



News from the Helotes Heritage Association

Dear Readers,

I would like to provide an update on last week's TCEQ public meeting on the Hills of Castle Rock proposed waste water treatment facility. About 80 people packed the facility. The message from the public was clear that they did not want waste water dumped into San Geronimo Creek.

There was a question & answer session and an official comment session. TCEQ responded to the questions by stating that the proposed project met the minimum TCEQ requirements. Additional questions that addressed how the environment would be degraded, how local residents health would be protected, and how the quality of life would be impacted were not directly answered.

Every comment that was provided during the meeting was against the proposed waste water facility. TCEQ politely accepted each comment and stated that the period of comment would close with the close of the public meeting.

The next step is for TCEQ to decide if there will be a contested case hearing. If it is decided to permit a contested case hearing, the next step would be for a preliminary hearing to identify who has standing. It is likely that only residents who live within 1 mile of the facility will be given legal standing.

When (and if) this happens, then we will need to support those with legal standing. Sadly, these legal actions take a long time and cost a lot of money. We will need to help with this effort if we want to protect this fragile environment and stop the construction of high-density developments that will discharge treated wastewater, possibly containing residual pollutants, into San Geronimo Creek and onto the contributing zone of the Edwards Aquifer.

The Helotes Heritage Association pledges to assist this effort in any way it can. This assistance will include, but will not be limited to, providing technical assistance in hydrogeological evaluations and assessments.

Sincerely,
Ron Green
HHA, President