



Dear San Antonio GEAA members and friends,

The many calls, letters, and e-mails received by Council members and [a staff editorial](#) by the San Antonio Express news calling for the restoration of the original Dark Skies and Impervious Cover recommendations to the San Antonio Tomorrow Sustainability Plan had limited effect on the final plans adopted by Council yesterday. (Read more [here](#).) Even endorsements of the original draft Sustainability Plan from such experts as the [San Antonio River Authority](#) and [the military](#) did not sway the majority of Council to approve that draft. Instead, [a version](#) that calls for a “broad stakeholder group” to “study and consider whether to update San Antonio’s Dark Sky ordinance” and another stakeholder group to “determine if development standards are needed to address flooding, water quality, and urban heat islands.” was adopted. Words such as “[regulate](#)” were replaced with “incentivize” at the recommendation of [five Planning Commission members](#) and the San Antonio Real Estate Council.

Our thanks to Councilman Nirenberg for his efforts to get the Plan to more accurately resemble the original intent of the stakeholders groups, and to Council representatives Treviño, Saldaña, and Gonzales for supporting his efforts.

According to the City’s web site describing the [Sustainability Plan](#) “A *sustainable San Antonio has a thriving economy, a healthy environment, and an inclusive and fair community. Through this planning effort YOU have the opportunity to help shape San Antonio’s future.*” From yesterday’s vote, it appears that some “[YOU’s](#)” clearly have more clout than the rest of us. We can only hope that the new stakeholder groups called for in the plan are not top heavy with [YOU know who’s](#), and that citizens, the military, and SARA have -at least - equal representation.

And, speaking of You know who’s, we will be watching to see who the City Council appoints to the [Planning Commission](#) when their terms expire in October and will post the new appointments (or reappointments) on [our web site](#). Stay tuned for more.

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director
[Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#)

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