

News from the Helotes Heritage Association

Dear Readers,

This email is a reminder for tomorrow's meeting regarding the Hills of Castle Rock development in NW Bexar County. This proposed subdivision is located in the San Geronimo watershed on the Edwards Aquifer contributing zone. This subdivision will consist of over **3,500** houses. Every day it will use over **1 million** gallons of water and will dump over **1 million** gallons of effluent into the San Geronimo Creek. In addition, the quality of the development's well water is so poor that a water treatment system would be required to clean the water to a level to be potable. This would lead to a considerable amount of left over brackish water discharged into the environment.

Approval of the Hills of Castle Rock development will be end of the hill country in NW Bexar County as we know it. Once high-density development starts in this area, it will continue until all available land is consumed by pavement, housing, and stores. The key to protecting this fragile environment and the source area for recharge for the Edwards Aquifer is whether water and sewer services are made available. Critical in this battle are the plans to pack 3,500 houses on slightly over than 1,700 acres at the Hills of Castle Rock where there are minimal water resources and no sensible way to dispose of waste.

Tomorrow (August 28, 2007) at 7:00 p.m. there is going to be a TCEQ meeting at the Dancing Bear Clubhouse (21294 FM 1283) concerning the wastewater treatment plant proposed by the Hills of Castle Rock Subdivision at Highway 16 N and Park Road 37. The meeting venue is difficult to get to and hard to find, however TCEQ denied requests to hold the meeting at a more convenient venue. Following are directions to Dancing Bear Clubhouse from two directions (as given to me):

From the intersection of SH 211 and SH 16 (Bandera Rd), which is about 8 miles NW of Helotes at flashing yellow lights: Go south on SH 211 about 7 miles to SH 471 (Culebra). Turn right and go not quite a mile on 471 to 1283, which curves sharply off to the right. Curve to the right with it and stay on 1283 for almost 9 more miles. After about 7 or 7.5 of the 9 miles, 1283 will again curve to the right at a couple of flashing yellow lights. Again curve right with 1283, and Dancing Bear Ranch will be on the right, marked by a huge stone sign with the name embedded into it. On the top of the hill behind the stone sign you will see the clubhouse/information center. Wind your way around, following signs, up the hill to the parking lot. The meeting will be in the clubhouse which is in the center part of the building.

Another possible route: Starting from Hwy 16 (Bandera Rd) and Park Rd 37 (which is a little over 2 miles past 211), go 9 winding, hilly miles to the 1283 intersection, which is near Lake Hills. Turn left at the intersection (the Lake Hills Ice House is near there) and go 2.5 miles. There you will see the first entrance to Dancing Bear Ranch, which has a smaller sign and no stone wall, but a bunch of mailboxes. If you miss that one, the stone wall entrance is next. Either entrance will take you up the hill to the clubhouse, which is between the two entrances and above them.

Please note there is a Dancing Bear Cantina in the vicinity of 471 and 1283. Although the cantina belongs to the developer, it's NOT the correct location for the TCEQ meeting.

It is critical to understand that this project, or any similar project, is not possible unless given approval by TCEQ. The Hills of Castle Rock project has not yet been approved and should not be considered as a done deal. Active participation by the community at this time can go a long way to make sure that our natural resources are respected and protected. Now is the time to make your voices heard. Please do what you can to help us control the future of our community.

Sincerely,
Ron Green
HHA, President