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Firms that would benefit funding roads campaign

From staff reports

San Marcos — Developers, builders and engineering firms are pouring tens of thousands of dollars into a political action committee pushing for passage of a \$172 million road construction package on the May 12 ballot.

Hays Future Now PAC had collected \$48,575 in contributions through Thursday and had \$35,286 in the bank, according to a campaign finance report filed on Friday. The group had already spent \$25,537 on their campaign for Prop. 1, including thousands on colorful campaign mailers that began hitting mailboxes this week.

A group opposing the package, Citizens for Responsible Roads, had raised \$6,531, spent \$4,839 and had \$4,691 on-hand. A third committee, Hays County Citizens for Parks and Clean Water, had not filed their report as of the Friday afternoon deadline, county election officials said.

Among contributors to the pro-roads group are several engineering firms that have already been awarded contracts on the road projects if they are approved by voters. Klotz Associates Inc.; Dannenbaum Engineering Corp.; Carter & Burgess Inc.; and Lockwood, Andrews & Newman all contributed at least \$1,000.

Two of those firms are represented locally by former county officials: Dannenbaum by former Pct. 3 Commissioner Bill Burnett and Lockwood by former County Judge Eddy Etheredge whose office has been used as a headquarters for Hays Future Now's campaign activities.

San Antonio developer Rick Sheldon, the Homebuilders Association of Greater Austin and the Texas Association of Realtors all contributed \$5,000, the legal maximum.

The committee's treasurer is political consultant Sam McCabe. The group's spokesperson, Amy Ledbetter Parham, did not return a phone call for comment on the campaign report.

— Brad Rollins



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