



News from the Helotes Heritage Association

Dear Readers,

There are two events unfolding whose outcomes are critical to the future of NW Bexar County. One is the intent of SAWS to amend their CCN to allow it to extend sewer service as far as Kendall and Medina counties. The other is the proposed Hills of Castle Rock 3,500 home development near the Medina and Bexar county line. Both have the potential to forever impact the environment in a profound, and negative, way. In addition, the futures of both are to be decided on this fall.

It is paramount that the community closely follows the efforts to push these two projects through to completion. The preliminary hearing for the SAWS petition to develop a sewer system in the creek beds of the Hill Country will be in September. Following is an announcement by the San Geronimo Valley Alliance regarding the Hills of Castle Rock development.

On 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.

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. From there it flows 3 1/2 miles and then goes underground into the Edwards Aquifer. This development if built as planned will add over 7,000 cars to the already crowded Hwy 16.

These two projects are not unrelated. The only way that high-density development can succeed in the Hill Country is if infrastructure (power, water, and sewer) is provided and subsidized by the public (i.e., SAWS and CPS with your dollars). There is neither sufficient water (from the Glen Rose Aquifer) nor a responsible way to dispose waste from a high-density development in the Hill Country. Approval of one opens the door for the other. And once the door is open, development of NW Bexar County will be a free-for-all. Simply take a ride through Stone Oak if you think otherwise.

Please understand that neither of these proposed projects is 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