

Travis County Commissioners are being asked to make a very important decision Tuesday, March 14th at 10:00 a.m. regarding the proposed Sweetwater development. They will consider approval of over 1800 homes on lots as small as 1/6th of an acre on the steep slopes of the Bee Creek watershed. Please email your comments to our Commissioners and plan on attending.

PLEASE FORWARD TO OTHERS WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT SWEETWATER

Email addresses are: sam.biscoe@co.travis.tx.us; ron.davis@co.travis.tx.us; karen.sonleitner@co.travis.tx.us; gerald.daugherty@co.travis.tx.us; commissioner.gomez@co.travis.tx.us

Commissioner's Court is located at 314 W. 11th, first floor.

Just weeks ago, this developer was told by Commissioners not to bring this project back for approval until all the issues were addressed. As of now there is no indication that any of the issues raised by the community and the Commissioners have been dealt with. Nonetheless, the developer is now insisting on a decision from the Court next Tuesday during spring break, when chances are that much of the community will be home with children or on vacation. Now, more than ever, we need citizens to show up and speak up.

- ✓ This developer publicly agreed, and the community was lead to believe that the revised water quality rules which were approved last July would apply to everything beyond section one. Now he is trying to grandfather the entire development under the old rules.
- ✓ Traffic and safety on Hwy 71 has not been addressed. No construction should begin on this project until a turn lane is added. Commissioner Daugherty has suggested merging the westbound traffic to one lane as a temporary solution. This will make the situation worse, not better. We have been told that there were at least 3 serious accidents in the last month including 2 fatalities along this stretch of road.
- ✓ Section one was approved in June of 2004 "as is". Now this developer is trying to add a commercial development in a revised version of Section One. This commercial development should not be approved unless he resubmits it under the new ordinance.
- ✓ An environmental impact study has not been completed or made available to the public.
- ✓ This Developer is planning to truck raw sewage down Hwy 71. There is no assurance when or if this developer will get a wastewater permit. In order to get moving on this project, the developer is planning to "pump and haul" sewage until the wastewater plant is complete. Pump and Haul is for emergencies, as when a pump station fails, not for planned use, even on a temporary basis and especially not on a highway like 71 that is already dangerous to families and commuters. To our knowledge pump and haul has never been accepted as a sewage management plan and the County should not set a precedent that is okay here.
- ✓ Under the circumstances, we request assurance of a wastewater permit before any approval on this project so that no dirt is disturbed until the County is clear about the wastewater plan.

- ✓ The type of wastewater system that has been engineered, calls for raw sewage to be piped across one of Bee Creek's larger tributaries into a treatment facility and piped back across several tributaries, over the ridgeline and spray irrigated on 300 acres of the Barton Creek watershed. The TCEQ has not yet commented on this plan. There is a strong possibility that wastewater will leak into Bee Creek, this plan will most likely be contested.
- ✓ The Bee Creek watershed is extremely vulnerable to non-point source pollution (polluted runoff). The not demonstrated that he will meet the old NPS ordinance and he very clearly does not meet the NPS ordinance in effect today.
- ✓ The current plan calls for 32 concrete walls to create detention ponds throughout the subdivision. This will require a great amount of cut and fill because of the steep slopes they are building on.
- ✓ The Lick Creek disaster has taught us about the environmental impact from disturbing land during construction. This has been addressed in the interim rules. This developer must be required to follow the new guidelines if more than 5 acres are disturbed at a time.

Christy Muse
560-3135
Christy@hillcountryalliance.org