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Request for Coverage

AGUA Sends Reforms for Water Quality Regulations to City Hall

Aquifer Guardians in Urban Areas will hold a press conference to announce that recommendations to improve protection of the Edwards Aquifer have been submitted for approval by the Mayor and City Council.

When: 1:30 pm, Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Where: At the AGUA office, 1809 Blanco Road (between Ashby and Hildebrand)
Parking in front of the building will be reserved for the press.

On Tuesday, November 8, 2005 AGUA will submit amendments to Chapter 34 of the Unified Development Code of the City of San Antonio to Mayor Hardberger and City Council for their approval. We believe that these reforms remove loopholes that permit inappropriate development on the Edwards Recharge Zone while allowing options that provide the flexibility to develop this fragile area sensibly.

Aquifer Guardians in Urban Areas (AGUA) maintain that intensive development within Bexar County should be directed downstream of the Edwards Recharge Zone. Land on the Recharge and Contributing zones should be limited to low impact residential and commercial development. In that the Edwards Recharge Zone represents such a small portion of the total land mass encompassed by the City of San Antonio and its ETJ, this should not impose undue restrictions on economic development; Especially when balanced with the enormous benefit of having a clean and adequate water supply to promote future economic development and good health of our citizens. Additionally, these reforms, if adopted, will maintain the scenic beauty of our portion of the Hill Country while aiding in the reduction of costly drainage projects required to address flash floods resulting from building on the Recharge Zone.

In devising these revisions to the current water quality ordinances, AGUA has consulted with environmental engineers, hydrologists, geologists, city staff, and attorneys expert in the enforcement of municipal law. We have been assured that all of our recommendations are based upon sound science and are enforceable under the statutes of the State of Texas.

AGUA requests that Mayor Hardberger and the City Council approve these amendments as submitted.

At 3:00 pm this Wednesday, November 9th the City Council will discuss legal latitude in enforcing water quality regulations at their regularly scheduled B Session at City Hall. Council will be briefed on issues related to development regulations over the Edwards Aquifer area with an introduction by Michael D. Bernard, City Attorney to presentations by Russell Johnson, Bracewell & Guiliani, LLP and Doug Young, Scanlon, Buckle & Young.

AGUA is a coalition of concerned individuals and citizen groups working together to preserve the Edwards Aquifer.

Press Packets including summary of the reforms will be distributed at the Press Conference.