



**SAN ANTONIO
RIVER AUTHORITY**
Leaders in Watershed Solutions

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Suzanne Scott

MISSION: The San Antonio River Authority's mission is to sustain and enrich life in the San Antonio River Watershed.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The State of Texas has empowered the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) to preserve, protect and manage the resources and environment of the San Antonio River and its tributaries. Our district spans Bexar, Goliad, Karnes and Wilson counties, yet our concern for the quality and quantity of water extends our focus beyond these boundaries, as factors outside the district contribute to the health and well being of the river and our communities. Through the knowledge and skill of professional and technical staff, we continue to develop and sustain the expertise needed to fulfill our service mission.

FOUR GOALS THAT ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION

- 1) Generate lasting and recognized improvements to the health of the San Antonio River Watershed
- 2) Enhance community appreciation for and access to the San Antonio River and its tributaries
- 3) Strengthen and develop expertise at all levels
- 4) Diversify and leverage funding sources



ABOUT SARA

In 1917, the voters of Texas, recognizing the necessity of developing and conserving the State's water resources and inspired by devastating floods of 1913 and 1914, passed a Constitutional amendment allowing the Legislature to create special purpose political subdivisions of the State to serve regional areas, generally coincidental with river basins and to be generally known as river authorities.

SARA, created in 1937, is one of many such active river authorities in the State of Texas. Its jurisdiction covers 3,658 square miles—all of Bexar, Wilson, Karnes and Goliad Counties.

A 12-member Board of Directors governs SARA. Six directors are elected from Bexar County and two are elected from each of the three downstream counties with each elected member serving six years. Policies established by the Board are executed by the management organization under the direction of a General Manager appointed by the Board.

SARA 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 FY 2010-2011 ad valorem tax rate is set at \$0.016652 per \$100 assessed valuation and the 2010-11 budget is \$128.4 million.

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FLOOD CONTROL:

- Partnership with Bexar County and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for more than 50 years to provide project management and technical expertise on flood control projects and programs
- Local sponsor for USACE for multiple flood studies in the San Antonio River Basin
- Local sponsor with Natural Resources Conservation Service in the construction and maintenance of 27 flood dams in Bexar County and 13 in Karnes County
- Administer Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) buy-out programs throughout the San Antonio River Basin
- Partnership with City of San Antonio, Bexar County and 20 suburban cities in the Bexar Regional Watershed Management (BRWM) program
- Partnership with City of San Antonio, Bexar County, USACE and San Antonio River Foundation in multi-million dollar San Antonio River Improvements Project which will restore the environmental habitat along approximately 13 miles of urban San Antonio River
- Completed Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM) and models for Bexar, Wilson, Karnes and Goliad Counties which required modeling of 4,327 stream miles—nearly the distance from Los Angeles to New York and back.
- Development of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database for improved flood warning
- Perform debris removal to maintain flow capacity of waterways

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND WATER QUALITY:

- SARA's Environmental Sciences Department Laboratory was the first River Authority Laboratory to complete and successfully obtain NELAC accreditation under the TCEQ program
- Water quality laboratory: SARA conducts weekly tests of drinking water and/or wastewater for cities within the basin to improve water quality, habitats and the environment
- Clean Rivers Program: a water monitoring and assessment program that involves sampling at sites in the San Antonio River Basin from Bexar, Wilson, Karnes and Goliad Counties and generating data being used for a historical database
- SARA Stream Monitoring Program: supports additional sampling at sites along the San Antonio River and its major tributaries
- Fish Community Composition Assessments: provides additional data on the biodiversity and health of the San Antonio River Basin's rivers, creeks and streams

WATER RESOURCES:

- Partner in water resource development activities that could lead to new water supplies
- Project Administrator of SB1 Regional Planning Program in South Central Texas (Region L)
- Completed Water Needs Assessment of communities within the San Antonio River Basin
- Administrator of the Regional Water Resources Development Group (RWRDG), which is a coalition of Edwards Aquifer communities and water systems that have come together to jointly acquire withdrawal permits.
- Administrator of the Regional Water Alliance, a group of Region L water purveyors and regional water entities working together to seek and implement solutions to meet the region's water needs.

UTILITY SERVICES:

- Operate and maintain three wastewater treatment plants and collection systems in northeast Bexar County
- Own and operate the Randolph Air Force Base wastewater system
- Own and operate three water systems in Wilson County
- Provide contracted wastewater services to the cities of La Vernia and Somerset
- Completed Wastewater Needs Assessment of communities within the San Antonio River Basin
- Provide contracted operation and maintenance of the water systems in Goliad County communities of Berclair and Fannin

PARK SERVICES:

- Operate Jackson Nature Park in Stockdale in partnership with Wilson County
- Support/assist the Goliad Paddling Trail and the development of future paddling trails in the basin
- Support/assist communities with parks and recreational needs
- Promote regional approach to park planning and conservation through development of the San Antonio River Basin Plan for Nature-based Park Resources
- Developing new nature parks in Bexar and Wilson Counties:

In Bexar County where Loop 1604 South intersects with the San Antonio River SARA is constructing a river access point to promote paddling and river recreation. In Wilson County the new 98 acre San Antonio River Nature Park is slated to open in late 2010 and is located in northwest Wilson County at the confluence of Calaveras Creek and the San Antonio River. The park features a half-mile of river frontage, mature pecan trees, and other native trees and shrubs. This is the first major park owned by SARA.