

Good afternoon. My name is Rachel Hanes, and I am speaking on behalf of the 15 San Antonio member groups of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance.

We fully support the thoughtful, forward-looking, and equitable changes to the Drought Management Plan that were outlined at the May 7<sup>th</sup> board meeting. These changes will be crucial as we head into another extremely hot summer, in what is likely a future of summers that are just as hot and dry, if not hotter and drier. The proposed measures will help preserve our treasured and unique water supplies, for today's residents and hopefully generations to come.

We appreciate SAWS's efforts to incentivize water conservation, fairly apply watering rules across the service area, lower the burden placed on the electric grid, and improve regional alignment on drought stages. While we understand the impetus behind the recent compromise on drip irrigation, the updated proposal for drip irrigation provides too large of a loophole for irrigation water use, and will mean those with drip irrigation can use far more water than their neighbors and use more water than is likely even needed.

We urge you to approve the adoption of these much-needed conservation measures, in their entirety, as originally submitted.

Speaking now as a private citizen, I too support the proposed measures. As I talked about on May 7<sup>th</sup>, I live in a neighborhood on the Near Eastside, with neighbors who are predominantly either retired or are families with young children, who are very concerned about utility costs, and who take great pride in their lawns but either hand water or have some form of xeriscaping or native plant landscaping.

The changes to the Drought Management Plan, as originally submitted, are the best way to protect the city and region's water supplies while applying watering rules in a fair and consistent manner across the service area and hopefully keeping costs down for ratepayers. Drought rules, watering rules, and surcharges should apply just as equally to large lots with expensive irrigation systems in the city's ETJ or within other communities as they do to my neighbors on the Eastside, who generally use less water, as was recently shown in a mySA article on water use.

I urge you, this time as a private citizen, to approve the adoption of these much-needed conservation measures, in their entirety, as originally submitted. Thank you for the opportunity to speak this afternoon, and thank you for considering these changes.