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Request for Coverage – August 27, 2007

New Development Threatens Swimming Hole & Edwards Aquifer

Developer Baruch Properties is seeking permission from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to build a sewage treatment plant that will release treated effluent into the San Geronimo Creek, a prominent Edwards Aquifer Recharge feature. Members of the San Geronimo Valley Alliance and the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance will hold a press conference to highlight the potential damage to property and the aquifer posed by this project at the Blue Hole on the San Geronimo Creek.

When: Monday, August 27th at 3:00 p.m.

Where: The Blue Hole on the property of Randy Johnson

Take Hwy 16 to Park Road 37. (DO NOT turn on the Park Rd.) Going north just before the Park Rd there is a turn to the left. Turn left here you will see a gate and an old rock entrance. The fence will be open and we will be there to direct you to the site. (Bring your swim suits if you like)

"What about my property rights?" says Randy Johnson, President of the San Geronimo Valley Alliance, whose ranch is directly downstream of the proposed subdivision. "Putting 3,500 homes and commercial development on 1,067 acres will pollute this pristine Edwards recharge creek."

"The addition of 12,000 new residents in this part of the Hill Country will make this the biggest community in the area." adds Camille White, area resident. "We do not have the infrastructure to support this type of growth." Ron Green, President of the Helotes Heritage Association, is also concerned about how this intensely developed project will affect the Helotes area and the Edwards Aquifer, noting, "Treated sewage from this subdivision will be recharging the aquifer."

Annalisa Peace, Executive Director of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance notes, "Supplies of fresh water are at a premium worldwide. Yet we here in Texas still allow projects that threaten to pollute our groundwater. Citizens in 21 counties have asked the Texas Legislature to prohibit the release of treated sewage effluent into creeks like this one that recharge the Edwards Aquifer. We will be asking the TCEQ to deny the permit application for this sewage plant."

TCEQ will hold a public meeting on the permit application to construct a sewage treatment plant to serve 3,500 new homes proposed for Baruch's *Hills of Castle Rock* subdivision on Tuesday, August 28th at 7:00 p.m. at the Dancing Bear subdivision in Mico, Texas.

The San Geronimo Valley Alliance, Inc. is comprised of independent country people. We range from historic families featuring several generations of residents all the way to recent arrivals. Ours is a heritage community in the truest sense of the term. Our homes are in contiguous parts of Medina, Bandera and Bexar counties within the San Geronimo Creek watershed.

The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance unites forty member organizations from throughout the Edwards and Trinity aquifer regions behind a comprehensive plan to protect our groundwater resources and the Texas Hill Country. For more information visit www.AquiferAlliance.org