

*News from the Helotes Heritage Association*

Dear Readers,

As you may recall, SAWS petitioned the TCEQ to extend their water and sewer service jurisdiction in northwest Bexar County. Opposition to the petition to extending water service has been led and organized by the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA). Likewise, the City of Grey Forest and HHA led opposition to SAWS extending sewer service.

The concern is that by providing the Hill Country with water from external sources (i.e., not requiring development to rely on local water) and allowing sewer systems to be installed throughout Hill Country stream beds, sensitive Edwards Aquifer contributing and recharge zones will be opened up to ill-advised higher density development.

In late March 2008, SAWS asked TCEQ to suspend their petitions for three months. SAWS took this action to allow staff and their Board to revisit the virtue and downside of pursuing these petitions. This abatement is scheduled to expire at the end of June. We recently learned that SAWS requested a second three month abatement. While this action is not as optimal as an outright abandonment of the petitions, we welcome SAWS' decision to further examine their expansion plans.

Please take advantage of this added time to lobby SAWS to revise their strategic plans for expansion. The long-term safety of the Edwards Aquifer depends on their future decisions.

Sincerely,  
Ron Green, President  
Helotes Heritage Association