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Indian Lakes' treatment plant endorsed

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Friday, March 07, 2008

It has been 41 years since Yavapai County approved the 412-unit Indian Lakes subdivision down at the far end of Lake Montezuma.

Amazingly, many things surrounding the yet-to-be-built development have remained the same.

For starters, Lake Montezuma has maintained its laid back lifestyle, wrapped in its tranquil setting between the limestone bluffs and Beaver Creek.

The golf course is still the area's defining manmade landmark.

And there is still only one way in and one way out when the creek is up or you don't feel like losing an oil pan.

Much has also changed.

For starters, the community of Lake Montezuma has grown considerably. Several hundred homes now line the sinuous roads that weave around the golf course. A few thousand people now call the place home.

And few years back the State of Arizona changed the rules and regulations on how close a residential well can be to a residential septic tank.

For Red Rock Development, the owners of most of the lots in Indian Lakes, that which has remained the same is creating a bigger problem than that which has changed.

That became evident Wednesday evening as representatives and engineers for the Red Rock Development came to ask the Beaver Creek Regional council for an endorsement of their proposed wastewater treatment plant.

Last year the developer proposed recharging the plant's treated effluent to the local aquifer. Local residents objected and the county board of supervisors turned the project down.

The new plan is to pump the treated effluent over to the Beaver Creek Golf Course and use it to offset some of the water used out of Beaver Creek.

The new proposal was met with considerably more acceptance than the last one. In fact no one objected -- probably because the water from the treatment plant is cleaner than the water in the creek.

Most of council members and speakers from the audience agreed that the treatment plant is also a much better idea than having a couple hundred more septic tanks and/or a couple hundred more wells within a few hundred feet of Beaver Creek.

Such an arrangement could become the case if the developer does not receive approval for either the treatment plant or for servicing the lots with a central water supply. The subdivision's lots are too small to accommodate both a well and a septic given the current separation requirements.

However, there is still that thing about all those cars and the one way in and the one-way out. The consensus is that the only

thing holding up the subdivision s the traffic impact.

An hour and a half after the presentation started the board, by a 7-1 vote, gave its endorsement to the treatment plant, but only if the developer promises to contribute "financially, socially and ecologically," to the creation of a second way in and out of Lake Montezuma.

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