

Request for Coverage

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Town hall meeting in Castroville to Discuss Preserving Medina River

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, February 9th, 2012

Where: Braden Keller Center, 1410 Amelia Street, Castroville, Texas

The City of Castroville is currently seeking authorization from the State to dump up to 900,000 gallons per day of treated wastewater into the Medina River through Castroville Regional Park. Historically, Castroville has reused its wastewater for irrigation rather than putting it in the river. Many citizens believe that Castroville should continue to reuse its wastewater for beneficial irrigation—instead of obtaining a discharge permit—and commit to keeping its wastewater out of the Medina in the future.

Concerned citizens in the Castroville area are hosting a town hall meeting for the community to explore the City of Castroville's wastewater plans and options. Citizens will learn about Castroville's proposal to discharge treated wastewater to the Medina River, and discuss options to protect the river and the community. The meeting is open to everyone. Local residents are especially encouraged to attend.

"The Medina River is a tremendous asset for Castroville that should be protected and promoted, not polluted," said local resident and meeting organizer, Byrdy Wagner, who lives along the river. "There are much better options than discharging to the river—the most obvious being to use the treated effluent to water the parched land all over our community."

"Wastewater irrigation protects the river while saving ratepayer dollars," said Tom Goynes, President of the Texas Rivers Protection Association. "Why build a discharge plant that just sends treated wastewater downstream when we can use that wastewater to keep trees and vegetation healthy during drought?"

"Wastewater is a valuable asset for central Texas communities," echoed Annalisa Peace, Executive Director of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance. "But it must be carefully managed to protect our water supplies and prevent degradation of our aquifers, springs and rivers."

Meeting format: The town hall meeting will begin with brief remarks from Ms. Wagner, Mr. Goynes, and Ms. Peace. The bulk of the meeting will consist of a community conversation about Castroville's wastewater plans and options. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

To learn about the work of Texas Rivers Protection Association (TRPA) and sign TRPA's petition, go to <http://www.txrivers.org>. To learn more about the work of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA), go to www.aquiferalliance.org

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