

Letter to the editor

POW stands behind ad

Richard Beggs

In response to Councilman Busbey who wrote a Letter to the Editor complaining about Protect Our Water (POW)'s recent Ad regarding the wastewater issue: POW stands firmly behind our ad – discharging can contaminate our drinking water.

In June 2016, scientific analysis was released by Groundwater Hydrologists indicating that Onion Creek's surface waters interact/recharge the aquifer. The message was clear: discharging treated wastewater (or raw sewage due to mechanical/human error) places our community's drinking water/wells at risk.

Since September 2016, POW has implored the City privately and publicly to provide science-backed evidence that their plan is safe. To date, Dripping Springs has failed to respond. They have ignored this request to provide scientific, due diligence. Not one time have they provided anything other than their opinion on the danger of discharging into

our creeks – frankly, this is not good enough for our community and we cannot accept such a radical plan degrading a pristine waterway without knowing it is safe. And the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) agrees.

In an extraordinary, unprecedented move, the US EPA and Fish/Wildlife Service submitted concerns on this specific permit in December, 2016; we are not aware of any other time in this State where EPA has stepped in for a permit under 1 million gallons/day - until now.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) publicly acknowledged at the Public Hearing (during my personal comments) the draft permit is harmful to human health if this treated water gets into drinking water. Shouldn't these facts cause all of us (including City Officials) to pause and reconsider discharging? Please see www.protectourwaternow.org for the Groundwater Districts' Scientific Analysis and EPA/USFW letters that support these statements. While City Officials frequently

talk about intentions (designed to put the public at ease), written, binding commitments are all that can be counted on. Fact: the City asked for a permit allowing them to discharge 995,000 gallons/day. Fact: to date, the City has not amended that permit nor made any written commitment around the number of discharges or conditions for those discharges.

POW does applaud efforts around beneficial re-use. Yes, there are contracts in place to take treated wastewater. Our problem is the gap in the solution when it is too wet to irrigate; during these times treated wastewater must be stored (e.g. in ponds) or discharged. Our community deserves a 100% beneficial re-use solution that avoids a discharge - it is within the City's reach!!

Our town is growing and POW supports responsible growth – growth that protects public health, preserves natural resources and pays for itself. We cannot, we must not, we will not put public health at risk – ever.

City Council and Mayor Purcell, we continue to ask you to commit to a 100% beneficial re-use solution – you have the model that proves you can do it. It removes a serious threat to our drinking water and local wells. This will support your growth plans, it will protect our natural resources – it will protect our health.

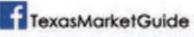
Respectfully,
Richard Beggs,
POW Board Member

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Council member disputes wastewater claims

Charles Busbey

Last week's issue of the Century News had a large ad on page three encouraging citizens to contact the DS mayor and council members re: the wastewater issue. If this ad, brought to you by the POW bunch, had been entirely truthful I would not be sending this letter. The ad states that "Your city government has refused to acknowledge or address ...science-backed reports" and that they "want to discharge wastewater into our creeks." A more truthful statement would have read "Your city gov-

ernment does not agree one hundred percent with OUR position on the wastewater subject and because of that, we are upset." In fact, city staff, Mayor Purcell, and Mayor pro tem Bill Foulds have spent a great deal of time answering questions and discussing the matter with POW and other concerned citizens. As a city council member, I've been involved with our wastewater expansion project and I have NEVER heard that the discharge of wastewater into creeks is a goal of the project... but that is what is alleged by the POW bunch. If one is interested in find-

ing out more about the wastewater plant expansion, the TCEQ discharge permit, etc. I encourage you to check the resources that the City of Dripping Springs has made (for quite some time now) available to the public.

Charles Busbey
City Council

Editors Note: This Letter to the Editor ran last week in the Century News without proper attribution. It is run here correctly.

Bell Springs residents thank students

Pat Galvin

As residents of Bell Springs Road, We would like to thank the Dripping Spring students in the National Honor Society, the

4H, and the FFA, for picking up litter along Bell Springs Rd. They came out on their Spring Break and were quite thorough even though the volume was great. The road is as beau-

tiful as we have ever seen! Thanks so much!
Sincerely,
Philip and Michele Hoggatt
Pat Galvin

Quilt of Valor presented to World War Two veteran



World War Two veteran Sterling Rogers is presented with his "Quilt of Valor." Left to right: Debbie Phillips, Sterling Rogers, John Carson, Kathleen Young, and Carol Plassman

John Pacheco
Editor

The Driftwood Community Improvement Club presented a "Quilt of Valor" to World War Two veteran Sterling Rogers. During World War Two, Rogers served in the U.S.

Army Air Corps based in England. On his third mission as the bombardier on a B-17 Flying Fortress, he was shot down over Germany and spent a year as prisoner of war. Rogers has written about his wartime experiences in two books, "Remembering" and "Hunkered Down," as well

a fictional novel. Rogers is a recipient of a Purple Heart Medal and currently resides in San Marcos. The Driftwood Community Improvement Club honors local veterans through the presentation of "Quilts of Honor," which they quilt themselves.

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How Would You Feel If Onion Creek Was Destroyed?



It Could Be. Discharging treated wastewater into Onion Creek will result in heavy mats of algae, toxins not removed during treatment and threats to aquatic life – forever changing it from the crystal clear, pristine waterway we enjoy today. It is a precious resource for our entire community.

The Risk Can Be Avoided. Dripping Springs can get their permit and commit to a 100% beneficial re-use solution. There is a defined model that will work – they simply need to commit to no-discharge.

We Need You to Help With the Solution. Let City Council and Mayor Purcell hear from you. They need to know our community expects growth to protect our natural resources. Email mayor@cityofdrippingsprings.com or Call: 512-858-4725.

About Protect Our Water. We are a citizen group focused on protecting our drinking water and our creeks. We support responsible growth that protects public health, preserves natural resources and pays for itself. JOIN US TODAY www.protectourwaternow.org

