



FRANK CLOUD COOKSEY

Mayor of Austin 1985-1988

Save Barton Creek Association Past-President

“

I particularly enjoy a swim on a fine summer day there, experiencing the feel of the clear, cool spring water, and sharing a relaxing rest in the sun with the hundreds others who love Barton Springs and Barton Creek and environs as much as I do. This is the real Austin.”

I believe that my public advocacy for Barton Springs protection began when I was interviewed in a video about the Springs by Connie Moore, in which I said something to the effect that I hoped that heaven would be like being at Barton Springs. Connie was very active in the Save Barton Creek Association, and I think that her interview resulted in my being recruited for their Board. I served on the Board of the Save Barton Creek Association for a number of years, including a couple of years as President, ending up drafting their corporate charter and by-laws. This involvement led to my serving on the two City of Austin commissions that proposed the ordinances regulating development in the Williamson Creek and Lower Watersheds (Bear, Little Bear, and Onion Creek).

As Mayor, I strongly supported the passage of the Comprehensive Watersheds Ordinance, which is still one of the major regulatory devices protecting the Edwards Aquifer. Also, as Mayor, I led the effort, with Senator Gonzalo Barrientos, to create the Edwards Aquifer Underground Water District. And, both as a citizen and as a lawyer, I opposed the Freeport-McMoran project, participating in the 1990 hearing when I spoke against that development.

I was also active in the litigation that challenged the attempt to kill the SOS Ordinance, a case won by the Hilgers and Watkins firm, where I worked as a lawyer. I have continued to support all efforts to protect Barton Springs and the Edwards Aquifer, including being a plaintiff in the recent litigation to require proper environmental protections in the construction of Loop 1 (Mopac) changes over the Aquifer.

Barton Springs, which I have enjoyed since childhood in Austin, is a unique feature in the City of Austin. It symbolizes the importance of natural beauty to our citizens, and has a spiritual quality to it, being enjoyed by our residents and visitors to our community throughout the years. I particularly enjoy a swim on a fine summer day there, experiencing the feel of the clear, cool spring water, and sharing a relaxing rest in the sun with the hundreds others who love Barton Springs and Barton Creek and environs as much as I do. This is the real Austin.

