

G.R.E.A.T. NEWSLETTER

“Protecting Our River and Our Community”

Issue No. 2

IS THIS THE FUTURE OF CENTER POINT?!!

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Just East of Center Point between Hwy. 27 and 1350, only 3100' from the Center Point Public Schools, Wheatcraft Materials has quarried a moonscape from what once was scenic Guadalupe Riverfront property. Now Mr. Wheatcraft wants to add a rock crusher!



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BACKGROUND OF CONTROVERSY

For the past 12 months local residents have been voicing opposition to the rock crusher application which was filed with Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in August 2005. Concerns include pollution of the river and the air, noise, proximity to the schools, decreased property value of surrounding homes, potential devastation during heavy rains, but most important the quantity and content of particulate matter released into the air. These protests were first raised at a community meeting September 20, 2005 held at the school cafeteria and moderated by County Commissioner Bill Williams. Approximately 100 residents attended in order to get information and find out what might be done to stop the rock crusher from being permitted. Attendees were told to send letters of concern directly to TCEQ to encourage a public meeting with TCEQ officials.

BACKGROUND (cont.)

They also learned that air quality was the only issue on the table -- all other problems potentially linked to a rock crusher in the community were not to be addressed to TCEQ. In late October, the Upper Guadalupe River Authority established a Quarry Research Committee to investigate the effects of the proposed rock crusher on the environment.

December 20, 2005 a Notice of Violation was issued to Wheatcraft Materials for starting construction on the rock crushing facility before a permit was issued. An UGRA visit confirmed that Wheatcraft Materials was pumping from the river without a mining permit. UGRA notified TCEQ that the operation had no Storm Water Discharge Permit, and TCEQ cited Wheatcraft for operating without proper water quality safeguards in place.

January 24, 2006 a public meeting took place with TCEQ representatives, community members, and a Wheatcraft representative, Senior Engineer Larry Lucarelli. Again held at the Center Point school cafeteria, this meeting attracted even more concerned citizens than the previous meeting. The first half of the meeting was open comment, and the second half was on the record to allow for questions to be addressed by TCEQ at a later date. During the meeting Mr. Lucarelli presented charts and figures to show just how little impact the rock crusher would have on the air in the area;



August 16, 2006
BACKGROUND (cont.)

however, one of his final comments assured the crowd that the air would be somewhat the same as being "in a room with a smoker." This was an alarming comment to the crowd who had just heard the school district nurse tell the TCEQ officials that a full 25% of the students and faculty of Center Point schools have respiratory difficulties.

February 8, 2006 Mr. Wheatcraft's application for a permit to drill a well into the Lower Trinity Aquifer to pump 11 million gallons per year was tabled by the Headwater Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors due to questionable and insufficient information accompanying the application. Questions included Wheatcraft's use of the water pulled from the ground, inconsistencies between his TCEQ permit application and information given to Headwaters, and the part the river would play in the rock crushing and gravel washing operation.

County Commissioners also met in February and discussed existing mining laws. 300 acres in Kerr County are covered by quarries, and county regulations do not exist.

The first week of August 2006 a preliminary decision was made by the TCEQ Executive Director to issue the air quality permit to Wheatcraft Materials for the rock crusher facility.

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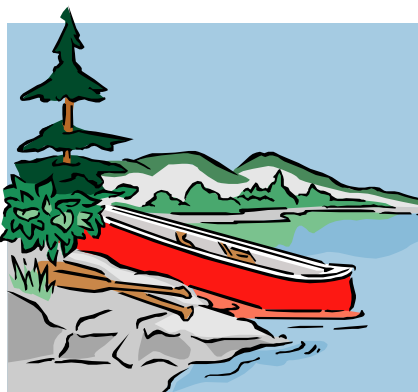
What You Can Do to Help:

Right now is the time to get involved, if you are not already. Everyone who is opposed to the rock crusher operating on this site should **write** to the address below and voice their concerns. Please include direct reference to the particulate matter which will be released into the air and its impact on you and the community, schools, and property owners adjacent to the site. Please also request a contested case hearing. This request must include:

- (1) your name, mailing address, daytime phone and fax number, if any;
- (2) applicant's name and permit number (Wheatcraft Materials, Permit #76508);
- (3) the statement "I request contested case hearing";
- (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public;
- (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility, if relevant; and
- (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility.

Address to write to:

Office of the Chief Clerk
MC 105
TCEQ
PO Box 13087
Austin, TX 76711-3087



Save our River!!

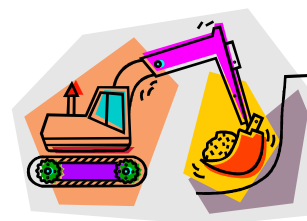
Join TRPA Today

To join TRPA, and to contribute to the rock crusher permit litigation fund, please contact TRPA at www.txrivers.org, and follow the prompts, or by mail at Texas Rivers Protection Association, 444 Pecan Park Dr., San Marcos, Texas 78666. TRPA's president, Tom Goynes, can be reached at 512/392-6171, or via e-mail at: goynes@centurytel.net.

If you want to contribute for this fund, you need only to indicate on your donation that the money is for G.R.E.A.T. and it will get to the right place.

DONATIONS NEEDED!!

The Texas Rivers Protection Association (TRPA) has been a wonderful ally during the past months, and their officers have agreed to continue to help should a contested case hearing be granted. The contested case hearing is actually a legal proceeding, and TRPA has been through a few hearings of this nature with TCEQ. Legal counsel will be needed, and TRPA will accept donations from our community designated for this cause. Indicate on your donation that you want it to go into the fund for the Guadalupe River Environmental Action Team (GREAT). Donations are tax-deductible, and TRPA has agreed to match our funds up to \$2500. Funds designated GREAT will be used only for this case.



**Together we Can
Protect Our Community
and Our River!!**



Send your comments or questions to Cayce Kovacs, at cddkovacs@hctc.net. Send monetary contributions for the cause to TRPA at the above address.