Nitrates are a public health concern. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Primary Drinking Water Regulations establish a maximum contaminant level for Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) in drinking water at 10 mg/L. Long-term exposure above the MCL has the potential to cause serious illness and death in infants.<sup>3</sup>

**The application is internally inconsistent in its assessment of groundwater presence in the subsurface.** At one point the application says that groundwater is 485-665 feet below the surface. But this is not supported by other data in the application. Rather, there are many indications in the application of water as shallow as 150 feet below the surface. These data include the driller's logs for wells, as well as several pages of water measurement level data in the application, including a measurement of water as shallow as 110 feet below ground.

**The methodology used for recharge-feature identification was inadequate.** The application states that in order to identify recharge features on the Heritage irrigation site, the applicant drove by the site to conduct the investigation. This is not a standard or generally accepted method to identify karst features. To identify karst features thoroughly, one must get out of their car and go walking through the fields. To ensure that all karst features are identified, the City and/or TCEQ staff should conduct a field-study investigation of karst features. SOS also requests the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District have access to conduct research and a field site investigation to look for recharge features for the Trinity Aquifer.

**The soils on the proposed irrigation fields are not suitable for wastewater effluent disposal based on soil survey information from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).** When evaluated at the gross scale (looking at the large polygons where irrigation is to occur), data from the NRCS indicates that much of the irrigation areas are covered in thin soils with low permeability that will restrict effluent infiltration. Instead, the water will run off the thin soils, causing erosion and making its way to nearby waterways. Soils may be supplemented, or wastewater application rates reduced, so that

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/national-primary-drinking-water-regulations>

the wastewater is fully assimilated by plants and soils onsite, and wastewater pollutants are not conveyed to surface or ground water.

**The application is misleading in how the irrigation fields are mapped and described.**

The application indicates disposal areas in a few different ways:

In some places, the maps indicate the five irrigation fields as five big areas (three existing; 2 proposed). But inside those big areas (indicated in some maps, but not others) are smaller areas that appear to be the actual areas to be used for effluent disposal.

SOS is concerned that the majority of the area of bigger tracts that are mapped are not at all suitable for disposal of wastewater by irrigation because they are in the 100-year floodplain or contain wetlands. Almost all of the irrigation areas are covered in soils that can only handle a very limited amount of irrigation. Only one tract indicated as not limited by soils is a relatively small area of the Caliterra tract. All of the Sportsfield, Heritage, and Carter fields are very limited for purposes of wastewater irrigation due to the thin soils. Some of the Caliterra field is in the 100-year floodplain.

The United State Fish and Wildlife Service has mapped wetlands on the Carter and Caliterra fields, and in the vicinity of the Heritage tract and the wastewater treatment plant site, and it may be that there are wetlands in the area proposed for irrigation or nearby. And yet, in a checked box, the application indicates there are no wetlands in the area.

Some of the proposed irrigation areas are near creeks. Buffers to prevent irrigation near the creeks are mapped, but it is not clear how buffers will be enforced.

In the maps provided in the application, some labelling is not clear, particularly around the drip fields. It is difficult to discern where the irrigation will occur and by what means.

**There has been inadequate soil testing.** The application includes soil data from the Heritage tract, but not from the other irrigation sites.

SOS respectfully requests the opportunity to discuss these comments and questions with the City during a public meeting.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at 512-477-2320 ext. 6.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kelly D. Davis

Kelly D. Davis  
Senior Staff Attorney

/s/ Bill Bunch

Bill Bunch  
Executive Director

Save Our Springs Alliance  
4701 West Gate Blvd., D-401  
Austin, TX 78745  
512-477-2320

**Lori Rowe**

---

**From:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 12:12 PM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC2; PUBCOMMENT-OPIC; PUBCOMMENT-ELD; PUBCOMMENT-WQ  
**Subject:** FW: Public comment on Permit Number WQ0014488001

H  
RFR

**From:** gscottemerson@gmail.com <gscottemerson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:30 AM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC <PUBCOMMENT-OCC@tceq.texas.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment on Permit Number WQ0014488001

**REGULATED ENTY NAME:** CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

**RN NUMBER:** RN104005434

**PERMIT NUMBER:** WQ0014488001

**DOCKET NUMBER:**

**COUNTY:** HAYS

**PRINCIPAL NAME:** CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

**CN NUMBER:** CN602491284

**FROM:**

**NAME:** Scott Emerson

**E-MAIL:** [gscottemerson@gmail.com](mailto:gscottemerson@gmail.com)

**COMPANY:**

**ADDRESS:** 15515 FOX RUN DR  
AUSTIN TX 78737-8612

**PHONE:** 4322131284

**FAX:**

**COMMENTS:** Is there a public hearing about this? One site is very close to onion creek. This was run in under the radar it seems. Please reconsider

**Lori Rowe**

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**From:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022 3:28 PM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC2; PUBCOMMENT-OPIC; PUBCOMMENT-ELD; PUBCOMMENT-WQ  
**Subject:** FW: Public comment on Permit Number WQ0014488001  
**Attachments:** HTGCD Comments on DS TLAP signed1.pdf

PM  
H  
RFR

**From:** gm@haysgroundwater.com <gm@haysgroundwater.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 5:51 PM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC <PUBCOMMENT-OCC@tceq.texas.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment on Permit Number WQ0014488001

**REGULATED ENTY NAME** CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

**RN NUMBER:** RN104005434

**PERMIT NUMBER:** WQ0014488001

**DOCKET NUMBER:**

**COUNTY:** HAYS

**PRINCIPAL NAME:** CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

**CN NUMBER:** CN602491284

**FROM**

**NAME:** Charlie Flatten

**E-MAIL:** [gm@haysgroundwater.com](mailto:gm@haysgroundwater.com)

**COMPANY:** Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

**ADDRESS:** PO BOX 1648  
DRIPPING SPRINGS TX 78620-1648

**PHONE:** 5126941121

**FAX:**

**COMMENTS:** please see attached and disregard the prior version



January 18, 2022

Office of the Chief Clerk  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
MC-105  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

**RE: Water Quality Permit No. WQ0014488001**

Dear Chief Clerk:

The following comments by the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District ("District") are in response to the proposed DRAFT Texas Land Application Permit (TLAP) amendment of TCEQ Permit No. WQ0014488001 as filed by the City of Dripping Springs. Please accept these comments as a request for a contest case hearing on the issue presented and a request that the commissioners reconsider the Executive Director's decision. The District is also requesting a public meeting in Dripping Springs to provide the District and the affected community the opportunity to ask questions regarding the application.

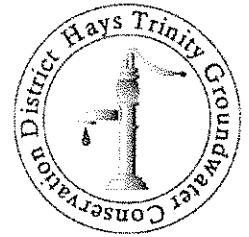
The Draft Amended Permit authorizes the addition of two irrigation sites (one surface, one subsurface drip) and an increase in effluent disposal from 319,000 gallons per day (gpd) to 429,000 gpd. One of the new proposed surface irrigation sites is in close proximity to Onion Creek and both sit atop and recharge the Trinity Aquifer.

The Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (District) is a state agency authorized by Chapter 8843 Special District Local Laws Code (SB 1147), and Chapter 36 of the State Water Code to protect and manage the quality and quantity of the Trinity Aquifer within the boundaries of its jurisdiction, which include all of the proposed new irrigation sites.

Onion Creek is a major recharge feature for the Dripping Springs portion of the Trinity Aquifer and eastward. Studies document that Onion Creek recharges the aquifer (directly in some areas) that supplies many public and private water wells with water for domestic potable use, agriculture, and commercial use.

#### **Western Hays County and Dripping Springs Area Effluent Disposal**

The Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District recognizes the City of Dripping Springs' need to dispose of treated effluent. The District favors the City's practice of land application and reuse and remains opposed to direct discharge and the danger of water quality degradation in wells adjacent to and downstream of direct recharge and discharge points. However, because of the karst geology of the region, and the interchange between surface and groundwater in losing streams and other land based recharge features, land application must be executed with extreme care and with thorough knowledge of the land characteristics, especially where conduits result in the interface and exchange of surface water and groundwater.



#### **STAFF & BOARD**

**Charlie Flatten**  
*General Manager*

**Philip Webster**  
*Hydrogeologist*

**Keaton Hoelscher**  
*Geo-Technician*

**Laura Thomas**  
*Asst. Gen. Mgr.*

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**Holly Fults**  
*President*  
*District 3*

**Linda Kaye Rogers**  
*Vice President*  
*District 4*

**John Worrall**  
*Treasurer/Secretary*  
*District 1*

**Doc Jones**  
*District 5*

**Toby Shelton**  
*District 2*

Dye Trace studies conducted by the District illustrate the porous and transmissive nature of karst landscapes, allowing for a connectivity between Onion Creek and the Trinity Aquifer (Watson et al., 2019)<sup>1</sup>. When clay soils associated with karst and decaying limestone are saturated, they are unable to absorb irrigation<sup>2</sup> and are prone to run-off into creeks and/or recharge features. This threat is serious to land owners who have an investment-backed expectation of clean, clear water<sup>3</sup> in Onion Creek, and well owners who have similar expectations regarding their water wells.

It is imperative that this permit contain sufficient conditions and monitoring and operating requirements to avoid any point or non-point discharges of wastewater or elevated nutrients into surface and/or ground water. A thorough field study of the new sites should be completed and reviewed before permit approval.

### **Comments on the Specifics of Draft Permit No. WQ0014488001**

The Draft Permit should contain the following provisions. The two additional irrigation fields (like the existing fields) are located over the Trinity Aquifer outcrop, which is designated by the Texas Water Development Board as a major aquifer of the State.

- The City must detail how they will effectively manage, monitor, and operate a surface and subsurface irrigation system with adequate storage on multiple, scattered sites. Clarity on practical and procedural methodology, management, monitoring, and operational specifics are needed in advance of permit consideration.
- Both irrigation areas must be carefully inspected to assure adequate soils and the absence of recharge or other features that could result in channelizing irrigated wastewater into surface or ground water. The Carter site (proposed outfall 4) is near the banks of Onion Creek and just upstream to a “losing reach” of the stream that recharges the Trinity Aquifer via swallets and karstic recharge features along Onion Creek<sup>4</sup>. There may be recharge features in this area in the uplands as well as in the creek bed. The City and/or TCEQ staff should conduct a field-study investigation of soil suitability, modifying approved irrigation areas or construction methodology thereof to ensure protection of drinking water supplies (Trinity Aquifer wells in direction connection) connected to these losing stream segments.
- Recharge-feature identification methodology is inadequate. The application states that in order to identify recharge features on the Heritage irrigation site, the applicant drove by the site to conduct the investigation. This is not a standard nor generally accepted method to identify karst features. To identify karst features thoroughly, one must conduct a proper field study - get out of the car and walk the land. To ensure that all karst features are identified, the City and/or TCEQ staff should conduct a field-study investigation of karst features. Additionally, the District requests research data and field site access to look for recharge features for the Trinity Aquifer.
- Soils on the proposed irrigation fields are not suitable for wastewater effluent disposal based on soil survey information from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). There has been inadequate soil testing. The application should include soil data from all irrigation sites, not just the Heritage tract. When evaluated at the gross scale, data from the NRCS indicates that much of the irrigation areas are covered in thin soils with low permeability that will restrict effluent infiltration. Instead, the water will run off the thin soils, causing erosion and making its way to nearby waterways. Soils must be supplemented, or wastewater application rates reduced, so that the wastewater is fully assimilated by plants and soils onsite, and wastewater pollutants are not conveyed to surface or ground water.
- The location of the irrigation fields creates a risk for groundwater contamination. There is a relatively high number of wells in the vicinity of the proposed irrigation fields, according to maps prepared by the Texas Water Development

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<sup>1</sup> Watson, J.A., Broun, A.S., Hunt, B.B., Simth, B.A., Johns, D.A., Camp, J., Weirman, D.A., 2018, *Summary of Findings: Upper Onion Creek Dye Trace, Hays County, Texas, Winter 2017*.

<sup>2</sup> *Land-Applied Wastewater Effluent Impacts on the Edwards Aquifer*, by Dr. Lauren Ross, available at: <http://www.aquiferalliance.net/Library/GEAAPublications/GlenroseEdwardsWastewaterReport20111103.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> *Nitrate concentrations and potential sources in the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards aquifer and its contributing zone, Central Texas*; USGS Fact Sheet 2011-3035; <https://doi.org/10.3133/fs20113035>

<sup>4</sup> Hunt, B. B., A. S. Broun, D. A. Wierman, D. A. Johns, and B. A. Smith, 2016, Surface-water and groundwater interactions along Onion Creek, Central Texas: Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies Transactions, v. 66, p. 261–282

Board. Thus, many people are using groundwater as a domestic water supply, and it is important that irrigation practices not contaminate that groundwater.

The Heritage irrigation site sits atop the Trinity Aquifer outcrop (where the formation is at surface and may allow recharge via karst features or faults and fractures). According to the well logs submitted with the application, several wells intersect with caves, crevices, and fractures in the sub-surface, especially at 150 feet below ground. It is therefore very important to ensure that all measures are taken to avoid groundwater contamination, particularly identifying all karst features and maintaining a buffer around these features. Again, this underscores the need for proper field studies.

- Some of the proposed irrigation areas are too close to creeks. Buffers to prevent irrigation near the creeks are mapped, but it is not clear how buffers will be enforced. City should more clearly delineate creek-bed setbacks, buffers, and enforcement of those.
- The application's assessment of groundwater levels is inconsistent. At one point the application says that groundwater is 485-665 feet below the surface. But this is not supported by other data in the application. Rather, there are many indications in the application of water as shallow as 150 feet below the surface. These data include the driller's logs for wells, as well as several pages of water measurement level data in the application, including a measurement of water as shallow as 110 feet below ground.
- The draft permit should set effluent limitations on nitrate and total nitrogen, given the potential risk to contaminate groundwater. Disposal of wastewater effluent with high nitrate concentrations will increase naturally low nitrogen concentrations in existing groundwater. According to the Pollutant Analysis of Treated Effluent (Section 7 of the Domestic Wastewater Permit Application Technical Reports), the effluent currently has 16.3 mg/L Nitrate-Nitrogen. Groundwater concentrations in the area are naturally low in nitrate, often not detectible, usually less than 1 milligram per liter. Nitrates are a public health concern. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Primary Drinking Water Regulations establish a maximum contaminant level for Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) in drinking water at 10 mg/L. Long-term exposure above the MCL has the potential to cause serious illness and death in infants<sup>5</sup>.
- Some portions of Irrigation fields as mapped fall within the 100-year floodplain and wetlands and are unsuitable for irrigation. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has mapped wetlands on the Carter and Caliterra fields, and in the vicinity of the Heritage tract and the wastewater treatment plant site, and it may be that there are wetlands in the area proposed for irrigation or nearby. And yet, in a checked box, the application indicates there are no wetlands in the area. A portion of the Caliterra field is in the 100-year floodplain.

The City of Dripping Springs has support from throughout the community for wastewater management solutions that balance the unprecedented growth we are experiencing while protecting the unique qualities of the region, especially the quality of the groundwater upon which its citizens depend. The Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District is here to help and provide support.

Thank you for considering these concerns. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at 512-858 9253.

Sincerely,



Holly Fults  
President  
Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/national-primary-drinking-water-regulations>

**Lori Rowe**

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**From:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022 3:29 PM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC2; PUBCOMMENT-OPIC; PUBCOMMENT-ELD; PUBCOMMENT-WQ  
**Subject:** FW: Public comment on Permit Number WQ0014488001  
**Attachments:** HTGCD Comments on DS TLAP signed1.pdf

PM  
H  
RFR

**From:** gm@haysgroundwater.com <gm@haysgroundwater.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 5:24 PM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC <PUBCOMMENT-OCC@tceq.texas.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment on Permit Number WQ0014488001

**REGULATED ENTY NAME:** CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

**RN NUMBER:** RN104005434

**PERMIT NUMBER:** WQ0014488001

**DOCKET NUMBER:**

**COUNTY:** HAYS

**PRINCIPAL NAME:** CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

**CN NUMBER:** CN602491284

**FROM**

**NAME:** Charlie Flatten

**E-MAIL:** [gm@haysgroundwater.com](mailto:gm@haysgroundwater.com)

**COMPANY:** Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

**ADDRESS:** PO BOX 1648  
DRIPPING SPRINGS TX 78620-1648

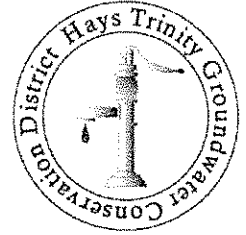
**PHONE:** 5126941121

**FAX:**

**COMMENTS:** See attached

January 18, 2022

Office of the Chief Clerk  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
MC-105  
P.O. Box 13087  
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#### **STAFF & BOARD**

**Charlie Flatten**  
*General Manager*

**Philip Webster**  
*Hydrogeologist*

**Keaton Hoelscher**  
*Geo-Technician*

**Laura Thomas**  
*Asst. Gen. Mgr.*

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**Holly Fults**  
*President*  
*District 3*

**Linda Kaye Rogers**  
*Vice President*  
*District 4*

**John Worrall**  
*Treasurer/Secretary*  
*District 1*

**Doc Jones**  
*District 5*

**Toby Shelton**  
*District 2*

Dye Trace studies conducted by the District illustrate the porous and transmissive nature of karst landscapes, allowing for a connectivity between Onion Creek and the Trinity Aquifer (Watson et al., 2019)<sup>1</sup>. When clay soils associated with karst and decaying limestone are saturated, they are unable to absorb irrigation<sup>1</sup> and are prone to run-off into creeks and/or recharge features. This threat is serious to land owners who have an investment-backed expectation of clean, clear water<sup>1</sup> in Onion Creek, and well owners who have similar expectations regarding their water wells.

It is imperative that this permit contain sufficient conditions and monitoring and operating requirements to avoid any point or non-point discharges of wastewater or elevated nutrients into surface and/or ground water. A thorough field study of the new sites should be completed and reviewed before permit approval.

#### **Comments on the Specifics of Draft Permit No. WQ0014488001**

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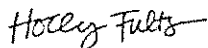
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Thank you for considering these concerns. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at 512-858 9253.

Sincerely,



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**Lori Rowe**

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**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022 3:30 PM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC2; PUBCOMMENT-OPIC; PUBCOMMENT-ELD; PUBCOMMENT-WQ  
**Subject:** FW: Water Quality Permit No. WQ0014488001 public comment #3  
**Attachments:** HTGCD Comments on DS TLAP signed.pdf

PM  
H  
RFR

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**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 8:07 PM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC <[PUBCOMMENT-OCC@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:PUBCOMMENT-OCC@tceq.texas.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Water Quality Permit No. WQ0014488001 public comment #3

**From:** Charlie Flatten <[gm@haysgroundwater.com](mailto:gm@haysgroundwater.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 5:55 PM  
**To:** CHIEFCLK <[chiefclk@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:chiefclk@tceq.texas.gov)>; Holly Fults <[fults4water@gmail.com](mailto:fults4water@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Water Quality Permit No. WQ0014488001 public comment #3

Forgive the chain of emails please.  
Find attached a final signed version with footnotes.  
Disregard the prior submittals.

Thank you,

Charlie Flatten  
512/694.1121



January 18, 2022

Office of the Chief Clerk  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
MC-105  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

**RE: Water Quality Permit No. WQ0014488001**

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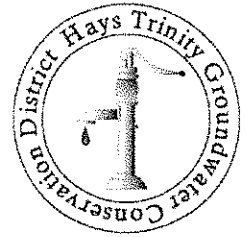
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#### **Western Hays County and Dripping Springs Area Effluent Disposal**

The Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District recognizes the City of Dripping Springs' need to dispose of treated effluent. The District favors the City's practice of land application and reuse and remains opposed to direct discharge and the danger of water quality degradation in wells adjacent to and downstream of direct recharge and discharge points. However, because of the karst geology of the region, and the interchange between surface and groundwater in losing streams and other land based recharge features, land application must be executed with extreme care and with thorough knowledge of the land characteristics, especially where conduits result in the interface and exchange of surface water and groundwater.



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Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

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**Lori Rowe**

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**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022 3:30 PM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC2; PUBCOMMENT-OPIC; PUBCOMMENT-ELD; PUBCOMMENT-WQ  
**Subject:** FW: Water Quality Permit No. WQ0014488001 public comment  
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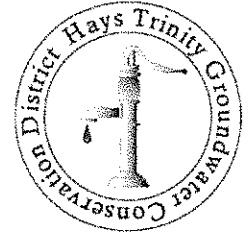
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Please disregard the last email and content and use this only.

Thank you,  
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General Manager  
512/694.1121

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Office of the Chief Clerk  
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**From:** Charlie Flatten <gm@haysgroundwater.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 5:21 PM  
**To:** CHIEFCLK <chiefclk@tceq.texas.gov>; Kayla Shearhart <staff3@haysgroundwater.com>; Gregory M. Ellis <Greg@gmellis.law>  
**Subject:** Water Quality Permit No. WQ0014488001 public comment

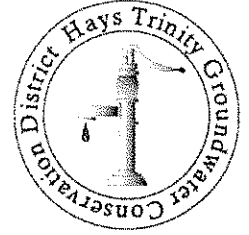
Please find attached public comment on Water Quality Permit No. WQ0014488001.

Thank you,  
Charlie Flatten  
General Manager  
Hays Trinity GCD  
Dripping Springs Texas



January 18, 2022

Office of the Chief Clerk  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
MC-105  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087



VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

**RE: Water Quality Permit No. WQ0014488001**

Dear Chief Clerk:

The following comments by the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District ("District") are in response to the proposed DRAFT Texas Land Application Permit (TLAP) amendment of TCEQ Permit No. WQ0014488001 as filed by the City of Dripping Springs. Please accept these comments as a request for a contest case hearing on the issue presented and a request that the commissioners reconsider the Executive Director's decision. The District is also requesting a public meeting in Dripping Springs to provide the District and the affected community the opportunity to ask questions regarding the application.

The Draft Amended Permit authorizes the addition of two irrigation sites (one surface, one subsurface drip) and an increase in effluent disposal from 319,000 gallons per day (gpd) to 429,000 gpd. One of the new proposed surface irrigation sites is in close proximity to Onion Creek and both sit atop and recharge the Trinity Aquifer.

The Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (District) is a state agency authorized by Chapter 8843 Special District Local Laws Code (SB 1147), and Chapter 36 of the State Water Code to protect and manage the quality and quantity of the Trinity Aquifer within the boundaries of its jurisdiction, which include all of the proposed new irrigation sites.

Onion Creek is a major recharge feature for the Dripping Springs portion of the Trinity Aquifer and eastward. Studies document that Onion Creek recharges the aquifer (directly in some areas) that supplies many public and private water wells with water for domestic potable use, agriculture, and commercial use.

#### **Western Hays County and Dripping Springs Area Effluent Disposal**

The Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District recognizes the City of Dripping Springs' need to dispose of treated effluent. The District favors the City's practice of land application and reuse and remains opposed to direct discharge and the danger of water quality degradation in wells adjacent to and downstream of direct recharge and discharge points. However, because of the karst geology of the region, and the interchange between surface and groundwater in losing streams and other land based recharge features, land application must be executed with extreme care and with thorough knowledge of the land characteristics, especially where conduits result in the interface and exchange of surface water and groundwater.

#### **STAFF & BOARD**

**Charlie Flatten**  
*General Manager*

**Philip Webster**  
*Hydrogeologist*

**Keaton Hoelscher**  
*Geo-Technician*

**Laura Thomas**  
*Asst. Gen. Mgr.*

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**Holly Fufts**  
*President*  
*District 3*

**Linda Kaye Rogers**  
*Vice President*  
*District 4*

**John Worrall**  
*Treasurer/Secretary*  
*District 1*

**Doc Jones**  
*District 5*

**Toby Shelton**  
*District 2*

Dye Trace studies conducted by the District illustrate the porous and transmissive nature of karst landscapes, allowing for a connectivity between Onion Creek and the Trinity Aquifer (Watson et al., 2019)<sup>1</sup>. When clay soils associated with karst and decaying limestone are saturated, they are unable to absorb irrigation<sup>1</sup> and are prone to run-off into creeks and/or recharge features. This threat is serious to land owners who have an investment-backed expectation of clean, clear water<sup>1</sup> in Onion Creek, and well owners who have similar expectations regarding their water wells.

It is imperative that this permit contain sufficient conditions and monitoring and operating requirements to avoid any point or non-point discharges of wastewater or elevated nutrients into surface and/or ground water. A thorough field study of the new sites should be completed and reviewed before permit approval.

#### **Comments on the Specifics of Draft Permit No. WQ0014488001**

**The Draft Permit should contain the following provisions.** The two additional irrigation fields (like the existing fields) are located over the Trinity Aquifer outcrop, which is designated by the Texas Water Development Board as a major aquifer of the State.

- **The City must detail how they will effectively manage, monitor, and operate a surface and subsurface irrigation system with adequate storage on multiple, scattered sites.** Clarity on practical and procedural methodology, management, monitoring, and operational specifics are needed in advance of permit consideration.
- **Both irrigation areas must be carefully inspected to assure adequate soils and the absence of recharge or other features that could result in channelizing irrigated wastewater into surface or ground water.** The Carter site (proposed outfall 4) is near the banks of Onion Creek and just upstream to a “losing reach” of the stream that recharges the Trinity Aquifer via swallets and karstic recharge features along Onion Creek<sup>1</sup>. There may be recharge features in this area in the uplands as well as in the creek bed. *The City and/or TCEQ staff should conduct a field-study investigation of soil suitability, modifying approved irrigation areas or construction methodology thereof to ensure protection of drinking water supplies (Trinity Aquifer wells in direction connection) connected to these losing stream segments.*
- **Recharge-feature identification methodology is inadequate.** The application states that in order to identify recharge features on the Heritage irrigation site, the applicant drove by the site to conduct the investigation. This is not a standard nor generally accepted method to identify karst features. To identify karst features thoroughly, one must conduct a proper field study - get out of the car and walk the land. To ensure that all karst features are identified, *the City and/or TCEQ staff should conduct a field-study investigation of karst features. Additionally, the District requests research data and field site access to look for recharge features for the Trinity Aquifer.*
- **Soils on the proposed irrigation fields are not suitable for wastewater effluent disposal based on soil survey information from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). There has been inadequate soil testing.** *The application should include soil data from all irrigation sites, not just the Heritage tract.* When evaluated at the gross scale, data from the NRCS indicates that much of the irrigation areas are covered in thin soils with low permeability that will restrict effluent infiltration. Instead, the water will run off the thin soils, causing erosion and making its way to nearby waterways. *Soils must be supplemented, or wastewater application rates reduced, so that the wastewater is fully assimilated by plants and soils onsite, and wastewater pollutants are not conveyed to surface or ground water.*
- **The location of the irrigation fields creates a risk for groundwater contamination.** There is a relatively high number of wells in the vicinity of the proposed irrigation fields, according to maps prepared by the Texas Water Development Board. Thus, many people are using groundwater as a domestic water supply, and it is important that irrigation practices not contaminate that groundwater.

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<sup>1</sup> Watson, J.A., Broun, A.S., Hunt, B.B., Smith, B.A., Johns, D.A., Camp, J., Weirman, D.A., 2018, *Summary of Findings: Upper Onion Creek Dye Trace, Hays County, Texas, Winter 2017.*

<sup>1</sup> *Land-Applied Wastewater Effluent Impacts on the Edwards Aquifer*, by Dr. Lauren Ross, available at: <http://www.aquiferalliance.net/Library/GEAAPublications/GlenroseEdwardsWastewaterReport20111103.pdf>

<sup>1</sup> *Nitrate concentrations and potential sources in the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards aquifer and its contributing zone, Central Texas*; USGS Fact Sheet 2011-3035; <https://doi.org/10.3133/fs20113035>

<sup>1</sup> Hunt, B. B., A. S. Broun, D. A. Wierman, D. A. Johns, and B. A. Smith, 2016, Surface-water and groundwater interactions along Onion Creek, Central Texas: Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies Transactions, v. 66, p. 261–282

<sup>1</sup> Hunt, B. B., A. S. Broun, D. A. Wierman, D. A. Johns, and B. A. Smith, 2016, Surface-water and groundwater interactions along Onion Creek, Central Texas: Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies Transactions, v. 66, p. 261–282

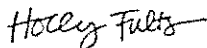
The Heritage irrigation site sits atop the Trinity Aquifer outcrop (where the formation is at surface and may allow recharge via karst features or faults and fractures). According to the well logs submitted with the application, several wells intersect with caves, crevices, and fractures in the sub-surface, especially at 150 feet below ground. **It is therefore very important to ensure that all measures are taken to avoid groundwater contamination, particularly identifying all karst features and maintaining a buffer around these features. Again, this underscores the need for proper field studies.**

- **Some of the proposed irrigation areas are too close to creeks. Buffers to prevent irrigation near the creeks are mapped, but it is not clear how buffers will be enforced.** City should more clearly delineate creek-bed setbacks, buffers, and enforcement of those.
- **The application's assessment of groundwater levels is inconsistent.** At one point the application says that groundwater is 485-665 feet below the surface. But this is not supported by other data in the application. Rather, there are many indications in the application of water as shallow as 150 feet below the surface. These data include the driller's logs for wells, as well as several pages of water measurement level data in the application, including a measurement of water as shallow as 110 feet below ground.
- **The draft permit should set effluent limitations on nitrate and total nitrogen, given the potential risk to contaminate groundwater.** Disposal of wastewater effluent with high nitrate concentrations will increase naturally low nitrogen concentrations in existing groundwater. According to the Pollutant Analysis of Treated Effluent (Section 7 of the Domestic Wastewater Permit Application Technical Reports), the effluent currently has 16.3 mg/L Nitrate-Nitrogen. Groundwater concentrations in the area are naturally low in nitrate, often not detectible, usually less than 1 milligram per liter. Nitrates are a public health concern. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Primary Drinking Water Regulations establish a maximum contaminant level for Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) in drinking water at 10 mg/L. Long-term exposure above the MCL has the potential to cause serious illness and death in infants.<sup>2</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/national-primary-drinking-water-regulations>
- **Some portions of Irrigation fields as mapped fall within the 100-year floodplain and wetlands and are unsuitable for irrigation.** The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has mapped wetlands on the Carter and Caliterra fields, and in the vicinity of the Heritage tract and the wastewater treatment plant site, and it may be that there are wetlands in the area proposed for irrigation or nearby. And yet, in a checked box, the application indicates there are no wetlands in the area. A portion of the Caliterra field is in the 100-year floodplain.

The City of Dripping Springs has support from throughout the community for wastewater management solutions that balance the unprecedented growth we are experiencing while protecting the unique qualities of the region, especially the quality of the groundwater upon which its citizens depend. The Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District is here to help and provide support.

Thank you for considering these concerns. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at 512-858 9253.

Sincerely,



Holly Fults  
President  
Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/national-primary-drinking-water-regulations>

**Lori Rowe**

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**From:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 2:54 PM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC2; PUBCOMMENT-OPIC; PUBCOMMENT-ELD; PUBCOMMENT-WQ  
**Subject:** FW: Public comment on Permit Number WQ0014488001

H

**From:** jenmockschaeffe@outlook.com <jenmockschaeffe@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 2:26 PM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC <PUBCOMMENT-OCC@tceq.texas.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment on Permit Number WQ0014488001

**REGULATED ENTY NAME** CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

**RN NUMBER:** RN104005434

**PERMIT NUMBER:** WQ0014488001

**DOCKET NUMBER:**

**COUNTY:** HAYS

**PRINCIPAL NAME:** CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

**CN NUMBER:** CN602491284

**FROM**

**NAME:** Jennifer Schaeffer

**E-MAIL:** [jenmockschaeffe@outlook.com](mailto:jenmockschaeffe@outlook.com)

**COMPANY:**

**ADDRESS:** 530 CROSSWATER LN  
DRIPPING SPRINGS TX 78620-2087

**PHONE:** 2028708062

**FAX:**

**COMMENTS:** As a resident that could be directly impacted by this project and without sufficient time to fully vet the impacts to my community's health and safety, environmental water quality, fish/wildlife and their habitats, drinking water/wells and groundwater I write to request a 60-day extension of the comment period and public hearing opportunities. I have concerns about this project that are not assuaged by the information provided. I request more transparent processes to fully understand the project's implications in a setting where we can ask questions and receive

real answers and be able to hold our state agencies and elected officials accountable for implementing state and federal laws as intended. Thank you for considering my request.

**Lori Rowe**

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**From:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 8:40 AM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC2; PUBCOMMENT-OPIC; PUBCOMMENT-ELD; PUBCOMMENT-WQ  
**Subject:** FW: Public comment on Permit Number WQ0014488001

H

**From:** Janwesson@gmail.com <Janwesson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 2:21 PM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC <PUBCOMMENT-OCC@tceq.texas.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment on Permit Number WQ0014488001

**REGULATED ENTY NAME** CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

**RN NUMBER:** RN104005434

**PERMIT NUMBER:** WQ0014488001

**DOCKET NUMBER:**

**COUNTY:** HAYS

**PRINCIPAL NAME:** CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

**CN NUMBER:** CN602491284

**FROM**

**NAME:** Cynthia J Wesson

**E-MAIL:** [Janwesson@gmail.com](mailto:Janwesson@gmail.com)

**COMPANY:**

**ADDRESS:** 1901 PROCHNOW RD  
DRIPPING SPRINGS TX 78620-4841

**PHONE:** 5129643594

**FAX:**

**COMMENTS:** I believe because of the magnitude of this request we need a public hearing. With this request for permit happening during the holidays and behind closed doors. Transparency is needed in All cases. Thank you