

State Representative · House District 122

July 22nd, 2025

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Commissioners Paup, Janecka, and Gonzales 201 E 14th St #10 Austin, TX 78701

RE: Review of Permit Application #WQ0016171001

Commissioners,

This summer, the TCEQ will review a wastewater permit for Guajolote Ranch—a proposed development in Northwest Bexar County—by Lennar Corp. (permit application #WQ0016171001).

Spanning 1,100 acres, this project would introduce 2,900 homes while releasing 1 million gallons per day of treated sewage into the Helotes Creek watershed. This watershed directly replenishes the Trinity Aquifer and accounts for 15% of the total recharge of the Edwards Aquifer—an essential water source for 1.7 million residents across 13 South and Central Texas counties. Approving this permit risks contamination of our primary drinking water supply.

To date, the only definitive study of the effects of such a development in this specific watershed was done by the Southwest Research Institute, funded through the city of San Antonio's Edwards Aquifer Protection Plan. It found that discharging any type of treated wastewater from a residential development into the Helotes Creek watershed would "significantly degrade the watershed and the quality of water recharging the Edwards Aquifer."

As demonstrated by this study, and supported by other accepted research of the region, the fragile geology here makes this proposed development unsustainable. Faults, sinkholes, caves, and other karst features allow rapid infiltration, making pollution on the surface an immediate threat to groundwater.

Our constituents, our neighbors, and our families are being put at potential risk due to this wastewater treatment plant. They risk seeing their beloved Helotes Creek permanently damaged by wastewater that we know will contain pharmaceuticals and, if there is any deviation from 100% effectiveness in filtration, may contain fecal matter.

The amazing, God-given blessing of the Trinity and Edwards Aquifers are threatened by this treatment plant.

Millions rely on these natural wonders for their water, and as the state grows, we must make every effort to protect our



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fresh water supply. San Antonio and other cities in the region have been conserving water for years; it makes no sense to risk contaminating two of the largest sources of drinking water in the region under these circumstances.

We do not oppose growth and development, but we do fear the damage that this particular plant may cause; and that damage will not be reversible should it occur. We respectfully urge you to reject this dangerous and potentially disastrous permit.

Sincerely,

Representative Mark Dorazio

Representative Marc LaHood

Sypaia Genen-Hudhow

Representative Barbara Gervin-

Hawkins

Representative Josey Garcia

Defalith Caupon

Representative Elizabeth Campos

Representative Ray Lopez

Representative Diego Bernal

Representative John Lujan

Representative Philip Cortez

Representative Trey Martinez-Fischer

