

Dear Readers,

On Thursday night, the Helotes City Council will decide whether to rezone the property at the entrance of Los Reyes Canyon subdivision from R-1 (regular residential) to B-3 (high-density commercial, appropriate for a big-box store). In the past month, Mayor Schoolcraft and the City Council have disbanded six committees, including the Architectural Review Board and the Forestry Committee. In addition, they gutted the tree ordinance. These actions essentially open the door to unbridled, ill-advised development with no opportunity for community involvement or input.

The subject property is located along Los Reyes Creek, a few hundred feet from the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. Because the property is in the Contributing Zone and not the Recharge Zone, there are virtually no TCEQ regulations to limit how the property is developed and used. If the property were in the San Antonio ETJ, development would be limited to 15% impervious cover to protect recharge of the Edwards Aquifer from contamination. But it isn't. The property is within the City limits of Helotes where environmental protections are not imposed.

Helotes is already highly vulnerable to flooding as we've frequently witnessed in the past few years. Paving large areas along streambeds will only exacerbate an already precarious situation and put properties and lives at risk. Rezoning this property to allow for big-box store development is not in best interest of the community and should not be approved.

Sincerely,
Ron Green, President
Helotes Heritage Association

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