



Dear GEAA members and friends,

I want to alert you to [SB 1170](#) filed by Senator Donna Campbell and its companion [HB 1806](#) by Representative Tracy King. This legislation would allow San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS) to sell Edwards Aquifer water outside the [boundaries of the Edwards Aquifer Authority](#), which is currently prohibited. Specifically, the bill says SAWS “*may sell water withdrawn from the aquifer at wholesale to a retail public utility or river authority for use in a county adjacent to the boundaries of the authority.*”

**This bill is troubling on many levels.**

**Folks in Kendall County are concerned that sale of SAWS water will encourage high density development on the Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone** (which is also the Recharge Zone for the Cow Creek Aquifer). High density urbanization in this environmentally sensitive area poses threats to water quality of both aquifers.

**SAWS ratepayers should be very concerned that SAWS is selling off the rights for San Antonio to pump from the Edwards Aquifer** through the sale of these permits. When the Vista Ridge pipe line was being discussed, one of the selling points offered by SAWS CEO Robert Puente was that use of Vista Ridge water would allow us to keep more water in the Edwards Aquifer – good for downstream flows and for San Antonio’s long term water security.

Now we see that SAWS wants to sell off our Edwards permits and commit San Antonio to a less secure supply of water from Burleson County. The Vista Ridge water requires a higher level of treatment, which will add to the cost of water for SAWS customers, while folks in Boerne and elsewhere will enjoy our Edwards water – which requires no treatment.

We do not know if SAWS is planning to sell water from the Edwards at a rate less than what San Antonians are paying for Vista Ridge water. If so, SAWS customers would actually be subsidizing development in Boerne!

**Any way you look at this, it looks like a bad deal for the citizens of San Antonio.**

**We would like the SAWS Board to vote to withdraw SB 1170 / HB 1806 at their April 2nd meeting (at 9:00 a.m. at 6th Floor Board Room at 2800 U. S. Hwy 281 North, San Antonio, Texas).**

This legislation represents a major policy change that should require discussion by and permission from the SAWS Board. Please contact members of the SAWS Board ([Send message](#)) to ask them for a vote to withdraw SB 1170 / HB 1806 from consideration of the Texas legislature.

[Heriberto Guerra](#), Chairman

[Mayor Ron Nirenberg](#), ex Officio

[Pat Jasso](#), Vice Chairman

[Amy Hardberger](#), Secretary

[Pat Merritt](#), Assistant Secretary

[David McGee](#), Trustee

[Eduardo Parra](#), Trustee

A big thanks to all of you who took the time to call members of the House Environmental Regulations Committee about HB 3114. We heard from staffers that they were getting about 70 calls a day on this. You certainly got their attention!

We will keep you posted on this and other legislation during the 86th Session of the Texas Legislature.

Annalisa Peace

Executive Director  
[Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#)

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