

education  
conservation  
cooperation



March 17, 2017

Dr. Andrew Sansom, Executive Director  
The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment  
Texas State University  
601 University Dr.  
San Marcos, TX 78666

Dear Dr. Sansom,

This letter is to confirm our support for the upper San Marcos Watershed Protection Plan (WPP), as well as the Meadows Center's and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's efforts to begin implementation of the Plan, also known as the San Marcos Watershed Initiative (SMWI). The Hill Country Alliance (HCA) has long supported the work of watershed-scale restoration and conservation planning across the Hill Country, and we appreciate the opportunity to play a more strategic role in supporting, advising, and voicing the interests of the Hill Country in this process. We are supportive of a community approved and federally accepted WPP for the upper San Marcos River.

There are many pressures on the river, its tributaries and its source waters, the Edwards Aquifer. The development and implementation of this plan will help the community and the SMWI stakeholders, including water resource managers, land developers, NGOs and city, county and university leaders improve and protect water quality in the upper San Marcos River long into the future.

We look forward to supporting the community and the Meadows Center with the proposed Implementation efforts to prevent non-point source pollution in the Upper San Marcos Watershed, including:

- Structural best management practices for new developments and retrofits for existing development;
- Demonstration projects to encourage adoption of water quality protection practices;
- Education and Outreach Strategies;
- Analysis and improvement of Codes & Regulations impacting water quality, and;
- Information gathering and monitoring to address remaining data gaps.

We can specifically offer the following support for Implementation activities:

- Provide support for education and outreach activities;
- Provide an interface with the wider public across the Hill Country;
- Network between this effort and other watershed-based planning initiatives across the Hill Country, and;
- Provide technical support, in-kind contributions and expertise regarding land management strategies.

Sincerely,

Katherine Romans  
Executive Director  
Hill Country Alliance