

Response to TCEQ Docket No. 2023-0120-MWD
Permit # WQ0016052001

In the summary of response from Mary Jane Cielencki, it is stated that there is no evidence of creation that the Neighbors of Spring Branch (NOSB) exist. NOSB is a group of neighbors who created the NOSB to protect their community from desecration by big business and developers who want to build high density housing subdivisions and destroy our community. We do not have “token” members, as our members have called this home for many years. The “token” referred to is Annette Gass, whose family has lived here for over 100 years and owns the ranch bordering Cielencki’s property.

There is great concern by NOSB that the discharged water from the proposed wastewater plant will contain diseases, prescriptions, and household chemicals. The sewers in Houston reportedly have Covid-19 in them, while the New York sewer system has detected Polio in theirs. SJWTX states that the water discharged from their plants are E. coli free, but would not address the other contaminants that are contained in the discharged water. These diseases, prescriptions, and household chemicals could directly affect the cattle that are being raised by Annette Gass, the closest neighbor to the proposed plant. The aforementioned diseases could also possibly find their way into our aquifer via the numerous caves and crevasses that are common to this part of the hill country. Wastewater plants have an odor which would directly affect our neighborhood and cause neighbors not to be able to enjoy being outdoors during certain times of the year.

Cielencki’s response stated that the concern about the timely or inadequate response to the open records request by TCEQ is not protected by the law by which the Commission is considering this application. Several times Robert Butler has requested for information on Mary Jane Cielencki, SJWTX, and Lennar Homes or its subsidiaries under the Texas Open Records Act. To this date, there has been no response from TCEQ, which makes the NOSB wonder if TCEQ is withholding negative information from the public about these companies. Any negative information could bolster NOSB’s fight in denying the permit’s approval.

Comal County Order N0.468, effective on October 21, 2021 states the following:

Section 3. Areas Not Prohibited

3.1 The processing or disposal of municipal or industrial solid waste or the operation of a solid waste facility is not prohibited in the area of Comal County east of Farm to Market Road 1101 and within 4,000 linear feet on either side of Kohlenberg Road.

Section 4. Areas Prohibited

4.1 The processing or disposal of municipal or industrial solid waste or the operation of a solid waste facility is prohibited in all other parts of Comal County, Texas not included in Section 3 above.

Section 2. Definitions

2.4 Processing means activities including, but not limited to, the extraction of materials, transfer, volume reduction, conversion to energy, or other separation and preparation of solid waste for reuse or disposal, including the treatment or neutralization of waste, designed to change the

physical, chemical, or biological character or composition of any waste to neutralize such waste, or to recover energy or material from the waste, or render the waste safer to transport, store, or dispose of , or make it amenable for recovery, amenable for storage, or reduced in volume.

It appears that Comal County Order #468 covers the wastewater treatment plant as it processes raw sewage changing the physical and biological character. This order was created by our Commissioner's Court to protect our ground water and surface water from contamination.

The NOSB questions if the application is from Mary Jane Cielencki or her daughter(s). If it is from her daughter(s), then is there a Power of Attorney allowing them to conduct business for Ms. Cielencki?

In closing, the NOSB feel that they have standing and the proposed wastewater treatment plant would adversely affect the community and their way of life. In addition, the NOSB respectfully requests that TCEQ Commissioners grant the hearing request and deny the permit application for the Simmons Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility.