

April 15, 2008
Request for Coverage

contacts: Annalisa Peace, GEAA
(office) 210.320.6294/(cell) 210.275.9336
Camille White 210.695.8699 / 210.383.0500
San Geronimo Valley Alliance

City Council To Consider Denial of Water Service to Hills of Castle Rock Subdivision

What: San Antonio City Council to consider denial of services to Mega Development on the Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone.

When: Meeting, 9:00 a.m. Thursday, April 17, 2008 - Item #4 on the Agenda

**Where: Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building,
103 S. Main Avenue, San Antonio, Texas**

The City of San Antonio City Council will consider a Resolution denying the petition of BP 1766 San Antonio, Ltd, owners of 1,766 acres of land known as "The Hills of Castle Rock", for the provision of water and/or wastewater services and refusing consent to the creation by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality of up to three Municipal Utility Districts (MUD's) over the property, located in Medina and Bandera Counties. [Supporting Documents](#)

Staff recommends that the City Council deny its consent for the petition. This action will also support the San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS) Board of Trustees' refusal to approve a Utility Service Agreement for the development.

Staff further recommends that the City Council authorize City staff to prepare an objection to the creation of the MUDs, and to request that TCEQ hold a public hearing to consider the objections of the City before taking action on the petition for creation of the MUDs, once filed.

The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance and the San Geronimo Valley Alliance applaud recommendations by City staff and the unanimous decision of the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) Board of Directors of the to deny service at their meeting of December 4, 2007. During that meeting representatives of numerous GEAA member groups and concerned citizens spoke opposing SAWS service to the area, noting that by providing water service SAWS would contribute to the degradation of the Edwards Aquifer, contribute to unmitigated downstream flooding, and promote higher density development that is not appropriate for this area of the Hill Country. Mayor Hardberger moved to deny service, noting that "Density development in a sensitive zone such as the contributing zone simply is not good for the citizens of San Antonio, for the city, its neighbors, or for the water."

"Water quality is obviously an issue", said SAWS Board Chairman, Alex Briseño. "We're talking about discharging treated effluent into the Contributing Zone that will go all the way to the Recharge Zone. Estimates of recharge on San Geronimo Creek range from 7 to 13% and that's obviously a challenge for us"

"We hope that the City Council will vote to deny this request, as recommended by staff." said Camille White of the San Geronimo Valley Alliance.

"We also hope that SAWS and the City of San Antonio will join GEAA and our member groups in pushing legislation that would prohibit discharge of treated sewage into waterways that recharge the Edwards Aquifer." added Annalisa Peace, executive director of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance.

Additional information is available upon request.