

# Cary flushes New Hill request

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EDITOR

Whether it's fair or not, Cary has gained the reputation of being a bully by imposing its will on smaller nearby communities.

The town did very little last week to help clear up that negative image.

The Cary town board voted 4-3 on June 23 to begin the condemnation process of 200 acres of land in New Hill.

Cary, acting as the lead partner in a group that includes Apex, Holly Springs and Morrisville, plans to build a regional wastewater facility in the middle of the New Hill historic district.

Residents of New Hill, who weren't informed of the proposed sewage plant until late May, had requested that Cary delay making a decision for 30 days. They hoped the extra time could be used to find a better site.

Just prior to the board's vote, Cary Mayor Ernie McAlister addressed the many New Hill residents in attendance.

He said since Cary was acting as the lead partner of the group it had to act in the best interest of all the partners.

"A vote to delay (a decision) is a vote to delay the project," said McAlister. "We can't take that risk. We'd be remiss not to keep it moving as leader of the partners."

McAlister also told the residents that they shouldn't mistake Cary's actions as being a final approval for the project.

He pointed out that the state still had to review the environmental impact statement and part of that review would include public hearings.

"I encourage folks affected by this to take advantage of the process and make sure your voice is heard," said McAlister.

New Hill Community Association President Paul Barth said he was disappointed with the outcome but vowed his group would continue with their fight.

Barth said the NHCA is already contacting state officials about the issue and is considering seeking legal counsel.

"We won't go away," said Barth.