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Request for Coverage

Bulverde Citizens Oppose Discharge of Sewage into Local Creeks

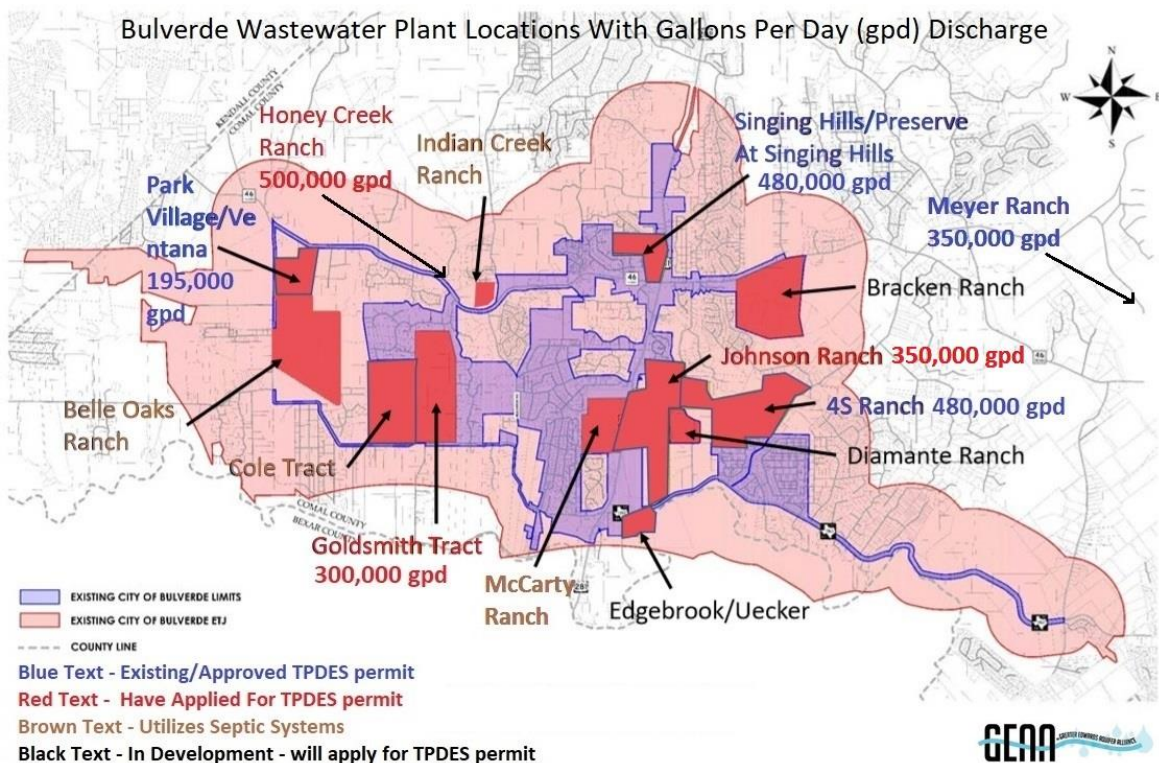
When: January 23, 2019 at 6:30PM

Where: GVTC Auditorium, 36101 Farm to Market 3159, New Braunfels, Texas

What: Strategy Meeting Regarding Indian Creek Ranch Wastewater Permit

Concerned citizens will join the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance to discuss strategies for fighting a local developer's attempt to dump up to 300,000 gallons per day of treated sewage into Indian Creek, a tributary of Cibolo Creek. Cibolo Creek recharges the Edwards Aquifer, which supplies drinking water to 1.7 million Central Texas residents. This strategy meeting will help area residents prepare for a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) public meeting regarding the Indian Creek permit, (TCEQ Permit #WQ0015092001), to be held on Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rahe Bulverde Elementary School Cafeteria, 1715 East Amman Road, Bulverde, Texas

In just the past year, multiple developers in the Bulverde area have filed permit applications with the TCEQ to dump treated sewage from their developments into area creeks. If these permits are approved, water quality of local streams and Edwards and Trinity wells and springs could be degraded. In addition to Indian Creek Ranch, the 1000-home Johnson Ranch development has applied for a permit to dump up to 350,000 gallons per day of treated sewage into Cibolo Creek, just a few miles downstream from Indian Creek Ranch. And a few miles to the north, Silesia Properties has applied for a permit to dump up to 500,000 gallons per day of treated sewage into Honey Creek, which flows through a Honey Creek State Natural Area and into the Guadalupe River. All three permits are being fought by Bulverde-area residents. The map below shows the different Bulverde-area land tracts and the sewage treatment plants that are either operational or currently under construction.



The TCEQ permits the dumping of treated sewage effluent into area creeks as long as the effluent meets fairly lax water quality standards. These standards allow for relatively high levels of nitrogen and phosphorous, which not only cause algae blooms in waterways but have detrimental human impacts. Treated sewage also contains pharmaceuticals, hormones, and other harmful compounds which can make their way into the Edwards Aquifer and the drinking water supply from sewage effluent discharges.

The total permitted amount of treated sewage discharges in the Bulverde area could exceed 2.7 million gallons per day. While treated sewage discharge from one wastewater plant alone can have detrimental impacts, the cumulative impact of having multiple discharges within such close proximity is especially alarming. “We believe that the practice of discharging sewage effluent into waterways that recharge the Edwards Aquifer is a filthy practice that should be prohibited.” said Annalisa Peace, Executive Director of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance. “We are especially concerned by the prospect of negative cumulative impacts posed by the proliferation direct discharge permits for new residential development in the Texas Hill Country that might pollute our streams, rivers, wells, and springs.”