

June 9, 2010

Statement to San Antonio City Council

Re: Hearing on change in rate structure proposed by SAWS

Dear Mayor Castro and members of City Council,

On behalf of the 48 member organizations of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, I am pleased to wholeheartedly endorse changes to the water rate structure proposed by the San Antonio Water System (SAWS).

Our local member groups have long advocated changes to the rate structure such as these submitted by SAWS, and we thank the SAWS Board and staff for devising such an elegant and common sense method of encouraging additional water conservation. We believe the changes proposed will serve as the basis of an equitable system whereby those putting the most strain on our water resources will be charged accordingly, while those who conserve will be rewarded for their efforts. It is our hope that this rate structure will be adopted as proposed, and that it will result in a reduction of water use and the adoption of additional conservation measures where they are warranted.

Given that only 3% of the water on earth is fresh water, and only 1% of that freshwater is available for human use, we applaud SAWS extensive efforts to conserve water. Given that the Edwards Aquifer provides us with the extremely high quality water, and that it is the basis of an ecosystem that we all rely upon, we are especially grateful for actions that prevent this precious resource from being squandered.

We urge you to approve the rate structure as proposed by SAWS, and thank you for this opportunity to express our support.

Sincerely,

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director