



**Citizens Environmental
Advisory Committee**

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Erin Zayko
Mayor's Appointee

Tenna Florian
District 1 Appointee

Julie Cornelius
District 2 Appointee

Rudi Harst
District 3 Appointee

Gilbert Morales
District 4 Appointee

Kamala Platt
District 5 Appointee

Vacant
District 6 Appointee

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District 7 Appointee

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November 13, 2015

Mayor and City Council
City of San Antonio
P.O. Box 839966
San Antonio, TX 78283-3966

Subject: SAWS Rate Increase Proposal

The Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC), created in 2009 by City of San Antonio Ordinance, is comprised of 11 appointed members including a representative for each of the 10 districts and one mayoral appointee. Its purpose is to provide recommendations of environmental programs and policies to City Council while serving as a voice for the community on matters related to environmental sustainability.

During the last two months, CEAC received presentations from SAWS and concerned citizens regarding the SAWS rate increase for residential and commercial proposal, which city council is scheduled to vote on the 19th of November CEAC requests that Council members consider these questions prior to the vote:

- Will the SAWS 2015 Water Management Plan be made publically available prior to the vote on November 19th? This vote is determining the trajectory of our water future, yet the only plan available from SAWS for review is the 2012 Water Management Plan which needs to be adjusted to reflect a reduced demand per capita, newly established supplies and updated population growth projections. It is crucial that all information be made available to ensure fully informed decisions are made about our water future.
- How will SAWS address our current high rate of water loss? According to pages 72 – 73 of the Water Policy Analysis for the Cities of San Antonio and Fair Oaks Ranch (released November 2015), lost/non-revenue water accounted for approximately 36,305 AF of water in 2013, which is approximately 75% of the yearly proposed Vista Ridge supply. We understand and appreciate that SAWS is currently studying the sources of the water loss. Adequate funds need to be directed to our aging water infrastructure to ensure clean and safe water is being delivered efficiently to our citizens. CEAC feels that good stewardship of our existing water resources must be the first step to ensure a stable and economically viable water future in San Antonio.
- To what degree is SAWS committed to continue to reduce per capita demand when, per page 68 of the Water Study, it appears the supply will far exceed the demand for quite some time? Where is the incentive to conserve when SAWS will be obligated to sell 50,000 AF of water starting in 2020, water that we may not need (according to the most conservative population growth numbers and drought of record conditions) until 2040 at the earliest?
- Is there a guarantee that drought restrictions will remain in place even if the metric by which the current restrictions are determined is forced to change due to reduced use of our current primary water supply, the Edwards Aquifer?
- How will the city encourage stormwater management as a means to increase water supply and reduce the need for other more costly water sources and rate increases in the future? CEAC has received encouraging presentations from Camp Bullis and SARA regarding the effectiveness of land management and Low Impact Development strategies for ground water recharge and flood management.
- Great efforts have been made to protect our current primary source of water, the Edwards Aquifer, which currently provides us with inexpensive, clean water that requires only minimal treatment. What source protection is in place for future water projects?

The committee offers these questions out of respect for the wellbeing of San Antonio's residents, for our environment, particularly our aquifers, and for maintaining a system of sustainable, equitable water across south-central Texas.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tenna Florian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tenna" and last name "Florian" clearly distinguishable.

Tenna Florian, Chair
San Antonio Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee