



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

Ivy R. Taylor
Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jill DeYoung, 207-7067

Mayor Taylor's Statement on Water Measures

SAN ANTONIO (Oct. 7, 2015) — From its citizens to City Council members, San Antonio cares about water. Based on that concern, we will carry out the following actions during the coming week:

- The full City Council will discuss today's committee recommendations at next week's B Session and will finalize the timeline for a vote on SAWS rate restructuring and adjustment, which will occur no later than Nov. 19
- I will make the draft water policy study submitted by Dr. Calvin Finch publicly available via a link from my website so that we can all become familiar with its contents
- In partnership with civic organizations, I will host additional public meetings at which SAWS will provide information and answer questions
- SAWS will make available its current 2012 Water Management Plan and all current citizen inputs regarding its revision and will solicit additional input from City Council members
- SAWS will partner with City of San Antonio and other local governments to identify Article II Unified Development Code revisions currently underway that can be strengthened to address low impact development, promote conservation and improve water quality
- COSA will begin to develop an integrated approach to stormwater management and environmental restoration based on the current and soon to be expanded taxpayer investment in the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System

I am confident that we can accomplish these actions because SAWS, our municipally-owned water utility, is the national leader in achieving conservation and working with agencies such as the EPA.

Voters have consistently supported using tax dollars to protect the Edwards Aquifer, and Council Committee chairs Ray Lopez (Transportation, Technology and Utilities), Joe Krier (Human and Economic Development) and Ron Nirenberg (Comprehensive Planning) have been effective advocates for practical solutions. City Council has unanimously voiced our support for the Vista Ridge project. We all agree that conserving water and ensuring our future water supply are our top priorities and that we have to take reasonable risks to secure our future water, carefully balancing costs and benefits.

Over the past few weeks City Council has considered rate and conservation issues and has addressed the billing problems experienced by many families. The confusion and anger over estimated bills have understandably colored our discussion of rates and rate restructuring. The steps above will help ensure transparency and provide an opportunity for all to take advantage of any available information.

###