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REQUEST FOR MEDIA COVERAGE

Citizens Oppose Permit to Discharge Sewage Effluent Into San Geronimo Creek

WHAT : TCEQ contested case hearing. San Geronimo Valley Alliance and individual land owners are opposing a sewage discharge permit application for the Hills of Castle Rock sewer plant near Bandera Rd -- Park Rd 37 intersection

WHEN : Tues., July 22, 2008, 10 a.m.

WHERE : Kendall County Courthouse (the newer one), 201 E. San Antonio, 2nd Floor, Room 239 (District Courtroom), Boerne, Texas

WHO : San Geronimo Valley Alliance , the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, and sister groups have requested this hearing, as well as the City of San Antonio, SAWS, the City of Castroville, State Rep. David Leibowitz, and others

WHY : Potential Edwards Aquifer contamination and major flooding issues

Jurisdiction will be established by the administrative law judge, and written and oral public comment may be accepted. Party status will be determined, and if there's no settlement, a schedule will be set. This is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

It is estimated that between 7 % and 15% of the Edwards Aquifer recharge in Bexar County is produced through the San Geronimo Creek watershed. When the aquifer becomes polluted to that degree, the health and safety of almost 2 million water users in San Antonio and surrounding areas will be severely jeopardized.

Last August, even without 225,000 gallons of sewer effluent per day dumped into San Geronimo Creek, Castroville was nearly flooded out when San Geronimo Creek and the Medina River overflowed their banks.

The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, the Alamo Soil and Conservation District, the cities of San Antonio and Austin, and many others have voiced support for legislation that would prohibit the practice of releasing treated sewage effluent into water ways that recharge the Edwards Aquifer.

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