



Resolution in Support of the SAWS Rate Adjustment

BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

Berto

the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce hereby recommends to our Executive Board and Directors to pass and support the following resolution in support of a water rate adjustment proposed by San Antonio Water System (SAWS) as a recommendation by Chairman Guerra and SAWS Trustees.

WHEREAS,

the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the first Hispanic Chamber in the U.S., representing more than 1,250 businesses in the greater San Antonio area, fully supports the proposed water rate adjustment proposed by SAWS

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SAWS currently manages nearly 7,000 miles of water mains which pump 77.4 billion gallons of water per year. SAWS also manages over 5,300 miles of sewer mains which carry 50.7 billion gallons of treated flow per year. The proposed rate adjustments are intended to accomplish the following objectives:

Increase Operational Efficiency and Savings

- \$57 million saved in debt refinancing over the next five years
- Reduced staffing has resulted in \$20 million in annual savings
- Most efficient ratio of water connections to employees among large Texas cities

Develop Alternative Water Supplies

- Continue water conservation initiatives with investments in education/awareness; conservation serves as additional supply.
- Continue development of the Vista Ridge Pipeline which will provide 50,000 acre-ft. by 2020.
- Complete the capital intensive investment for Vista Ridge system integration developments and upgrades.
- Continue development of Brackish Desalination project which will provide 13,440 acre ft. by 2017.
- Complete water integration upgrades and begin operations as water distribution begins.

Improve Water and Sewer Infrastructure

- Comply with EPA Consent Decree requirements, which are estimated to require an estimated \$850 million in capital investments over the next 10-12 years.
- Assess and repair the aging wastewater and water distribution systems. Over 40 percent of the wastewater system and nearly 40 percent of the water distribution system are at least 30 years old. Each system has a significant percentage of lines over 50 years old.

Preserve Strong Credit Profile

- Retain strong bond ratings to reduce borrowing costs.
- Current ratings are at: AA+, Aa1, AA+
- Mitigate risk as rain volatility and reduced use result in reduced revenue.

Maintain Affordable Rates

- Maintain among the lowest rates in the country and the lowest rates in Texas, including rate adjustments.
- Continue investments in affordability and discount programs for low and moderate income households.

WHEREAS,

the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber will communicate this position to and take the following actions as the advocacy for this rate increase unfolds;

- Communicate this position to local/regional media outlets, Hispanic Chamber members, leaders in our community and publication on the Hispanic Chamber’s website www.sahcc.org.
- The Hispanic Chamber will act as an advocate for SAWS locally, in the business and at large communities.
- The Hispanic Chamber will collaborate with other organizations seeking to promote this rate increase to provide adequate resources and education on said increase.
- The Hispanic Chamber will monitor the implementation of the rate increase in collaboration with SAWS and seek to make necessary policy recommendations to local/regional elected officials to strengthen this endeavor for our community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

that through this rate adjustment detailed below in the rate adjustment San Antonio will serve as the model for best practices in water management for a fast-growing metropolis. It will become a positive example for other cities in the United States that are facing similar challenges with water conservation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

that by supporting continued water conservation in new supplies and this proposed water rate adjustment we will protect our environmental vibrancy and ensure future economic prosperity for all of the citizens of San Antonio, Bexar County, and central Texas.

IN CONCLUSION,

be it resolved and approved this the 21st day of October, 2015 in a vote of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber’s board of directors.

Statutory Clause: The San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce recommends that minority, local, small and women-owned businesses are highly considered, when public and private contracts are set to bid for capital infrastructure and professional service improvements. San Antonio is a city that is more than 60% minority in population, with local ready, willing, and able taxpaying contractors that are very competitive and qualified. We recommend that the proposed project and its funding recommended in this resolution stay local, in order for awarded contracts to mirror the diversity of the San Antonio business community.

October 8, 2015

Rate Adjustment Requirements

Expressed as a Percentage of Total Bill Prior to Pass-Through Charges

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Water Supply Fee	1.8%	3.2%	1.3%	4.5%	9.9%
Wastewater & Water Delivery	5.7%	4.7%	TBD	TBD	TBD
Total	7.5%	7.9%	TBD	TBD	TBD

