

Meet your new neighbor.



Vulcan Materials plans to set up a new open-pit limestone quarry in a non-industrial area of central Comal County, between Bulverde and New Braunfels.

- 1500 acres
- Nearly three miles across
- 1467 football fields
- 24 x 7 x 365 operations
- 410 truck trips/day
- 75,000 loads/year

Schools, neighborhoods, natural attractions, and over 12,000 residents were here first.



Dear Comal County resident or landowner,

The beloved Hill Country and our natural resources are under attack. Tree-covered hills, ancient oaks, spring-fed waterways, and our clean air are being threatened: the beauty and resources of the Hill Country are on the auction block.

Comal County and the Texas Hill Country are among the fastest growing areas in the United States. Many view the growth and economic development as proud achievements. But if we allow out-of-state corporations to blast and mine limestone with no regard for the health of area residents, conservation of natural resources, or compatible land use, the Hill Country as we know it will be gone.

Vulcan Materials and the aggregate industry understand that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality—TCEQ—does little to hold them accountable when it comes to public health and safety. In Texas alone, over **80 formal complaints** have been filed against Vulcan since 2002. Vulcan's Loop 1604 plant has cited **over 35 violations** of air, storm water, and wastewater regulations during recent years.⁷

Furthermore, ensuring that Vulcan will not exceed air contamination limits will be impossible since there are **no air quality monitors** in Comal County! The nearest station measuring particulate matter dust, diesel emissions, and ozone is in San Antonio—17 miles upwind.¹³

Now is the time to join together and challenge our elected officials to engage, leverage their political resources, and support citizens in protecting our health and preserving our beautiful Texas Hill Country.

See inside for details, news, updates, and how you can help . . .

www.stop3009vulcanquarry.com



Carcinogenic Dust

All rock-crushing quarries create and emit dust particles strongly associated with health problems such as lung cancer,¹ heart disease,² stroke,³ and reproductive issues.⁴ The finest particles are invisible, yet respirable, and will **affect residents living miles away** from the actual mining and blasting site.



Endangered Water Resources

The proposed quarry is located entirely over the sensitive Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. It will endanger an already-strained Comal County water supply by **over-pumping**, threaten **collapse** of private wells and caves, increase **deterioration of water quality**, and intensify area creek flooding.



Truck Traffic

The increased 18-wheeler truck traffic—up to 410 additional truck trips per day—will make our unprepared two-lane roads **more dangerous and increase travel times**. Roadways most impacted will be State Highway 46, FM 3009, FM 1863, and Beck Road. Heavy truck traffic will directly pass through several Comal ISD school zones.



Lower Property Values

According to studies, properties within a five-mile radius of a new quarry lose up to **20 percent of their market value**.^{5,6} Over 12,000 people live in the surrounding area. Property value losses are estimated at over \$100 million. Comal County, Comal ISD, and emergency services districts will lose an estimated \$2,000,000 in annual revenue.¹¹

What's Next?

TCEQ is currently in the process of reviewing and responding to all verbal and written public comments that were submitted by February 27.

TCEQ will issue a Response to Comments—RTC—along with a decision on Vulcan's permit application—**probably sometime this summer**. Everyone who submitted a public comment or spoke at the public meeting will receive a copy of the RTC and permit decision in the mail.

The letter will provide an option to submit a **contested case hearing request**. Individuals, groups, and local governments then have 30 days to request a hearing as an “affected person.”

Who May Request a Contested Case Hearing?

Residents, landowners, organizations, counties, cities, and school districts may request a hearing to more fully evaluate the impacts of the proposed quarry on their health, property, or natural resources.¹²

If you submitted comments to TCEQ or spoke at the February 27 meeting, you are entitled to request a contested case hearing on the matter.

TCEQ requires a list of specific information before granting “affected person” status in a contested case hearing. **Watch our website and Facebook** for upcoming details on these requirements.

What Can I Do?

1. CONTRIBUTE. We are an all-volunteer group of citizens banding together to protect our families and the beautiful Hill Country. But fighting a huge corporation like Vulcan requires legal and scientific expertise. Many of your neighbors have already joined together to raise 22 percent of our \$100,000 goal. We need 400 more donations of \$200 each—but smaller amounts are welcome too! Help fund legal representation with a tax-deductible contribution online at gofundme.com/stop3009vulcanquarry or by check payable to:

Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance
1809 Blanco Road, San Antonio, TX 78212
Write Stop 3009 Vulcan Quarry on the memo line

2. BE INFORMED. Learn more at our website: www.stop3009vulcanquarry.com. Follow **Friends of Dry Comal Creek** on Facebook, join our mailing list, and tell your neighbors!

3. CONTACT PUBLIC OFFICIALS. Voice your concerns to elected officials. Urge them to write legislation, pass resolutions, and stand for preserving our Hill Country community. They are supposed to be working for YOU! Contact information and messaging tips available at www.stop3009vulcanquarry.com/action.

4. ATTEND UPCOMING EVENTS. Stay tuned for informational meetings, fundraisers, and other events.

5. VOLUNTEER. There are many opportunities to support the cause. If you are interested in getting more involved, please email us at stop3009vulcanquarry@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and helping to . . .

Stop 3009 Vulcan Quarry

www.stop3009vulcanquarry.com

Why Is Protecting Our Aquifer Water So Important?

Organized in 2002 from a band of citizen-led groups concerned about the impact of urban sprawl on our water quality and quantity, the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance—GEAA—was formed. “Over the years, GEAA’s mission has not changed, but the need for advocacy has become even more immediate,” says Annalisa Peace, Executive Director of GEAA.

“Urban sprawl in the form of residential and commercial development is continuing at a pace at which our natural resources, especially water, cannot be sustained. And, during the last several years, our beloved Hill County is experiencing an even greater assault from the aggregate industry. Between 2016 and 2017 TCEQ issued over 8,056 air quality permits in Texas.”

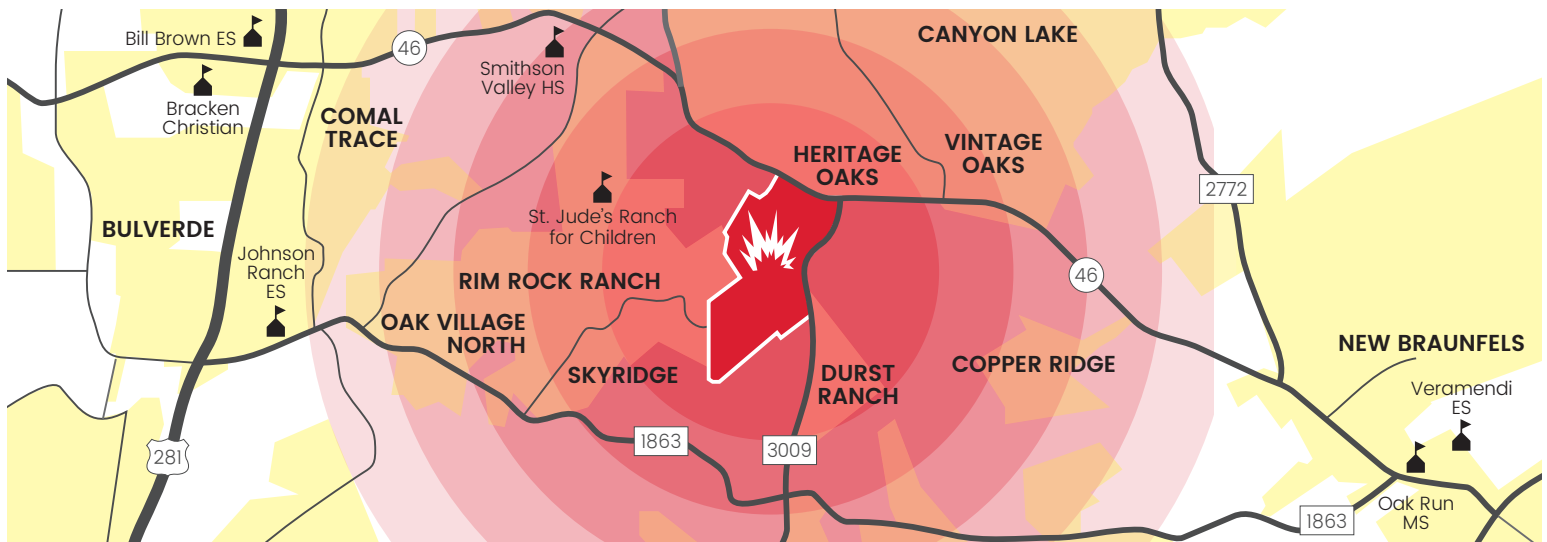
The Edwards Aquifer ecosystem of Central Texas is one of our most valuable, irreplaceable, and endangered public treasures. The EPA recognizes it as a “sole source” water supply and it is the primary source of drinking water for millions of Texans. It is our right and duty to preserve and protect the aquifer, its contributing Hill Country watersheds, its great springs, and its native biodiversity for the benefit of all residents and future generations.

GEAA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that promotes effective, broad-based advocacy for protection and preservation of the Edwards Aquifer, its springs, watersheds, and the Texas Hill Country that sustains it. All contributions are tax deductible. Want to know more about GEAA or how you can help? Visit aquiferalliance.org.



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