

Request for Coverage

January 22, 2024

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Fitzhugh Neighbors and Environmental Groups to Speak Against Wastewater Permit for Ill-Conceived Concert Venue

What: 2nd Public Meeting for Fitzhugh Amphitheater Wastewater Permit Application

When: Monday, January 29th at 7PM

Where: Dripping Springs Ranch Park & Event Center, 1042 Event Center Dr., Dripping Springs TX

Blizexis LLC, a California-based developer, plans to build a 5000-seat outdoor amphitheater on winding, single-lane Fitzhugh Road near Dripping Springs. The massive amphitheater would be mostly impervious cover and would irrigate its treated sewage just a half mile from Barton Creek. Area residents are alarmed not only by the water pollution that would result from the development but also the many traffic/safety issues of having 2-3 nighttime concerts per week at the amphitheater, as the developer is planning.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has scheduled an unprecedented 2nd public meeting for the amphitheater's wastewater permit. Blizexis has requested TCEQ approval of a permit to irrigate 12,000 gallons per day of treated wastewater at the environmentally sensitive location. Fitzhugh Neighbors, a group of concerned local residents, has organized to oppose the permit, in court if necessary.

"The Fitzhugh Amphitheater would be an absolute nightmare from a public safety perspective" says Fitzhugh Neighbor Carrie Napiorkowski. "As it stands now there are challenges in getting emergency vehicles out to this area in a timely manner, due to the remote location and hilly terrain of Fitzhugh Road. Adding a 5000-seat amphitheater with regular evening events would jeopardize the public safety of not only area residents but the concert attendees as well. Fitzhugh Road simply wasn't designed for this purpose."

The proposed amphitheater development presents unique threats to the Texas Hill Country, according to the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance. "We see quite a few egregious developments in Central Texas, but I don't know that I've ever seen such an unnecessary combined threat to water quality and public safety", said Annalisa Peace, Executive Director of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance. "The entire development is paved surfaces and concrete, which would create unacceptable amounts of polluted stormwater and wastewater runoff into Barton Creek and the underlying Edwards and Trinity Aquifers."

The TCEQ public meeting will take place at 7 pm on January 29th at Dripping Springs Ranch Park & Event Center, 1042 Event Center Dr. All citizens and news reporters are encouraged to attend.