

News from the Helotes Heritage Association

Dear Readers,

The City Council of the City of San Antonio will vote on May 17 whether to rezone 85 acres of the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone at the intersection of Hausman Rd and 1604 from medium-density residential (DR designation) to high-density commercial (C-2). Big-box retail buildings, such as a Wal-Mart, carwashes, and auto tire repair stores would be able to build in a C-3 zone.

The Edwards Aquifer is the sole drinking water source for over 1.7 million South Texas residents, including 1.1 million San Antonians. The mulch fire that burned for months in Helotes underscores the need for greater limitations on what can be built over the Recharge Zone. What if a box-store like Wal-Mart or Lowes were to catch fire over the Recharge Zone? It would be more than just soot showing up in water wells. It will be solvents, pesticides, herbicides, metals, and a multitude of other poisons. The Recharge and Contributing zones are not suitable for this type of development.

Actions to curtail unsustainable development over the Recharge and Contributing zones would protect this parcel and similarly vulnerable lands. San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS) has recommended a 65% impervious cover limit over the entire 85 acres. AGUA recommends a MAXIMUM of 15% impervious cover to adequately protect our drinking water. Scientific studies, including ones conducted by the US Environmental Protection Agency, have demonstrated that areas with as little as 10% impervious cover within a watershed can impair water resources.

Your help is needed to prevent the San Antonio City Council from approving re-zoning case Z2007045 (the Kyle-Seale ranchland development near the intersection of Hausman and 1604) in its current form. The case will be heard by the San Antonio City Council on Thursday, MAY 17th, 2007.

Additionally, you may want to contact Councilman Art Hall since this parcel is in his district (8), and he is likely to make the final motion to approve or deny the case. Contact information is available at: www.sanantonio.gov/council/ or contact Elyzabeth Earnley for assistance [Elyzabeth Earnley, Technical Research Director, Aquifer Guardians in Urban Areas (AGUA), 210.320.6298, www.aquiferguardians.org].

Sincerely,
Ron Green
HHA, President