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Local state rep files mining proximity bill



File photo
A proposed mining operation would be located within the proximity of Longhorn Caverns State Park. A state bill, if passed, would prevent aggregate operations from locating near such venues.

By **Connie Swinney**
Associate Editor

A local state representative has taken aim at the aggregate industry with a bill in the 89th Texas Legislative Session that would limit mining proximity to sites that families frequent.

"I've filed a bill that I am working hard to pass, HB 3482, that would amend Texas law to protect waterways, parks, and camps for quarries being located nearby, in the future," State Rep. Ellen

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State Rep

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Troxclair (HD-19) told the Bulletin. "And I will continue to work with residents and local leaders to stand against this proposed quarry ever breaking ground, in any way that we can find to stop it, together."

On Feb. 14, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) granted Asphalt Inc. an air quality permit (No. 176835) as it was deemed "administratively complete." The proposed facility by Asphalt Inc., LCC would be located at 3221 Farm to Market Road 3509 in Burnet County,

just outside Burnet.

Area residents have hosted forums and public meetings as well as submitted comments to public entities rejecting the operations due to air, water and noise pollution concerns.

In immediate response to constituent complaints, Troxclair filed a motion to overturn (MTO) the TCEQ permit. TCEQ commissioners will review and make a ruling on the MTO, which could revoke the air quality permit.

Now comes HB 3482 from the state representative aimed at mitigating the impact of rock quarries on parks, youth camps

and adjacent waterways.

The bill reads as follows:

"Sec. 8503.033. PERMITS FOR CERTAIN QUARRIES AND MINES. (a) This section applies only to a quarry or mine that is proposed to be located within:

(1) four miles of a lake owned or operated by the authority;

(2) four miles of the entrances to two or more state parks or caverns operated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; and

(3) two miles of a youth camp licensed by the Department of State Health Services.

(b) The authority may

not issue a permit for a quarry or mine at a site to which this section applies unless the authority or the commission has performed a study and confirmed that the proposed quarry or mining operation will not harm any lake or state park."

Section 2 of the bill would specify permit applications made to the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA).

"A permit, the application for which is filed with the authority (LCRA) before the effective date of this Act, is governed by the law as it existed immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is continued



Contributed photos
In February, State Rep. Ellen Troxclair (HD-19) met with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to talk about several topics.

in effect for that purpose," the bill states.

If approved, the legislation would take effect on Sept. 1, 2025, however, only new permit applications submitted after that date would be subject to the new law.

"We will be working

on putting a stop to it by any and all means available," Troxclair said.

The 89th session is scheduled to convene on June 2.

Troxclair represents Blanco, Burnet, Gillespie, Kendall and parts of western Travis counties.