The Clarifier

The Clarification Process uses gravity to settle out sediment and natural organic matter from wastewater to make it clear.
Meet your San Antonio River Authority Utilities Leaders

As your sewer and wastewater treatment provider, we are very excited to welcome you to our new San Antonio River Authority (River Authority) Utilities newsletter! We are eager to share the happenings around our Utilities Department with you throughout the year. Through this newsletter some of the topics we look forward to sharing include progress of construction on our upcoming wastewater treatment plant expansions, updates on sewer rates, utility crew highlights, and tips for keeping your and pipes (ours and yours) clear and functioning optimally.

We want to take a moment to introduce you to the River Authority’s Utilities Leadership team. Collectively our team has over 160 years of experience working in wastewater services!

Would you prefer to receive our new publication electronically? Or, do you know a friend that would enjoy receiving our updates? Visit our website at sariverauthority.com/utilities to sign up!
One of the many topics we would like to regularly update our sewer and wastewater customers on through The Clarifier is the San Antonio River Authority’s (River Authority) Capacity, Management, Operations, and Maintenance program, also known as CMOM. CMOM is a mouthful, so what does it really mean? It is a broad picture or holistic framework used to manage, operate, and maintain collection systems, investigate areas of strain in the collection system, and to identify likely areas for future sanitary sewer overflows. This is important because too often utilities slip into a reactive mode in emergencies instead of being proactive and predictive with maintenance. Benefits from this model can include cost savings by avoiding overtime, emergency construction costs, and increased insurance premiums. A CMOM program can give a utility the tools and data to effectively manage, maintain, and improve their collection systems.

The River Authority has begun formalizing a CMOM program by hiring HDR Engineering to form a program and create capacity models. The three areas of focus in developing the program are outlined below.

1. Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Planning:
   a. Routine Cleaning Schedules: Collecting data during sewer cleaning activities to create an adaptive cleaning schedule for each pipe in the collection system. Using the data, we will be able to schedule cleaning activities and use our asset management program to notify crews which pipes need to be cleaned each week.
   b. Condition Assessment Program: Utilizing closed-circuit television (CCTV) and other inspection efforts, we will perform a visual assessment of each asset in the collection system. Using National Association of Sewer Service Companies (NASSCO) Pipeline Assessment Certification Program (PACP) inspections, we will collect structural and maintenance data on each asset. This data will then be utilized to identify necessary improvements that will be incorporated in the collection system Capital Improvement Program.

2. Capacity Assessment: Using our newly improved geographic information system (GIS) collection system asset inventory, we will update and create capacity models for each service area. This work will be completed using specialty software (InfoWorks ICM) and will identify assets in the collection system that are capacity constraints. Capacity constraints in the system will also be included in the Capital Improvement Program.

3. Capital Improvement Program (CIP): A comprehensive CIP will be developed for the collection system. A risk model will be created for each asset to weigh the likelihood of failure and the consequence of failure for each asset in the system in order to prioritize improvements and leverage available budget.

By creating and adopting a CMOM program, the River Authority aims to continue to provide excellent wastewater treatment operations and curtail maintenance costs by addressing issues before they become problems. The bottom line is your and our bottom line.
The San Antonio River Authority (River Authority) began providing wastewater services in 1966. Today, the River Authority operates and maintains five wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) in East Bexar County. The five WWTPs include First Responders Academy (FRA), Upper Martinez, Martinez II, Martinez IV, and Salitrillo. These treatment plants use the latest technology to produce high quality treated water, also known as effluent, to preserve the ecosystems in which the effluent is returned. With the exception for FRA, each WWTP is named after the creek in which effluent is being discharged.

FRA is a small plant that services the Alamo College District. For the Salitrillo WWTP, the River Authority has a small set of retail customers, but for the rest of the service area, Converse, Universal City, and Live Oak contract with the River Authority to provide sewer services to their residents. The local cities are called Wholesale customers of the River Authority. For more information visit sariverauthority.org/utilities.

In late October 2020, the San Antonio River Authority (River Authority) Board of Directors appointed eleven members to the Utilities Development Advisory Committee (UDAC). Shortly thereafter, the committee had their inaugural orientation meeting on November 12, 2020 (pictured below). The committee is led by two co-chairs and will have a maximum of 11 members, but no less than 5. Additionally, there are 8 non-voting government liaisons.

The committee’s first meeting agenda covered a review and discussion of the River Authority’s UDAC rules and regulations, a drawing for lot terms, preview of future meeting dates, and an overview of River Authority Utility Operations as well as the Utilities Service Regulations. The purpose of the UDAC is to incorporate community feedback as we promote sustainable development within the wastewater service areas of the River Authority. The UDAC will advise and assist the River Authority with the adoption, implementation, review, and updates of its land use assumptions, capital improvements plan (CIP), impact fees, and other development-related fees and charges.

The second meeting will be held on February 2, 2020 to review Land Use Assumptions and Capital Improvements of the Martinez IV Wastewater Treatment Plant Service Area. For more information visit sariverauthority.org/utilities.

UDAC Timeline

- **November 2020**
  - Orientation Workshops

- **October 2020**
  - BOD Committee Approval

- **August – September 2020**
  - Nominations & Committee Selection

- **May 2020**
  - Board Approval

- **2021 & 2022**
  - Land Use Applications, Capital Improvement Projects, Impact Fee, Utility Service Regulations, and General Fees Review Workshops and Impact Fee Setting