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Request for Coverage

State Representative Mike Villarreal Urges City Council to Postpone
PGA Village Development Agreement

When: Thursday, October 25, 2001 at Noon

Where: East Entrance of City Hall (across from Main Plaza)

State Representative Mike Villarreal will hold a press conference to urge City Council to postpone any consideration of the proposed development agreement with the Lumbermen's Investment Group involving the proposed PGA Village Development to be built on 2,855 acres over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone near Cibolo Creek.

Mr. Villarreal and others call upon the city to commission a reliable survey of the site prior to preceding any further. As of this date, no impartial sources have been consulted to establish a competent geological survey of the site. A habitat survey is also needed to establish whether or not endangered cave invertebrate species inhabit the PGA Village site. Without this information, the City of San Antonio cannot negotiate a satisfactory development agreement.

Mike Villarreal serves District 115 in the House of Representatives Human Services and Public Safety Committees. Mr. Villarreal's concerns with the proposed project were published in the San Antonio Express-News on July 29, 2001. "Conducting an independent site assessment of all relevant factors would not be unlike the Council's hiring of the Zephyr Company in Austin to independently assess the groundwater pollution and cleanup at Kelly Air Force Base," Villarreal said. "It's a matter of common sense and exercising necessary caution before proceeding further." he added.

Noted karst hydrogeologist, George Veni, will be submitting a signed affidavit to City Council members disputing the results of an assessment by the Lumbermen's Investment Group that found only one cave on the site. Mr. Veni has conducted detailed studies of similar geological areas in north Bexar County. In his opinion, the site proposed for the PGA Village project must have a significant number of caves, karst features, and federally listed endangered invertebrate species. He also states, "that the proposed golf courses in that area pose a potentially significant risk of pollution into the aquifer because of the large amounts of lawn chemicals needed for such facilities that would flow directly into the aquifer. Additionally, a major leak for the proposed wastewater treatment facility could jeopardize water quality in the aquifer."

Additional Information and Press Packets are available upon request.

Good Photo Opportunity
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