

GENERAL FACT SHEET

FISCAL YEAR 2023/24

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

Jim Campbell

VICE-CHAIR

Gaylon J. Oehlke

SECRETARY

Deb Bolner Prost

TREASURER

Alicia Lott Cowley

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Jerry G. Gonzales

Dominic Carvajal

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bexar County**District 1**

Jerry G. Gonzales

District 2

Lourdes Galvan

District 3

Michael W. Lackey, P.E.

District 4

Jim Campbell

At Large

Hector R. Morales

Deb Bolner Prost

Wilson County

Derek J. Gaudlitz

Dominic Carvajal

Karnes County

H.B. Ruckman, III

Gaylon J. Oehlke

Goliad County

James Fuller, M.D.

Alicia Lott Cowley

General Manager

Derek Boese, JD, PMP

The San Antonio River Authority (River Authority) was created in 1937 by the State of Texas to preserve, protect, and manage the resources and environment of the San Antonio River Basin.

GOVERNANCE:

A 12-member Board of Directors governs the San Antonio River Authority with six directors elected from Bexar County and two elected from Wilson, Karnes and Goliad counties. Each elected member serves six years. Policies established by the Board.

TAXING AUTHORITY:

The San Antonio River Authority has the statutory authority to impose an ad valorem tax for use in planning, operations and maintenance activities only. Its tax is statutorily limited to two cents per \$100 of assessed property valuation. The proposed ad valorem tax rate is \$0.01800 per \$100 assessed property valuation. The average annual tax is \$51.03. The adopted FY 2023-2024 budget is \$371.2 million.

VISION:

INSPIRING ACTIONS
FOR HEALTHY CREEKS
AND RIVERS

MISSION:

COMMITTED TO SAFE,
CLEAN, ENJOYABLE
CREEKS AND RIVERS

CORE VALUES



STEWARDSHIP

INTEGRITY

EXCELLENCE

SAFE:

Public safety through flood risk management is the River Authority's priority. For more than 85 years, cities and counties in the River Authority's District, as well as the Federal government, have relied on the River Authority's engineering and technical expertise in flood management and risk reduction. With documented increases in the intensity and destruction of major storms, such as Hurricane Harvey, the most cost-effective way to prepare and respond to the impact of these storms is to ensure that hydraulic and hydrology information, rainfall data, land use changes, floodplain maps, watershed master plans, and capital improvement master plans stay current.

CLEAN:

Improving the health of creeks and rivers is the River Authority's purpose. Since the 1970s, the River Authority's scientific leadership and targeted efforts have resulted in reducing pollution and trash in our waterways and improving water quality throughout the basin. The River Authority's work to mitigate future threats to our waterways is more critical than ever as communities within the basin are growing rapidly. In a region whose history and culture is linked to its natural resources, protecting our creeks and rivers as we grow demonstrates stewardship for these vital resources.

ENJOYABLE:

Enhancing appreciation and stewardship through recreation is the River Authority's goal. The quality of life and health of citizens who live in the River Authority's District can be improved through having recreational access along creeks and rivers. Over the past decade, the River Authority has added nature-based recreational activities throughout the basin including hike and bike trails, paddling trails, picnic and camping areas, playgrounds, fishing, birdwatching, and even disc golf courses. With more access, people can develop a greater appreciation for the natural resources and quality of life benefits provided by the San Antonio River and its tributaries.

HEADQUARTERS:

100 East Guenther
San Antonio, TX 78204

www.sara-tx.org
(866) 345-7272 - Toll Free

SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY FACT SHEET

SAFE:

- Local sponsor with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for more than 65 years to provide project management and technical expertise on flood mitigation studies, projects, and programs throughout the San Antonio River Basin.
- Local sponsor with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the construction of 27 flood dams in Bexar County and 13 in Karnes County. The River Authority now operates and maintains these dams.
- Project Manager of the \$384 million San Antonio River Improvements Project which, which was a collaboration with Bexar County, City of San Antonio, USACE, and San Antonio River Foundation to improve approximately 13 miles of the San Antonio River through the urban core of San Antonio.
- Project/Construction Manager of the San Pedro Creek Improvements Project, a collaboration with Bexar County and City of San Antonio to build a one-of-a-kind urban greenspace located on the western edge of downtown San Antonio.
- Serves as Cooperating Technical Partner and Letter of Map Revision delegate for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in order to locally update and maintain regulatory and non-regulatory floodplain maps throughout the River Authority's four-county district. Providing the most up-to-date and dynamic floodplain maps and flood risk products will help individuals understand their level of flood risk.
- Develops predictive flood modeling technology that provides the City of San Antonio and Bexar County first responders with innovative tools to avoid loss of life and protect property during heavy rain and flood events.
- Creates and maintains watershed master plans for the San Antonio River Basin that identify areas of flood risk, water quality concerns, and green space opportunities. This critical information is intended for use by citizens and community leaders to guide investments in capital projects to mitigate flooding, inform future development decisions to help improve water quality in creeks and rivers, and ensure the health, recreational, and economic benefits of green space can be maximized.
- Partners with City of San Antonio, Bexar County, and 20 suburban cities in the Bexar Regional Watershed Management program.
- Performs debris removal to maintain flow capacity of waterways in Wilson, Karnes, and Goliad counties.

CLEAN:

- The first river authority laboratory in Texas to complete and successfully obtain NELAC accreditation under the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality program.
- Conducts water quality monitoring and assessment for State of Texas' Clean Rivers Program (CRP) that involves sampling at sites throughout the San Antonio River Basin from Bexar, Wilson, Karnes, and Goliad counties and generating data being used for a historical database.
- Exceeds State's CRP sampling requirements by collecting additional data at sites along the San Antonio River and its major tributaries.
- Analyzes targeted growth zones to model the impact of unmitigated impervious cover. With a better understanding of the negative impact of impervious cover on water quality and flooding, area communities will be better positioned to propose changes in development codes and practices that focus on reducing threats to the health and sustainability of creeks and rivers while supporting more balanced growth options.
- Advances Low Impact Development (LID) and green stormwater infrastructure development practices to reduce stormwater runoff, mitigate impervious cover, improve drainage, and improve water quality through commercial and residential rebate programs to incentivize the use of sustainable development practices.
- Implements trash, debris, and dumping removal projects and litter prevention programs.
- Provides additional data on the biodiversity and health of the San Antonio River Basin's creeks and rivers, including Fish and Freshwater Mussel Community Composition and Riparian Habitat Assessments.
- Works with Soil and Water Conservation Districts to advance land and water conservation practices.
- Owns, operates, and maintains five wastewater treatment plants and collection systems in northeast Bexar County as well as managing the Randolph Air Force Base wastewater system.
- Provides contracted wastewater services to the cities of La Vernia, Somerset, Schertz, Green Valley Special Utility District, and the First Responders Academy.
- Provides contracted operation and maintenance of the water systems in Goliad County communities of La Bahia, Berclair, and Fannin.
- Completed Wastewater Needs Assessment of communities within the San Antonio River Basin.

ENJOYABLE:

Operates, maintains, and provides:

- 715 acres of nature based parks.
 - 57.3 miles of paddling trails on the San Antonio River.
 - Recreation and educational programming for the Museum and Mission Reach segments of the San Antonio River Walk and the San Pedro Creek Cultural Park in Bexar County.
 - Recreation programming for the SASPAMCO Paddling Trail in Bexar and Wilson counties.
 - Recreation and educational programming for Helton-San Antonio River Nature Park, Graytown Park, and Jackson Nature Park in Wilson County.
 - Recreation and educational programming for the Branch River Park in Goliad County.
 - Recreation programming the Goliad Paddling Trail in Goliad County and support/assist the Canoe Trail Goliad organization with the annual Spring and Fall Goliad Flotilla paddling events.
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- Serves as project/Construction Manager for the Escondido Creek Parkway project in Karnes County. Operates, maintains, and provides recreation and educational programming for the Escondido Creek Parkway.
 - Supports efforts to enhance access, use, and cultural appreciation of the San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site in Bexar County and Wilson County (the Rancho de las Cabras), the El Camino Real de los Tejas, and other points of cultural interest connecting San Antonio to La Bahia and Goliad.
 - Promotes regional approach to park planning and conservation through development of the San Antonio River Basin Plan for Nature-based Park Resources and support/assist communities throughout the San Antonio River Basin with parks and recreational needs.

