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Rep files bill to protect venues from mining



File photo
State Rep. Ellen Troxclair (HD-19) discusses issues
with Gov. Greg Abbott in February.

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 Troxclair told The Highlander. “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, wa-

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ter 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



File photos
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.