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For Immediate Release

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Hill Country Water Celebration Sept. 26 for fun and water conservation

WVWA introduces Friends of Jacob's Well opportunity at this year's event

Driftwood, Texas (September 8, 2010) -- The Hill Country Water Celebration with award-winning singer-songwriter Eliza Gilkyson is September 26 at the Salt Lick Pavilion, Driftwood, Texas. This is the second year for Wimberley Valley Watershed Association (WVWA), to host this Celebration. Money raised with this year's event will fund three areas:

- 1) **Rainwater harvesting at Jacob's Well** - Conserving water by harvesting rainwater is a very direct way to reduce the impacts of population growth on the Trinity Aquifer and preserve spring flows for our creeks and rivers.

- 2) **Water quality monitoring** - The WVWA monitors the water quality of Cypress Creek and the Blanco River and provides critical data needed to assess the ecological health of these important water resources. The WVWA is the only non-profit providing water quality data for the Texas Clean Rivers Program. This program keeps a watchful eye on these pristine water ways and will help maintain the long-term health of Jacob's Well, Blue Hole, Cypress Creek and the Blanco River.

- 3) **Community education expansion** - Support of the Hill Country Water Celebration will help WVWA meet the goal of inviting every school district in Hays County to visit Jacob's Well. At Jacob's Well, we teach the importance of conservation and help people find their personal power to make a difference. The WVWA currently offers tours of Jacob's Well Natural Area free to the public every Saturday morning at 10:00 am.

“Investment in education is the best way to develop ecological literacy and inspire the stewardship ethic of our community,” says Barbara Attwell, WVWA education coordinator. “Without this, our resources are at risk.”

All three areas are important as rapid growth of the Texas Hill Country continues to place high demand on the water supply. “Conservation of land and water are at heart of our mission to sustain the environmental and economic health of the Texas Hill Country,” says David Baker, WVWA’s executive director.

“Our first Celebration last year was a wonderful time for all, and this year promises to be even better,” says Al Sander, chair of the event and WVWA board member. “The combination of Eliza, the Salt Lick and friends coming together to have fun and support water conservation on a Sunday evening can not be beat.”

This year the event will feature the introduction of the *Friends of Jacob’s Well* - an opportunity to be involved with activities of WVWA at Jacob’s Well year round. Special events for the *Friends* will include presentations, picnics and concerts.

Sander says WVWA supporters often ask him how they can help support the organization’s mission. “The formation of the *Friends of Jacob’s Well* will give all supporters the opportunity to be involved in the protection of our streams and rivers.” Linda Lang, a long-time volunteer at Jacob’s Well, has agreed to chair the group. “We will initiate the membership at the Celebration,” Sander says.

To become a founding member of the *Friends of Jacob’s Well*, attend the Hill Country Water Celebration, Sunday, September 26 for wonderful music, benefit auction and great food at the beautiful Salt Lick Pavilion in Driftwood, Texas, and support clean water and land conservation.

Tickets for the event are \$65, and include dinner and the concert. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm, followed by the concert at 7:30 pm. **Please purchase your tickets by September 20, 2010.** Tickets may be purchased online at www.hillcountrywatercelebration.com or at the Wimberley Visitors’ Center. Reserved seating for a table of eight may be purchased by calling 512-722-3457.