

## Hearing Begins For Sewage Treatment Construction Plan 1-26-09 KSAT News

A hearing has begun to determine if a developer will receive a sewer plant permit to build on more than 1,700 acres in far northwest Bexar County.

For two years, the San Antonio Water System has fought the plan by saying the development -- the Hills of Castle Rock subdivision -- would be too close to the Edwards Aquifer and Geronimo Creek.

The project, located on Park Road 37 and Bandera Road, has many residents fighting with Barcuch Properties over the need for the treatment plant.

"We feel very strongly that we have a good case that it would be in the public's interest to protect the aquifer by denying this permit," said Douglas McNeel with the San Geronimo Valley Alliance.

A consultant with Barcuch Properties testified Monday that they had already received a draft discharge permit for the Texas Center for Environmental Quality proving they had been following all regulations.

"The project meets all of the local, state and federal requirements," said consultant David Parkerson.

Parkerson said the development would happen 10 miles away from the recharge zone and would not pose a hazard, but protesters said they're concerned the thousands of gallons of treated sewage would endanger their safety.

A judge will make a recommendation to the TCEQ, who will ultimately make the final decision.

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