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News Release

For Immediate Release
October 06, 2017

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SARA INITIATES 2018 WATERSHED WISE SCHOOL GRANT

SARA to award three \$22,000 grants for construction of on-site stormwater management practices

SAN ANTONIO— The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) is currently accepting applications for the Watershed Wise Grant Program, which provides funding for schools to build on-site stormwater management projects using a variety of Low Impact Development (LID) methods. Grants of up to \$22,000 will be awarded to three schools within the San Antonio River Watershed, including Bexar, Karnes, Wilson, and Goliad counties. The goal of this program is to create awareness of the negative impacts from stormwater runoff on our creeks and rivers, as well as to reduce stormwater runoff on the school site.

LID is a design approach modeled after nature to manage stormwater runoff in a manner that mimics natural hydrologic processes, providing benefits for water quality and mitigating negative impacts of stormwater runoff on downstream resources including streams and rivers. LID includes the use of structural best management practices (BMPs) such as rain gardens, bio-swales, cisterns, and green roofs. A major goal for LID is to improve water quality by filtering non-point source pollutants that flow from impervious surfaces toward storm drains and into our creeks and rivers. Non-point source pollutants come from the air (pollen and dust), vehicles (oils, gas, and rubber), roads/parking lots (oil, gas, rubber, and dust) and lawns (herbicides, pesticides and bacteria).

Previous winners of the Watershed Wise School Grant include

- Bellaire Elementary School (Bexar County)
- Brackenridge High School (Bexar County)
- Ferdinand Herff Elementary (Bexar County)
- Five Palms Elementary School (Bexar County)
- Floresville North Elementary (Wilson County)

- Floresville South Elementary (Wilson County)
- Hector Garcia Middle School (Bexar County)
- MacArthur High School (Bexar County)
- Rudder Middle School (Bexar County)

Funds are applicable for design, construction, and installation of rain gardens, bioswales, cisterns, or a combination. SARA's educators will provide in-class, hands-on, TEKS aligned presentations, lessons, and activities dedicated to the importance of low impact development stormwater solutions.

There are three (3) grants available for the 2017-18 school year. K – 12 public schools are eligible. Applications must be submitted by Fri., Feb. 2, 2018. Please visit www.sara-tx.org/lid-sustainability/green-infrastructure/ for information on the Watershed Wise Grant application, rules, and guidelines.

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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.