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Request for Coverage

San Antonio poised to become the largest city in the nation to ban coal-tar sealants

When: Thursday, June 30th City Council A Session at 9:00 a.m. (Agenda Item #20)

Press Conference at 8:30 a.m. at Main Plaza – Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, Mom’s Clean Air Force, Coal Tar Free America, Air and Health Collaborative of San Antonio, Environmental Defense Fund, Sierra Club, and others will participate.

Where: Municipal Plaza City Council Chambers, 105 Main Plaza

What: June 30th Council Session will be a milestone for San Antonio’s environment as City Council will consider a ban on coal tar based sealants and a policy limiting the idling of heavy duty vehicles.

Last month, the [City of San Marcos](#) joined [Austin](#) in banning the use of [coal-tar sealants](#) - and we hope [San Antonio is fixing to do the same](#). This coming Thursday (6/30) Mayor Taylor and San Antonio City Council will vote to ban the use of PAH (coal-tar) sealants. [Click here](#) for agenda (item # 20). Also supporting the measure is the [San Antonio River Authority](#).

In celebration of this occasion, [Cola Tar Free America](#) will be “*bringing our readers our first livestream event of what may become the nation's largest city to ban toxic coal tar sealers.*” You can watch and leave comments about the proceedings, even if you can't attend, by [clicking here](#).

We are very grateful to San Antonio Councilman [Ron Nirenberg](#) for championing the ban, and to Dr. Vincent Nathan, Interim Director of San Antonio Metropolitan Health and Doug McMurry, executive vice president of the San Antonio Chapter of the Associated General Contractors for joining Councilman Nirenberg in submitting [this powerful opinion piece](#) to the San Antonio Express News. *They observed that “some coal-tar holdouts are working to counter independent research with public relations campaigns intended to [mislead the public](#).”*

We are very concerned that, without this ban, new development over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone can 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 Mayor Taylor and San Antonio City Council members 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 also hope that municipal bans on this compound that is polluting our water may spur the [Trustees of the Edwards Aquifer Authority](#) to revisit this issue and move to ban coal tar sealants throughout the entire Edwards region.