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News Release

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RECORD YEAR FOR SARA SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM

Winners Selected from Sixteen Schools within the San Antonio River Basin

SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) recently celebrated a record-setting amount of applications for the fiscal year 2017-18 Watershed Wise Grant program. A total of 16 applications came in by the Feb. 2 application deadline. A second milestone was reached as, for the first time ever, the grant program received applications from each county in the river authority's four-county jurisdiction of Bexar, Wilson, Karnes, and Goliad counties.

Last Friday after an internal review process, an announcement was delivered to the chosen recipients: Lamar Elementary School in Bexar County, Goliad Elementary School in Goliad County, and Roger E. Sides Elementary School in Karnes County. Grants of up to \$22,000 will be awarded to these schools to build on-site stormwater management projects using Low Impact Development (LID), also known as green stormwater infrastructure. Eligible projects include rain gardens, cisterns and green roofs.

In addition to enhancing the watershed's ability to clean and improve stormwater before it reaches the river, a major goal for this program is to help educators address the issues of sustainability and non-point source pollution through hands-on, applied lessons with local students. Education Specialist Carrie Merson said, "The applications came from school representatives from diverse fields, including social studies, art, special education and science educators to guidance counselors and principals of schools at all levels. What they really reveal is an impressive and growing undercurrent of passion that inspires these professionals to go above and beyond for their students, communities and the environment."

More information about the Watershed Wise Grant can be found online at www.sara-tx.org.

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The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) was created by the 45th Texas Legislature on May 5, 1937 and reorganized in 1961 to plan, manage and implement water-related programs and projects within the San Antonio River Watershed. The State of Texas empowered SARA to preserve, protect and manage the resources and the ecology of the San Antonio River and its tributaries. To learn more about the SARA, visit our website at www.sara-tx.org.