

# District 9 Biweekly



Councilman Joe Krier

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- SAWS approves Vista Ridge Contract

October 3, 2014

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Dear Friends and Residents,

This newsletter is dedicated to the proposed SAWS Vista Ridge Water Project Contract which the SAWS board approved on September 29, 2014.

The Vista Ridge Pipeline project will pump water from Burlleson County to San Antonio, bringing 50K acre feet of water annually from the Carrizo and Simsboro Aquifers.

I support the proposed water contract. SAWS will ask City Council for final approval later this month.

I have been following water issues since I moved here in 1973 and I've been involved in water issues since I was Greater San Antonio Chamber President, starting in 1987.

Since then, I've observed 7 long-term SAWS water plans, none of which were implemented. During that time, I visited with a number of job prospects each of whom was concerned with our ability to ensure their company and employees long-term water supply. None asked about our ability to provide long-term energy.

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**"JOE ON THE  
ISSUES"**

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For many years I have witnessed the need for a secure long-term water supply in San Antonio. During that same

period, numerous plans for long-term water supplies have failed to materialize and evaporated.

Never have I been more excited about the future of our city than with the recent action by the SAWS Board to approve this contract with Vista Ridge which will secure San Antonio's long-term water future.

Our need for water dates back to the limits placed on the Edwards Aquifer in the 90s following a lawsuit by the Sierra Club. Our access to the Edwards Aquifer has been cut by 42% in the worst drought conditions in order to protect endangered species. That means San Antonio needs alternative supplies to meet future water demands.

Since then, SAWS has taken numerous water planning steps that have been very successful in the short term.

Water conservation, recycled water, and stored water have

proven beneficial and environmentally sound. Other supplies have been acquired in smaller quantities, and desalination will soon become a reality for San Antonio.

For far too long, we have failed to take action to secure an

abundant supply of water we can count on far into the future. Fortunately, that is no longer the case.

The leaders of our utility have been hard at work negotiating a deal for water that is fair for our community.

Berto Guerra and Reed Williams were appointed to the SAWS Board by the City Council and entrusted with the leadership necessary to provide a water supply for our future. I believe they have succeeded through the proposed contract with Vista Ridge.

According to SAWS, the terms of this contract will protect San Antonio ratepayers with a fixed price long-term cost. Furthermore, we will not have to pay for water that is not delivered. And we will not be subject to rising interest

rates because the rate will be capped.

This proposal provides water security for decades and locks in long-term water at today's rates. The agreement

would not diminish the community's commitment to conservation and would not create unbridled growth over the aquifer. Furthermore, it implements a lifeline rate to spare future rate increases for those with limited resources.

In 1976, the City Council voted against the purchase of a similar quantity of water from Canyon Lake. At the time, it

would have cost us \$33 per acre-foot. Today, Canyon Lake water costs us more than \$1,000 per acre-foot.

While Vista Ridge will require future rate increases, we cannot afford to pass up a deal like this, especially when we can avoid future cost increases.

The goal of supply diversity is to help protect the endangered species in our precious Edwards Aquifer, while also providing the needed supplies for San Antonio's long-term health.

Along with other non-Edwards supplies, Vista Ridge is a significant quantity of water that will not have to be pumped from the Edwards in the future. That helps ensure the springs can continue to flow for the benefit of endangered species, which is exactly what the Sierra Club has wanted from the beginning.

Further expansion and development over the Aquifer recharge zone is unlikely, because 90% of the Bexar County recharge zone is already developed, master planned or set aside for conservation.

San Antonians need to continue learning more about the Vista Ridge Pipeline project. I look forward to continued dialogue about the proposed contract, and will ensure that

questions about the deal are thoroughly vetted and answered.

San Antonio's future depends on successfully securing a long-term water supply. Our economic development and quality of life depend on it. At long last, the promise of this new supply cannot be ignored.

A public hearing regarding the proposed SAWS Vista Ridge Water Supply Agreement is set for 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2014 at Council Chambers located at 114 W. Commerce in the Municipal Plaza building.

City Council is in session next week. Click [here](#) for the

current agenda.

As always, if there are topics you would like to see

Working together, we can make District 9 and our City a better place for everyone. Thanks again for the privilege of representing you.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Krier

Councilman, District 9

in future newsletters, please let me know via email at

[district9@sanantonio.gov](mailto:district9@sanantonio.gov). You can also follow us on

Twitter: @joekrierD9 or like us on the District 9 public

page: Facebook

[www/facebook.com/CouncilmanJoeKrierDistrict9](http://www/facebook.com/CouncilmanJoeKrierDistrict9).



**Deadline to Register to Vote**

October 6 is the Deadline to Register to Vote! Early Voting for the November 4 Election starts Monday, October 20 and ends Friday, Oct. 31, 2014. Voter registration cards are available at the Office of the City Clerk, as well as all Public Libraries. Contact the Bexar County Voter Registration Office at

(210) 335-6625. Click [here](#) to view a complete list of sites.

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JOE



**District 9 Field Office: 16500 San Pedro Ave  
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Walk-in's are welcome from 9:30am to 10:00am  
207-0955 or [district9@sanantonio.gov](mailto:district9@sanantonio.gov)**

We have resumed our weekly "Java with Joe" Open Door Block of [Appointments](#). Please contact us at 207-0955 or click [HERE](#) to request a block time. Someone from our office will call/email you to confirm your actual appointment.

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