

Alamo Group of the Sierra Club
Aquifer Guardians in Urban Areas
Austin Regional Sierra Club
Bexar Audubon Society
Boerne Together
Cibolo Nature Center
Citizens Allied for Smart Expansion
Environmental Stewardship
Committees of the Episcopal Church of Reconciliation & Episcopal Diocese of West Texas
Environment Texas
First Universalist Unitarian Church of San Antonio
Friends of Canyon Lake
Fuerza Unida
Government Canyon Natural History Association
Hays Community Action Network
Helotes Heritage Association
Helotes Nature Center
Hill Country Planning Association
Guardians of Lick Creek
Kendall County Well Owners Association
Kinney County Ground Zero
Medina County Environmental Action Association
Northwest Interstate Coalition of Neighborhoods
OST 100
Preserve Castroville
Preserve Lake Dunlop Association
Preserve Our Water-Blanco County
San Antonio Audubon Society
San Antonio Conservation Society
San Geronimo Valley Alliance
San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance
San Marcos River Foundation
Santuario Sisterfarm
Save Barton Creek Association
Save Our Springs Alliance
Scenic Loop/Boerne Stage Alliance
Securing a Future Environment
Sisters of the Divine Providence
Smart Growth San Antonio
SEED Coalition
Texas Water Alliance
West Texas Springs Alliance
Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation
Wimberley Valley Watershed Association

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Press Release

Re: Change in rate structure proposed by SAWS

The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance is delighted 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 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 find it outrageous that the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce is opposed to putting the burden of developing new water resources upon the largest consumers of those resources, and we question their motives for doing so. Especially as this body has consistently opposed proven measures to protect the quality of San Antonio's main source of water and other improvements that have earned our city recognition as a leader in water conservation.

At this time, when stakeholders from throughout the Edwards region are working hard to devise a plan to protect this precious resource, failure to adopt this measure sends a strong message to others that San Antonio is unwilling to do our part to protect spring flows at Comal and San Marcos. We urge Mayor Castro and members of City Council to approve the rate structure as proposed by SAWS.

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The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance unites forty-eight member organizations behind a comprehensive plan to protect regional karst aquifers, their springs and watersheds, and the Texas Hill Country. For more information visit www.AquiferAlliance.org