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News Release

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How Can the San Antonio River Authority Serve You?

SARA encourages community to contact staff members

Wilson, Karnes and Goliad Counties, TX – 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. Through the knowledge and skill of professional and technical staff, SARA continues to develop and sustain the expertise needed to fulfil its mission. SARA's dedicated staff, who are committed to safe, clean and enjoyable creeks and rivers, work throughout the basin to contribute to the health and well-being of the river and the communities of the district.

SARA's diverse portfolio of projects and responsibilities provides frequent opportunities for SARA's engineers, scientists, utility and operations crews as well as other parks maintenance and professional staff to conduct work in Wilson, Karnes and Goliad counties. While SARA's main office is in San Antonio, SARA staff are always available to respond to any questions, concerns or interests community members may have regarding the river basin and SARA's services.

"The staff of the San Antonio River Authority are passionate about their work and are driven by the agency's core values of stewardship, integrity and excellence," said Steven Schauer, SARA's Director of Government and Public Affairs. "However, to maximize our effectiveness, SARA's staff appreciates and depends upon the eyes and ears of the communities we serve to help us keep the river safe, clean and enjoyable. If there are issues or questions that we can help with, the community is encouraged to contact SARA staff directly."

For the communities in Wilson, Karnes and Goliad counties, the main point of contact is Chelsea Giles. Chelsea is an Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator for SARA, and her

work focuses on providing a connection between SARA and the communities in Wilson, Karnes and Goliad counties. She is actively involved in the southern basin where she frequently attends city and county public meetings. Beyond working closely with the elected officials and government staffs in the southern basin, Chelsea is also available to speak with SARA's southern basin constituents. She can be reached at cgiles@sara-tx.org or by calling SARA's main toll free line at (866) 345-7272.

SARA also has environmental investigators who will research issues such as illegal dumping, fish kills, spills, floodplain violations or unauthorized activities. SARA's environmental investigators Ronnie Hernandez (rhernandez@sara-tx.org) and Amanda Nasto (anasto@sara-tx.org) respond to citizen reports of environmental concerns and then work with the appropriate landowners and agency officials to resolve the concern. They can also be reached by calling SARA's main toll free line at (866) 345-7272.

The San Antonio River Authority staff takes pride in being dedicated to the highest level of customer service, both to the communities we serve and to the agency's partners. In all that SARA does, staff strives to provide valued public service, to be accountable to the agency's constituents and to be good fiscal stewards of public resources.

SARA's vision is to inspire actions for healthy creeks and rivers. Learn more at 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