

News from the Helotes Heritage Association

Dear Readers,

As you may recall, last year SAWS asked TCEQ to extend its jurisdiction to provide water and sewer services into the Hill Country in NW Bexar County. A number of organizations and municipalities, including GEAA, HHA, San Geronimo Valley Alliance, and the City of Grey Forest, retained legal council to oppose this expansion. As an indication of a possible change of philosophy regarding its plans for the Hill Country, on December 5, 2007, the SAWS Board denied extending water service to a proposed high-density development near the Bexar-Medina County Line.

This past week, SAWS suspended their petition to TCEQ to grant SAWS the right to extend their sewer and water service jurisdiction into the Hill Country. It is our understanding that the SAWS Board has decided to re-assess their previous decision to extend sewer and water services across the transition, recharge, and contributing zones of the Edwards Aquifer.

HHA would like to commend the SAWS Board, especially Mayor Hardberger and Chair Briseno, for their leadership on this critically important issue. It is imperative that the source waters for the Edwards Aquifer be protected for the future health and safety of our communities. We currently benefit from an incredibly prolific water source in the Edwards Aquifer. This water does not currently require a treatment facility. If we do not take the steps necessary to protect these source areas, we will eventually be required to invest in 100s of millions of dollars to make the water potable. Its continued safety is in everyone's best long-term interest.

Sincerely,
Ron Green, President
Helotes Heritage Association