9/05

After our last public meeting at Mason Creek Elementary, I tried to summarize what I have heard from our community as concerns and issues. Please feel free to edit / plagiarize / and use as content to lobby our State Representatives, State Senator, the TX Water Development Board, etc. to raise awareness on this issue. I also believe we should be writing to the Hill Country News, RR Leader, and AA-Statesman to again make our voice heard on this project. The steamroller is headed for our neighborhood.

Jack Bretherick
10900 Beach Road
Leander, Texas 78641

512-267-7314

TRAILS END BCRUA RAW WATER PIPELINE PROJECT CONCERNS

The Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority (BCRUA) is an innocuous name which has nothing to do with Brushy Creek and everything to do with Lake Travis. BCRUA, a partnership of the cities of Cedar Park, Leander, and Round Rock, has a responsibility to provide reliable, cost-effective sources of water for their fast growing jurisdictions. Key to the project is development of the deep-water intake on Lake Travis , which will have an ultimate capacity of 142 million gallons per day to serve the BCRUA regional plant.

We in the Trails End neighborhood will be blest (?) by having an eighty inch (thats 6 ½ feet) in diameter pipeline constructed over two years up the only thoroughfare which serves our neighborhood. More on this to follow but we are concerned about the limited public awareness of the scope of this project and the potential economic impacts not just to our neighborhood and property values but to the businesses, lakefront real estate values, and the Austin/Central Texas quality of life which Lake Travis helps to support. Lake Travis is one of the crown jewels of Austin's economic attraction for new residents and businesses. Not much is being said about the average four foot drawdown of the Lake that this project is estimated to ultimately cause.

After years of being told by the LCRA that the highland lakes were primarily constructed for flood control. In at least 2 public meetings concerning this project we have been told that the primary purpose of the highland lakes is reservoir capacity and municipal water supply. That the estimate of 142 million gallons per day represents only 8 percent of the total volumes of Lakes Travis and Buchanan. I do not believe that the management plan for the Highland Lakes is being changed to support the refilling of Lake Travis from Lake Buchanan after drawdowns for municipal water supply customers. Leaving a lowered Lake Travis for all users to enjoy!

Now to the environmental and cosmetic rape of the Trails End Neighborhood. The project plan calls for the demolition of ½ of Trails End Road and an additional 35' temporary construction easement (Total 70' Wide) so that an average 14' deep by 10' wide pipe trench can be dug to enclose the 6 ½ diameter raw water pipeline. The project is planned to span two years.

Our neighborhood has previous experience with the LCRA 24" pipeline project which was completed along Trails End Road about 4 years ago.

A big concern is the limestone dust created by the trencher (we were told that there would be no blasting). This white dust coats vegetation far outside the width of the construction easement. This white coating on the leaves and branches of vegetation when mixed with rain water turns into a paste which is a sure killer of most things it touches. This dust will also permeate into homes affecting the breathing capabilities of our elder and asthmatic residents.

A similar problem exists with the surface dust which again mixes with rainwater and then flows across the landscape before hardening into a concrete-like sheet, again killing most things it touches and becoming very hard to remove and mitigate. Erosion barriers will contain much of the worst of the construction mess but again the airborne component will coat hardwoods, junipers, ornamentals, and pastures over a much wider area. There is no mitigation plan for this damage. This has briefly touched on the surface water aspect of the problem, now let us talk about the subsurface water.

The geology of our area consists almost exclusively of sedimentary limestone. Subsurface water flows both horizontally between the layers of limestone as well as percolating vertically to recharge aquifers and wells. Even if trees and vegetation are replanted the landscape may not recover because the path/flow/volume of surface/subsurface water will have changed.

The project managers have decided to save and or replant hardwood trees over 8 inches in diameter. We object to this decision which portends that smaller trees are not worth saving or replanting. Hardwood trees as small as 2 inches in diameter are expensive to replace, take a long time to grow, and add significant property value.

Another aspect of the project which seems to be getting fast tracked is the living environmental assessment. The number of juniper thickets and old foliage offer homes to warblers and vireos (I don't know whether the endangered variety or not?) It is also possible that the excavation will discover and open Karst formations containing endangered invertebrates. I am not sure the project plan addresses mitigation for this possibility. We believe that a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment is called for, before irreparable damage is done to our neighborhood and its muted non-human inhabitants.

Another concern lies with the scenario of a large scale pipe failure. Certainly the pumps will be shut down when it is sensed that pressure in the pipe cannot be maintained but we are talking about a very large volume of water with a substantial head pressure which will make it's way downhill very fast and potentially very deep. What engineering has been done to mitigate this scenario. When asked at a public meeting none of the engineers present could even estimate the volume of water in the pipe which would be released nor could they answer who would be liable for property damages associated with such a

failure. Certainly check valves etc. should be included in the design to minimize the volume of water which could flood our valley.

Lastly we get to the quality of life issues for the residents of the Trials End Neighborhood for the duration of the 2 year construction period. The project calls for the contractor to keep 2 lanes open almost the entire 2 year period, but we still have concerns about the quality of the temporary road, our ingress and egress to our homes, the impact to School Bus pickups, Emergency Vehicle access and response, rubbish collection, and just plain commuting, etc. At the end of the project they have promised to restore landscaping, mailboxes, driveways as well as repave the length of Trails End Road. These are touted as benefits to our community! Fixing what they broke!!

Neighborhoods with expressways get noise barriers, etc. as compensation for their quality of life impacts. Our neighborhood gets no benefit from this project other than the pain and suffering through the construction phase and then the sound of the pumps pushing the water out of Lake Travis past our properties to support a greener (both figuratively and economically) development somewhere else in Cedar Park, Leander and Round Rock. Would it be too much to ask for a string of fire hydrants to be tapped off the untreated lake water, which should be fine for fire protection (or do we really think someone is going to come along later and lay yet a third water pipeline to provide this?), or some school bus shelters, or some parkland to be donated to our community for its' two years of pain and suffering?

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~~You will be happy to know that~~ Leander has the best water management plan in the state. We are the first city to adopt the LCRA enhanced water management codes. This includes mandatory landscape requirements for nothing but native and xeriscape plant materials, new water saving building codes, etc. St. Augustine grass is no longer permitted. Unfortunately, the state grandfathers all projects that have already begun, but as the City grows, the new rules will help tremendously.

this water treatment plant proposal is critical for the future of Leander. The primary purpose of Lake Travis is for water supply and flood control. If we are to continue to grow and develop, we must have a source of drinking water. The wells in this area and our current water treatment capacity are inadequate for our continued water supply and growth. ~~It is possible for you and other residents in the area to attend this public hearing and speak about the importance of this project.~~

Betty Dacus
Resident of Leander,
607 Thrush Dr.
Leander 78641

One of the most vocal opponents and active organizers of opposition to the Regional Water Treatment Plant lives in a multi-million dollar home on Lake Travis and doesn't think that the average homeowners in Leander, Cedar Park, and Round Rock should be able to get water from Lake Travis because, as she said on KVUE, she doesn't want her view spoiled.

No group of people should be allowed to surround Lake Travis with multi-million dollar homes and deprive the rest of Travis and Williamson Counties of the use a State owned water resource that was built for municipal water supply (not for recreation, home sites, and "views").

Blanche Corley
403 Hernandez Loop
Leander, Tex
259-0804

Written Comment

I don't understand why
cities from another county
Come into Travis County
When they have so many
Resources within their own
County / Williamson

Mt Connie Medina
Trails End

BRUSHY CREEK
REGIONAL UTILITY AUTHORITY
A Partnership of Cedar Park, Leander, and Round Rock

BRUSHY CREEK REGIONAL UTILITY AUTHORITY (BCRUA)
PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2007

SPEAKER SIGN-UP CARD

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PLEASE LIMIT COMMENTS ON BCRUA PROJECT TO 3 MINUTES.

BRUSHY CREEK REGIONAL UTILITY AUTHORITY
WATER SUPPLY PROJECT
COMMENT FORM

We value your input and want to hear your questions and ideas. Please take a moment to respond. Thank you for attending this Open House.

1. What questions do you have regarding the project that we've not answered? When can you get started? How soon can you get started?

2. What are your concerns about the project? The project will not start soon enough to accommodate pending & future growth.

3. What issues/problems in the community are you aware of that this project might help address/solve? Leander is the 7th fastest growing community in Central Texas. Existing & future residents will need water

Other comments and/or suggestions:

Simply fold and tape this form. Postage is prepaid. Please fill out the contact information completely, and return the form to us within two weeks so that we may provide a prompt response.

Contact Information:

Name: Kirk D. Clennan

Address: 200 West Willis

City: Leander State: TX Zip: 78641

Email: kirk@ci.leander.tx.us Phone: 512.528.2852

Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority
Water Supply Project
Public Information Office
314 E. Highland Mall Blvd. Suite 305
Austin, Texas 78752

Please fold

Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority
Water Supply Project
Guiding Principles

1. We need all the good ideas we can get and welcome constructive suggestions.

2. We will give consideration to any suggestion – no matter its source. We will dismiss a suggestion – no matter its source – once it's clear it's not a viable solution.

3. We will discuss project alternatives, the pros and cons of alternative solutions, and the key issues in choosing one alternative over another. We will openly discuss project impacts, including how we're going to address problems our project creates.

4. Short of compromising the project mission, we will avoid as many problems as possible, minimize the effects of problems that can't be avoided, or ameliorate the negative effects of actions when at all possible.

5. We will do everything in our power to maximize the beneficial aspects of the project and minimize its harmful effects.

Dear Board Members,
I am strongly opposed to any plans to blast, construct and operate an industrial deep water intake facility in residential areas of Volente. This plan is a lose/lose proposition for Central Texas that is unnecessary, too costly and unfairly condemns an existing residential neighborhood.

I urge you to reconsider your city's support and participation in Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority's deep water intake project planned for Volente for the following reasons:

You should be encouraging growth and enhancing the beauty of the area, not destroying it. Draining Lake Travis is not necessary to meet your long term water needs. Part of your Chamber's ability to entice top companies into the area is the beauty of the region and recreation on area lakes. You are going to destroy that by draining Lake Travis. The infrastructure required to complete your current plan will strip land of trees, deplete an already over-extended lake, destroy residential areas, as well as, scenic wildlife areas and cost lots of money. You are putting a heavy tax burden on your existing population when you should be encouraging growth that will give your city a wider tax base.

Your city has better and more easily attainable sources of water. Private companies are currently attempting to sell your city aquifer water. Aquifer water is cleaner and requires less infrastructure than purifying Lake Travis water. One of these companies says they can deliver it to your door for only $3/1000 gallons. Rather than waste your citizens' tax dollars by building an elaborate and expensive infrastructure to pump water out of Lake Travis, you should negotiate a long-term contract for water from the Carrizo-Wilcox or the Simsboro Aquifers. Lake Travis should not be subjected to more draining than it already is.

It sets a bad example. The use of eminent domain laws and condemnation proceedings against a neighboring community sets a dangerous precedent for Central Texas. No one wants to be bullied by their neighbors. Remember when Austin was planning to dump sludge at a quarry within Cedar Park's city limits? Cedar Park Mayor Bob Lemon told the *Statesman*, "We're working with the City of Austin to get them to stop blasting. This is not how they would treat their own neighborhoods." We ask you to be a good neighbor to Volente.

Putting all your eggs in one basket is never smart. Just going deeper into Lake Travis, via a "deep water intake", does not solve the Williamson County growth and water problem. Mixing the surface water derived from existing Lake Travis infrastructure with aquifer water from the Simsboro provides far better insurance and is less disruptive to the environment and Lake Travis. There needs to be conjunctive use to balance when to use ground vs. surface water.

YOU are the decision makers. Don't let people that will profit from a poorly conceived plan influence decisions you should be making. Don't let individual interests and apparent conflicts influence the decisions you should be making.

Yours truly,

Volente and Leander taxpayers

Dennis and Barbara Bowman