

**Request for Coverage:**

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## **Helotes Citizens Rally to Protest Inaction in Putting out Mulch Fire**

When: Sunday, January 7 at 1:pm

Where: FM 1560 at the entrance to Iron Horse Canyon

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### ***News from the Helotes Heritage Association***

There are two very important events regarding the mulch fire in the next two days. First there is a rally tomorrow at 1 pm on Sunday and second there is the Bexar County Commissioners Court Public Meeting at 10 am on Monday. These are your opportunities to make your voices heard. And be very clear that the opinions of the public officials have not yet been made and participating in these events will certainly get their attention.

The rally will be at FM 1560 at the entrance to Iron Horse Canyon at 1 pm tomorrow, Sunday Jan 7. It is across the street from the mulch fire. It is recommended that you be prepared to wear a mask or bandana to guard against ash and smoke. As we have learned, we are at the mercy of smoke and ash depending on wind direction and weather conditions. It is our understanding that Mayor Allan has arranged for Commissioner Lyle Larson to be there at that time, but this not confirmed.

The Bexar County Commissioners Court meeting will be at 10 am on Monday Jan 8 in the courtroom on the first floor of the Bexar County Courthouse at 100 Dolorosa Suite 1.20. The Commissioners Court will discuss the mulch fire during agenda item 3. The public will be permitted to make their comments during agenda item 9. Lastly, the Commissioners Court will convene in executive session to discuss what actions they intend to take regarding the mulch fire after agenda item 88.

As you may be aware, TCEQ has given the owner of the property of the mulch fire until 1 pm on Monday Jan 8 to submit a plan as to how he intends to deal with the mulch fire. After assessing this plan, TCEQ will decide if the state will take control of fighting the fire.

As you can imagine, and have seen demonstrated many times during the past 12 days, the sheer cost of battling the fire (i.e., upwards of \$6 million dollars) has caused the county and the state to find any solution other than assuming responsibility to respond to this health hazard and disaster. You have the opportunity over the next two days to make sure that they understand that it is their duty and responsibility that the community does not have to live with this hazard any more than what is absolutely necessary. Please try to attend these events.

Sincerely,  
Ron Green, HHA President

