

6-30-2016-Comments for Council on PAH Ban

I am speaking today in support of banning coal tar sealants on behalf of the local member groups of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance: AGUA, Alamo Group of the Sierra Club, Bexar Audubon Society, Bexar Green party, First Universalist Unitarian Church of San Antonio, Friends of Government Canyon, Fuerza Unida, Headwaters at Incarnate Word, Native Plant Society of San Antonio, Northwest Interstate Coalition of Neighborhoods, San Antonio Audubon Society, San Antonio Conservation Society, Solar San Antonio, Sisters of Divine Providence, and Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation.

We are very concerned that, without this ban, new development over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone will introduce a recognized carcinogen into the Aquifer. Storm water flowing over areas paved with coal-tar sealants rapidly introduce this contaminant into our water supply, and SAWS does not treat to remove such constituents prior to distributing Edwards water.

If the ordinance passes, San Antonio will be the largest city in the nation to adopt such a measure. We hope that you all will give us cause to celebrate a big step forward in protecting San Antonio's water quality – and will act as an example by showing the rest of the nation how much the City of San Antonio values our water and the health of its citizens.

We thank you for this opportunity to comment and especially want to thank Councilman Ron Nirenberg for shepherding this action as part of the recommendations made in the *Cities of San Antonio and Fair Oaks Ranch Water Policy Analysis*.

We are also very grateful Steven Kale and his fellow members of the City's Citizens' Environmental Advisory Committee, who began advocating this ban in 2010, to all of our GEAA members who contacted you in support of this ordinance, and to the many experts who have come forward to recommend prohibiting the use of Coal Tar Sealants.