

City finds erosion problems at Barton Creek mall site

Recent rains washed away hay bales intended to filter runoff and prevent erosion at Barton Creek Square Mall on Loop 360, the city's Environmental Board learned Wednesday night.

Another problem at the site was siltation, which had to be removed by a city-paid contractor because the city determined that his workers had caused the silt while installing a 64-inch line, Melita Elmore of the city's Engineering Department said.

Board chairman Neal Graham said the recent erosion was as bad or worse than the erosion in May that prompted the board to ask the city to revoke the building permits. Revo-

cation was averted, but might be requested again if new erosion controls fail, he said.

Dr. Maureen McReynolds, head of the city's Environmental Resource Management department, said the mall developers are making "a good-faith effort." Graham asked the city staff to obtain a firm date for finishing new controls.

Elmore said that the city sends an inspector to the mall construction site once or twice a week to inspect the erosion controls.

She presented a chronology of erosion problems caused by the summer drought, a broken irrigation pipe and then the rains.