

To: TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Executive Director

Subject: An Application by City of Liberty Hill for TPDES Permit No. WQ0014477001 and the related Hearing Requests: TCEQ Docket No. 2014-1720-MWD.

Mr. Director:

Our previous letter refers to two pictures of the South San Gabriel River. One of the pictures was too large to be transmitted via the internet. Therefore, there is only one picture for your consideration along with the video presentation.

Sincerely,

Terry Cassady, P.E.

Sharon Cassady

1541 Orchard Drive  
Leander, Texas 78641

512/528-0428

tscassady@hotmail.com

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Executive Director

Subject: An Application by City of Liberty Hill for TPDES Permit No. WQ0014477001 and the related Hearing Requests: TCEQ Docket No. 2014-1720-MWD.

Mr. Director:

In order to comply with the February 23, 2015 deadline, we are sending the attached information for your consideration.

The following video presentation gives a good history of the condition of the South San Gabriel River before and after the construction of the Liberty Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDzS3DgztJE>

In an e-mail, which we received from the TCEQ, it was stated that TCEQ personnel recently visited the river. It should be noted that recent rains have removed much of the surface algae from the river. In addition, the algae growth is not as rapid during the winter months as it is in the summer. However, the rains did not remove any of the anaerobic sludge present on the bed of the river.

I would also like to refer to my letter of October 14, 2014, in which I presented calculations, which show that the present phosphorus loading is well below that required by the permit both for the present plant and for the proposed permit. The point is not whether or not the permit is being met, but whether or not the permit is strict enough. The algae growth and degradation of the river shows that the permit standards are inadequate to ensure the good health of the river.

I have also attached two photographs taken prior to the construction of the treatment plant. All three show that the South San Gabriel was once a

beautiful resource with a solid limestone bed. A present examination of the river shows what a disaster the addition of the plant effluent has been.

We bought our property because of its access to the river. We bought it so that our grandchildren could swim and fish in it, as shown in the photo of our three grandsons in the river. Those three boys are now twelve years older and wouldn't go into the water of the South San Gabriel below the treatment plant outflow in its present condition. The treatment plant has denied us the use of our property.

This degradation of the river has also decreased the property values of those individuals living immediately below the outfall. Based on present applications for more treatment plants further downstream, the South San Gabriel will soon become no more than a collector system for wastewater treatment facilities. A better solution would be to build a regional plant well downstream, which would treat all the wastewater from those living along the river. Such a plant would have a great many benefits including the elimination of any discharge into the river and the increased ability to monitor and control the treatment of the wastewater.

We appreciate the concern and consideration that the TCEQ board has given to this matter.

Sincerely,

Terry Cassady, P.E.

Sharon Cassady

1541 Orchard Drive  
Leander, Texas 78641

512/528-0428

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February 16, 2015

To: TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Chief Clerk

Office of the Chief Clerk

Subject: An Application by City of Liberty Hill for TPDES Permit No. WQ0014477001 and the related Hearing Requests: TCEQ Docket No. 2014-1720-MWD.

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I have also attached a photograph taken prior to the construction of the treatment plant. This photograph and video show that the South San Gabriel was once a beautiful resource with a solid limestone bed. A present examination of the river shows what a disaster the addition of the plant effluent has been.

We bought our property because of its access to the river. We bought it so that our grandchildren could swim and fish in it, as shown in the photo of our three grandsons in the river. Those three boys are now twelve years older and wouldn't go into the water of the South San Gabriel below the treatment plant outflow in its present condition. The treatment plant has denied us the use of our property.

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