

Sarina Blanchard

Hello friends and neighbors,

We are new to Salado, having moved here from Houston in July to be closer to our daughter and her family, who made the move three years ago. We have three young grandchildren who play in Salado Creek several times a week, usually meeting up with friends and their moms. With a cool front approaching, they went again yesterday to enjoy the creek "one more time" before the chilly weather sets in.

Watching them enjoy this beautiful natural treasure makes the importance of protecting it very personal to us. And it should be personal to all of us, whether we have lived here for generations or are just beginning to call Salado home.

It is our absolute duty to preserve the integrity of Salado Creek. On this, we must not fail.

Ecosystems thrive when valued and protected. Nature makes no exceptions, and it will respond accordingly to contamination.

For generations to come, there will be ample opportunity for the inevitable "oops, we accidentally discharged..." followed by excuses, assurances, and ultimately, NO SWIMMING ALLOWED. All for the benefit of development and those who profit from it.

Once it is established that Salado Creek is an acceptable place to discharge treated wastewater, a precedent is set that may be impossible to undo.

Now is the time to set the standard for Salado Creek: it is not a dumping ground, and it is not for sale at any price.