

May 2004

Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project Going Online

Innovative New Project Offers Smart Alternative to Water Storage

SAWS is nearing the startup of its first major water supply project made possible by the funds that SAWS ratepayers have contributed through the Water Supply Fee.

SAWS Aquifer Storage & Recovery Project (ASR), is an exciting new large-scale water storage facility in south Bexar County. The ASR uses relatively new technology to store excess Edwards Aquifer water during rainy times for use during our dry south Texas summers. This ASR project will be the second largest in the country.

Phase One of SAWS Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project is scheduled to start operations in June. Initially the ASR will store a little more than 3.5 billion gallons of water. It will also include San Antonio's first drinking water treatment plant that will eventually serve as the hub for receiving additional water supplies in the future.

While ASR technology is a proven method of storing water underground, SAWS has enlisted the help of some of the world's leading ASR experts on this project. Water will be pumped from the Edwards Aquifer during peak periods of rainfall and stored in the Carrizo Aquifer in south Bexar County. Later, during the hot, dry months, we'll pump the drinking water back into the existing distribution system to help meet summer water demands.



This shot of the ASR under construction in March shows just part of the large site. Much of the mechanical structure, and all of the storage, is underground.

Although SAWS purchased 3,200 acres for this project, most of the land is being leased back to farmers and ranchers so they can continue their work. We're also proactively working to make sure the project doesn't impact neighboring well owners in Bexar, Wilson, and Atascosa Counties.

Phase Two of the ASR, to be completed in 2005, will essentially double the storage capacity to nearly 7.5 billion gallons. The best news is that the projected \$215 million facility is expected to be completed under budget for a cost of about \$185-190 million.

New Board Member Starts Service



Roberto Anguiano began serving as SAWS newest Board member in February. Mr. Anguiano has over 30 years of professional experience in wastewater technology and over 15 years of progressive management in the field.

As a retired SAWS employee, Mr. Anguiano has a unique insight into Board items. Mr. Anguiano has been active on several SAWS committees including the Citizens Working Group Committee and Citizens Advisory Panel, both of which support SAWS water resource development.

Mr. Anguiano replaced Mr. J.J. Amaro, who served on the Board for ten years. Mr. Amaro had an active role in our development from a newly established utility appointed by the City Council in 1993, to a system that has won extensive local, state, and national awards.



J.J. Amaro

Mr. Amaro, who works for BudCo, has made extensive contributions to the community as well as to SAWS, and we appreciate his guidance and commitment.

Remember Ozone Season Guidelines!

Ozone Season is upon us again, and help is needed from all area residents to help improve air quality and reduce ozone pollution.

SAWS is a member of the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) — an association of local governments and organizations involved in environmental activities. SAWS participates with AACOG's air improvement committee and fully supports the Clean Air Plan — a detailed, proactive plan to meet federal air quality standards.

"Poor air quality is not only bad for obvious public health reasons, it's bad economically," says Ken Beasley, SAWS Environmental and Safety Division Manager. "Being labeled as a 'non-attainment city' has caused some cities to lose literally millions of dollars in federal transportation funds."

Considering using electric-powered lawn equipment? City Public Service 'Mow Down Smog' program offers rebates that can help make the transition. For more information, call CPS at (210) 353-2158 or visit their web site at www.citypublicservice.com/for_home/rebates/lawn_mower_rebates.asp.

You can also help clean air efforts by reducing the use of your car. Sky-high gas prices also makes this idea good sense for your budget.

Here are some easy steps you can take which can make a difference in ozone and air pollution:

- Avoid refueling cars until after 6pm.
- Keep your car properly tuned to lower exhaust emissions.
- Maintain proper air pressure in your car tires.
- Avoid drive-thru lanes. If you must wait in a drive-thru lane for an extensive time, turn off your motor while waiting.
- Carpool or take the bus.
- Take your lunch to work or walk to lunch.
- Mow your lawn after 6 pm.
- Combine your errands into one trip.
- Use household cleaners that are non-volatile and non-hazardous.



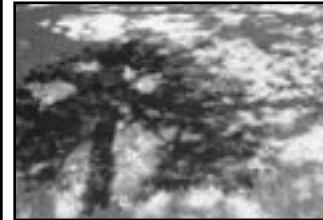
Brown Patch is Reason to Hold Off Watering Lawns

By Calvin Finch, Ph.D.
SAWS Director of Conservation

Our mild, damp weather has been pleasant, but it also provides the perfect climate for lawn fungus. Brown patch is everywhere. Recognize it as dead areas with a moving infection edge. Most of the time the infections are rounded.

Don't increase the likelihood of brown patch by watering before your lawn has dried enough that the infection centers have stopped spreading. Application of a labeled fungicide may help stop spread of the disease if it continues to rain, but repair will only occur when the weather changes to less rain, less humidity, and higher temperatures.

Make note of brown patch centers so you can apply up to one inch of compost over the area. This limited amount of compost often



Apply fungicide to brown patch areas and follow with compost.

is enough to increase the level of the yard around the infection site. Brown patch usually begins in the lowest part of your lawn.

SAWS Garden Jazz Party a Hit

Mother Nature took a break and SAWS 8th Annual Garden Jazz Party went off under beautiful blue skies and cool weather. Over 1,800 people joined the party on Sunday, May 2 at the San Antonio Botanical Garden. Plenty of rains have provided guests with a treat of beautiful, lush growth this spring. Beautiful jazz music by Planet Soul accompanied the event and many took some time out to relax on the lawns and enjoy the music.

Even if you missed the Garden Jazz Party, you can still enjoy WaterSaver Lane, the new exhibit that features six different styles of low-water use landscapes... one to suit every person's taste and style.

The San Antonio Botanical Garden is open from 9am to 5pm, seven days a week. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$2 for children ages 3 to 13; \$3 for Seniors ages 55 and up; and \$3 for Military and students with ID.



Visitors to the Garden Jazz Party take a look at WaterSaver Lane, an exhibit that shows six different themed low-water use landscapes in a small area.

Affordability Programs

SAWS offers a number of programs to help customers having financial hardship with their water bills. To determine if you qualify, please call San Antonio's Community Action Division at 207-7830.

SAWS Vision: SAWS will be the best water and wastewater utility in the United States by 2006.

Water News is published for customers of the San Antonio Water System. For more information regarding Water News, contact the Public Relations Department at (210) 704-7320.

Numbers to Know

Business Office	704-SAWS (704-7297)
Customer Account Information	704-SAWS
Jobline	704-SAWS
T.D.D.	704-1852
CleanStream Hotline	212-5326

24-Hour Emergency

Customer Service/ Water Waste Reporting	704-SAWS
Visit our web site at www.saws.org	