

# Community and Economic Benefits of Texas Rivers, Springs and Bays

Friday, April 12th, 2002

*Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center  
Austin, Texas*

**Sponsored by**

Texas Center for Policy Studies

**In Partnership with**

Texas Rivers Protection Association

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Environmental Defense

Hill Country Groundwater District Alliance

Coastal Conservation Association Texas

Lower Laguna Madre Foundation

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Texas has made many advances in water planning and water management over the last few years. Nevertheless, the issues of how to make sure Texas rivers and streams retain sufficient natural flows; how to protect valuable springs from being dried up by over-pumping of groundwater; and how to ensure that our bays and estuaries receive sufficient freshwater inflows are still largely unresolved. These issues are currently the subject of much attention at the Texas legislature and in our state's natural resource agencies. This conference is designed to explore the community and economic benefits of protecting Texas rivers, springs and bays. Participants will also discuss what legal and policy tools are, or should be, available to ensure that future generations will also enjoy those benefits.

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## Conference Agenda

8:30 to 9:00 a.m. Registration and Coffee

9:00 to 9:30 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks, Andy Sansom, Executive Director, International Institute for Sustainable Water Resources, Southwest Texas State University

### Morning Session

*The morning discussions will focus on a variety of community and economic benefits of instream flows, spring flows and freshwater inflows to the bays and estuaries.*

9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Urban and Rural Benefits

Moderator: Ken Kramer, Director, Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club

Presentations: *Relationships Between Instream Flows and Water and Wastewater Treatment Costs*, Dr. Richard Kiesling, Hydrologist, US Geological Survey; Adjunct Professor of Environmental Science, Department of Chemistry and Geosciences, Tarleton State University

*The Importance of Stream Flow and Springs Flow to Rural Landowners and Landscapes*, George Cofer, Executive Director, Hill Country Conservancy and 5th Generation Texas Rancher

10:10 to 10:30 a.m. Questions and Answers

10:30 to 10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 to 11:45 a.m. Coastal and Tourism Benefits

Moderator: Teresa Carillo, Executive Director, Coastal Bend Bays Foundation

Presentations: *Economic and Other Values of Texas Bays and Estuaries*, Pam Baker, Fisheries Biologist, Environmental Defense

*Water Related Nature Tourism in Texas*, Linda Campbell, Nature Tourism Coordinator, Wildlife Diversity Branch, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

10:10 to 10:30 a.m. Questions and Answers

11:45 to 1:00 p.m. Lunch Break (Box lunch provided)



**Afternoon Session 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

The afternoon panel will present a variety of perspectives on current Texas law and policy for protecting stream flows, springs and freshwater inflows; what, if any, changes might be needed in this framework; and the prospects for change in the next few years.



Moderator

Mary Kelly, Texas Center for Policy Studies

Panelists

State Representative Robby Cook, Eagle Lake, House Natural Resources Committee

Myron Hess, Legal Council, National Wildlife Federation

Tom Beard, Rancher and President, Leoncita Cattle Company; Chair, Far West Texas Regional Water Planning Group

*Kathleen White, Commissioner, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission \**

*Jesus Garza, City Manager, City of Austin \**

*\* invited*



**REGISTRATION FORM**

*Seating is Limited, Please RSVP early*

**Community and Economic Benefits of Texas Rivers, Springs, and Bays**

**April 12th, 2002**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (optional ) \_\_\_\_\_

I will attend the conference.

I am enclosing \$35.00 (payable to TCPS).

I cannot attend the workshop but would like my name added to your mailing list.

**Mail Registration and payment to TCPS, 44 East Avenue, Suite 306, Austin, TX 78701, 512-474-0811.**

**Please RSVP by Friday, April 5th.**

**For additional information, please contact Laura Brock, Texas Center for Policy Studies, 512/474-0811 or via e-mail at lb@texascenter.org.**

Directions to the

**LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER**

4801 La Crosse Avenue, Austin, Texas 78739

512/292-4200

**[www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)**

**From Downtown or the Austin/Bergstrom Airport**

Go south on Interstate 35, take exit 227—go west on Slaughter Lane for 6 miles. Go south on Loop 1 (left from Slaughter Lane), then east (left) on La Crosse Avenue.