

Environmentalists urge boycott of mall to halt storm runoff in Barton Creek

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Opposition to Barton Creek Square resumed Saturday as members of the Save Barton Creek Association distributed leaflets advocating a boycott of the mall's almost 200 stores unless the mall owners "live up to their promise" of environmental protection.

SBCA president Joe Riddell said some citizens are concerned that the urban runoff from the 102 acres of pavement at the mall will "detract from the water quality of Barton Creek." Riddell said members of the SBCA and the Zilker Park Posse distributed the literature to about 800 people visiting the new

Sears store which opened Saturday.

Riddell said mall plans began in 1975 after then-owner Sid Jagger "promised that the mall's drainage would not degrade the water quality of Barton Creek."

Since then, the SBCA has been communicating with Bryant-Curington Inc. of Austin, the mall's engineering firm, in an effort to "make the mall live up to the former owner's promise," Riddell said.

Bryant-Curington engineer Melvin Weir was not available for comment Monday.

In March the SBCA was able to obtain a "Stormwater Facilities Information Report" from the firm but was disappointed with its find-

ings which were said to rely heavily on the results reported in other studies rather than special tests for the mall.

"Even though the mall plans various pollution control measures, the report indicates that the runoff after rain storms will be significantly polluted," a spring SBCA newsletter said.

The council approved the drainage plan in January 1980.

Thursday Riddell tried to convince the City Council that Sears Roebuck & Co., J.C. Penney Co. Inc. and Montgomery Ward & Co. should be denied temporary certificates of occupancy until the owners of the mall completed construction of

three retention ponds at the mall and pay for water and wastewater fees which must be paid before property can be occupied.

However, Riddell said Monday the certificates had already been issued despite non-payment of the fees by the three companies because the city's Building Inspection Department had not waited for communication from the Water and Wastewater Department.

Sears is the only store currently operating, while the "grand opening" of all the stores is scheduled for Aug. 19. Montgomery Ward and J.C. Penney are also expected to open before the grand opening.