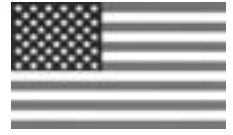




# Water



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**September 2002**

## SAWS Security Remains High

Here at SAWS, we've never taken security for granted. Even so, the events of September 11 confirmed the importance of ensuring that San Antonio's water supply is secure.

SAWS was one of the first water utilities in the U.S. to complete an application for funds to conduct a Vulnerability Assessment Program as required by the EPA and the Congress. As a result we were one of the first to receive a grant for the assessment.

During the last year, two security program reviews and one cyber-security review were conducted. SAWS has taken a number of steps to increase the city's water security — some visible, some not so visible.

Our management is in constant communication with all levels of law enforcement including the city's police department and the FBI.

In addition, SAWS CEO Gene Habiger, a retired four-star general, has an extensive security background in the Air Force. Habiger also serves on Governor Rick Perry's Homeland Security Task Force.

### Here's What You Can Do

To further enhance security, we are asking you to help us keep watch over San Antonio's water system.

- Keep alert and report any suspicious persons or acts by calling 911.
- If you notice suspicious activity at a SAWS facility, please note and report descriptions of the people and vehicles involved. Any description that can be obtained without placing yourself at risk will greatly assist local law enforcement or other appropriate agencies in their investigation.

## Senate Panel Approves \$2M for Aquifer Protection Program

*U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison Leads Funding Effort*

SAWS Sensitive Land Acquisition Program, which protects sensitive land over the Edwards Aquifer, received a huge boost recently when the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a grant of \$2 million. This program identifies environmentally sensitive properties directly above the Edwards Aquifer for purchase in order to protect the quality of water running into the aquifer.

"This is a significant boost to our existing Edwards protection program," said SAWS President/CEO Gene Habiger. "Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison deserves a huge thank you from the residents of San Antonio and everyone else who relies on the Aquifer for her leadership in securing the grant. Her efforts demonstrate that she truly understands just how important this program is in protecting our main source of water and our future."



*U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison*

SAWS initiated the land acquisition program in 1997 specifically for protecting and preserving sensitive land over the Edwards Recharge Zone. In the last four years, SAWS has spent nearly \$2 million to set aside more than 10,000 acres of land for protection. The additional funds will enable SAWS to significantly expand its program for next year.

"This funding couldn't have come at a better time. We are currently evaluating additional parcels of land and/or easement purchases," Habiger noted.

Habiger explained that SAWS has developed good partnerships with other agencies to make buying property and easements on the Edwards recharge zone a little easier for all involved.

## Bat Cave Easement Purchased

At the August meeting of SAWS Board of Trustees, Board members approved a conservation easement of approximately 640 acres around the Bracken Bat Cave just north of San Antonio in Comal County. The easement will buffer the cave from any future development on the property.

The cave is known as the world's largest maternal colony of bats — an estimated 40 million Mexican free-tailed bats. The colony is so large that it shows up on radar each morning and evening when the bats are entering and leaving the cave.

The easement was developed in conjunction with the Edwards Aquifer Authority, Nature Conservancy of Texas, Bat Conservation International (BCI) and the Reeh family (property owners).

"This is really a great piece of land," said Board Member Doug Leonhard. "Not only is it over the recharge zone, it protects the flyway for the bats."

**EDUCATOR'S**  
LEARNING INSTITUTE

**SAWS Offers Educator Workshops**

At SAWS, we understand that education efforts in San Antonio can't happen without teachers' dedication to water education. After all, teachers are the ones who talk to, inform, and inspire young people of this community each and every day.

That is why SAWS H<sub>2</sub>O University has developed the Educator's Learning Institute. The objective of this program is to assist educators in expanding their horizons about community water issues, and providing them with physical resources to conduct a comprehensive water lesson after returning to their education settings.

The Institute consists of 16 workshops, all free of charge and built specifically for educators. Local speakers, including university professors who are experts in their field, will be on hand to discuss how you can incorporate water lessons in all disciplines of learning.

Even though educators may sign up and attend these workshops on a class by class basis, there is an opportunity to earn credit through SAWS by attending a minimum number of workshop hours.

If you are an educator and interested in this, please visit our web site at [http://www.saws.org/education/H2O\\_University/teachers/Institute/index.shtml](http://www.saws.org/education/H2O_University/teachers/Institute/index.shtml).

You can register at the site or you can call 704-7447 for more information or to request a hard copy of the catalog.



Come see us at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual House Beautiful Builders Showcase Expo on September 27 -29 at the AlamoDome!

SAWS will introduce our Welcome H<sub>2</sub>ome rebate program for new homes and also feature Landscape Design clinics. Bring your landscape ideas for your yard and receive free gardening advice from the Garden Volunteers of South Texas. You can even learn how to build your own rain barrel system at clinics on September 29 (1pm and 3pm).

**Conservation Recipient Named**

Mark Broderick was recently named as the recipient of a Water Conservation Scholarship. Broderick graduated this year from James Madison High School, and will be pursuing a Mechanical Engineering degree at Texas A&M starting this fall. Along with the scholarship, Mark has the opportunity to intern with SAWS during the summer of 2003.

The Water Conservation Scholarship is funded by the yearly WaterSaver Awards breakfast which recognizes local and regional businesses and institutions that lead the community in water conservation efforts.

*At right: Scholarship sponsors Tim Germadnik, KTSA Radio; Sheila Dipprey, KTSA; Jim Mayor, SAWS; Mark Broderick, recipient; Gene Habiger, SAWS; and Erika Grimm, KENS-5.*



Q Now that the growing season is almost over, is there anything I can plant that will benefit from cooler weather?

A Autumn is the best time for planting trees, shrubs, and perennials in San Antonio. Since our winters are mild, plants have plenty of time to grow roots before the heat of summer tests their survivability.

Remember to develop a landscape that fits your lifestyle. While roses and azaleas are beautiful, their culture requires considerable time and commitment.

Plant selection isn't as great as in the spring-time, but quite often there are sales on groundcovers, perennials, and shrubs that make it worthwhile to seek out the plants you need for an attractive low maintenance, low-water use landscape.

**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
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 website at [www.saws.org](http://www.saws.org)