

May 9, 2020

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Office of the Chief Clerk  
MC-105  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas  
78711-3087

Re: Proposed Silesia Properties, L.P. Permit No. WQ0015835001

I am submitting these comments as a concerned private citizen.

The Texas Hill Country springs, streams, rivers and aquifers are extremely sensitive to permanent degradation.

With this project, you have the opportunity to establish and enforce appropriately strict regulations.

The proposed location of this wastewater system is only slightly more than one-third mile upstream of the Honey Creek State Natural Area and Guadalupe River State Park.

The proposed wastewater effluent system does **not** offer the degree of protection that is necessary to protect the Honey Creek Watershed. This critical watershed includes Honey Creek Cave, Honey Creek State Natural Area and the Guadalupe River, and, ultimately, the Trinity and Southern Edwards Aquifers

The scientists who have studied this proposal have clearly stated the risks of degradation that would occur under the existing proposal. The proposed nutrient concentrations are several hundred to a thousand times higher than those measured in unimpacted Texas Hill Country streams.

High nutrient concentrations affect human health, increase the costs to treat water for drinking, reduce aesthetics and impair recreation, tourism and navigation.

My family has been drawn to the cave, springs, creek and river in this watershed for the past thirty-five years. We have kayaked, tubed, hiked, camped and explored this area extensively. If this project is approved, the recreational and tourism business in this watershed will be seriously and permanently affected by the degradation of the watershed.

We have watched other watersheds in Central Texas lose their vitality as other inadequate wastewater development projects have been approved.

It is past time to consider the rights of the larger public instead of the rights of a few developers and investors.

When reviewing this proposal, please consider the potentially permanent impact of your decision on the watershed and the present and future citizens of this region.

History reveals that, once lost, degradation of watersheds has lasting effects on the quality of life of everyone who is directly and indirectly affected by the loss.

Once degraded, restoration is exorbitantly expensive and often impossible.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my comments.

Dr. Cheryl Hamilton  
Private Citizen  
San Antonio, Texas