

May 7, 2021

Request for Coverage

Contacts: Annalisa Peace, GEAA 210-275-9336 / Annalisa@AquiferAlliance.org
Bonnie Conner – former SA City Council and EAA Trustee 210-210-493-7176
Scott Gruendler – EAPP Conservation Easement Holder 210-364-6942

**Landowner and Edwards Aquifer Protection Program Supporters
Speak About SAWS Plans to Run Sewage & Water Lines Through Protected Land**

Where: 28710 Dal Cin, San Antonio (site of EAPP Conservation Easement)

When: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

San Antonio Water System (SAWS) plans to route oversized water and sewer mains through conservation easements held by the City of San Antonio's Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP). The lines will accommodate development of the Specht tract of 173.30 acres by a national homebuilder. The sewer line will serve 420 residences producing 200 to 240 gal/day of sewage to transport a volume of up to 100,800 gallons/day through a protected area of the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone.

On May 4th, the SAWS Board agenda included further discussion of the utility service agreement to serve the Specht tract that they approved on January 12th. From their remarks, it was clear that the Board members were concerned that they did not receive a briefing on all aspects of service to the Specht tract. The Board asked for SAWS staff to provide a risk assessment on all options for providing sewer service to the tract. Since they were not apprised of all the facts in this matter, some questioned whether their approval of the SAWS service agreement was valid.

If the EAPP easement landowners refuse the offer from SAWS for the construction easement to run water and sewer lines through their property, the San Antonio City Council could be called upon to vote on whether to exercise the right of eminent domain to run the SAWS lines through their properties. This would be a truly bizarre eventuality as San Antonio would, in essence, be bringing legal action against itself and the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program.

This issue puts a spotlight on just how problematic is the lack of coherent policy when SAWS service seemingly conflicts with our City's goals for Aquifer protection. The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA) has for many years asked our Mayor and City Council to provide direction to SAWS about the impacts of SAWS water and waste water service on encouraging growth over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge and Contributing zones. Citizens now call on City Council to vote yea or nay on this matter.

GEAA calls on the City and/or the SAWS Board to adopt a moratorium on issuing new Utility Service Contracts for water and waste water service on the Edwards Aquifer Recharge, Transition, and Contributing zones until such time as policies more protective of these areas are adopted.

You can read GEAA's comments [here](#) and [here](#).

XXX