



News from the Helotes Heritage Association

Dear Readers,

Following is an account of tonight's SAWS meeting regarding providing water service to the Hills of Castle Rocks proposed development in NW Bexar County and Medina County. The voice of a community can make a difference.

Sincerely,
Ron Green, President
Helotes Heritage Association

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Hi people,

Our turnout at the SAWS meeting tonight was a HUGE success!

The meeting was held in a long narrow room with a long conference table in the middle and chairs all around the perimeter of the room. I guess there were only nine of us there, but it seemed like more -- Randy and Doris, Wayne and Delia, Judy Casey, Jim Hannah, Joe Manak and George Rice, and me. That's not nearly enough to fill up all the chairs around the perimeter, so I don't know who the rest were. Some were even standing. Of course a few chairs were occupied by Hills of Castle Rock representatives, but I think there were only six of them.

The committee chairman was gracious enough to let us comment, even though Annalisa had said this was a no comment meeting. Randy was the first to speak, and he commented about the fact that at a SAWS meeting last April, SAWS said they were going to take over the Hills of Castle Rock sewer plant because they know how to operate sewer plants better than anyone. He also talked about reverse osmosis and effluent going down the creek and into the aquifer three miles later and how SAWS should be honest with the people of San Antonio and tell them this so they would know the truth.

I went to the podium and asked under whose authority well water can provide temporary service to 700 homes, and after all the committee members looked at each other because they didn't know the answer, they all looked at a woman who I assume is their attorney. She said it would be under the authority of the groundwater district. I said, "The Medina County Groundwater Conservation District?" and she said, "No, the Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District." She was wrong. The Trinity Glen Rose takes care of northern Bexar County, not Medina County.

Then Sam Mills, a SAWS engineer, gave a slide presentation about the points I forwarded to you from Annalisa, beginning with the fact that SAWS has been working with Hills of

Castle Rock since FEBRUARY OF 2006 -- this time 8 months before they closed the property. Toward the end of the presentation, he said something about how SAWS doesn't create the demand for water, they just respond to it, and up piped a strong voice that said, "And you're saying that with a straight face???" It was Wayne Jones. He and Delia had arrived just in time for the slide show.

Wayne asked how Sam Mills would feel if he lived next to the Hills of Castle Rock property and one day he ran out of water. Would he feel really comforted by the bond money Hills of Castle Rock would have put up to "mitigate" the situation?

Once again, board members went on the defensive, saying it was their job to provide water and nothing else.

However, close to the end of the discussion, Alex Briseno, who was present at the meeting and has also just been appointed to continue as SAWS board chairman by Mayor Hardberger, asked Sam Mills what would happen if SAWS turned down the request to supply water to Hills of Castle Rock. What would they do then? Mills answered that they would have to depend on Trinity wells. Vandertulip, the Kimley-Horn engineer who was up in front at the Dancing Bear TCEQ public meeting, and who was standing next to Mills when he said that, looked very dejected.

On top of that, when Wayne said there were gaps in the slide show presentation and things SAWS has no clue about, the committee decided to go over the slide show with us in another committee meeting before Tuesday!!!

We're getting another shot at this, people!!!

I left Randy's contact info and mine, so that the committee can let us know when the continuation meeting will be, so as soon as I hear, I will let you know.

We need to pack that conference room again, probably sometime Monday, but that's just my guess.

On the elevator a SAWS woman said, "Wow. We never have this many people at our meetings."

And when we got down to the lobby, there was the Ken's 5 cameraman, just arriving. So I told him he missed it, but I would let him know when the continuation is.

So hang in there, and please come out and support us. WE NEED YOU!!!

Thanks.

Camille