

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

I am Dr. Meredith McGuire, a Comal County resident and a deeply concerned citizen.

Our Texas Hill Country springs, streams, rivers, and aquifers are seriously at risk of permanent degradation. If TCEQ allows this project to go forward without major changes and stricter regulations, you are allowing the inevitable pollution and other contamination to the Honey Creek watershed and the Guadalupe River and, ultimately the Trinity and southern Edwards Aquifers.

I live not far from Honey Creek State Natural Area and have visited it many times. It is an amazing gem that can't be replaced or repaired when contamination occurs.

To build a densely developed subdivision here -- just about 1/3 mile upstream of the Honey Creek State Natural Area and Guadalupe River State Park, is irresponsible and detrimental to the water quality of a large region. That much impervious cover will cause lots of stormwater to flow rapidly downhill (especially where the steep slope is packed with too many buildings and driveways), befouling Honey Creek State Natural Area, Honey Creek Cave, as well as the Guadalupe and the aquifers. Keep in mind that climate change is increasing the likelihood of greater volumes of water when it rains, so the likelihood that unauthorized discharge will occur is greatly increased. One significant unauthorized discharge is enough to cause permanent degradation of Honey Creek.

When there's lots of rainfall is precisely when the soil would be saturated and when effluent storage space would be overfull, and the wastewater treatment system's effluent would flow into Honey Creek. The proposed wastewater treatment, although improved since the last proposal, is not adequate to protect the Honey Creek Watershed.

The developers have other options for a development that does not threaten our streams, river, and aquifer. Even with a 27% reduction, this development is far too dense with too much impervious cover. The developers' plans are clearly a matter of greed.

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.

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

I urge you to deny this permit.