

Water

N E W S

EPA
WATER EFFICIENCY
LEADER AWARD

SAWS Committee Chair Receives National EPA Conservation Award

Bill Sartor Honored for Leadership, Innovation



Bill Sartor

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently recognized Bill Sartor, SAWS Community Conservation Committee Chairman, with the Water Efficiency Leader Award.

A panel of national water experts selected Sartor for his consistent leadership and innovation in reducing water usage in the San Antonio community.

Sartor is the owner of Washem Car Washes, which operates five self-service car wash facilities throughout San Antonio. He has served for many years on the SAWS Community Conservation Committee and was its first chairman when the group was formed in 1996. This advisory panel provides input to SAWS Conservation Department in generating water-saving program ideas and conveying the conservation message to the community. Many of SAWS' successful commercial conservation programs were established under Sartor's leadership.

EPA awards this national recognition to individuals who demonstrate outstanding leadership in promoting an ethic of water efficiency. According to an EPA statement, SAWS' conservation achievements during Sartor's involvement "set an impressive example for others to follow."

Stage One Water Restrictions Continue

Despite recent rain, San Marcos spring flow remains low

The new year has brought some much needed rain to the region but it hasn't been enough to end Stage One drought restrictions.

As the aquifer level rises, the San Marcos spring flow remains low. As a result, San Antonio must remain in Stage One water restrictions for a bit longer. That's because the aquifer level is not the only measure used for water restrictions. The spring flows are also determining factors.

In order to reduce pumping as required by the Edwards Aquifer Authority, SAWS is asking customers to continue observing Stage One landscape watering rules. This will prevent SAWS from facing significant fines and, most importantly, help the aquifer recover from the extended drought.

SAWS will continue to re-evaluate weather conditions, aquifer levels and water use to determine if and when Stage One restrictions can be lifted.

The completed Stage One rules are available on SAWS Web site at www.saws.org or call 704-SAWS for more information.

Stage One Watering Schedule

Last Number of Street Address	Day for Watering
0 or 1	Monday
2 or 3	Tuesday
4 or 5	Wednesday
6 or 7	Thursday
8 or 9	Friday

No watering on weekends. Water before 10 a.m. or after 8 p.m. Metered accounts without an address water on Wednesdays.

Bond Outlook 'Positive' for SAWS In 2007

Fitch Revises Outlook on Improved Liquidity, Rate Stability

San Antonio Water System has announced a change in its bond outlook by Fitch Ratings from Stable to Positive.

Fitch analysts said the Positive Outlook reflects "improved liquidity and coverage levels, achieved with smaller than projected rate increases, and the capital plan's increased cash-funded component." The agency also noted that continued strong coverage, along with further progress on SAWS' large water supply projects, may lead to further positive credit consideration in the future.

"We are extremely pleased by this change in outlook by Fitch because it reflects the bond community's increasing confidence in SAWS management," noted Doug Evanson, SAWS vice president and chief financial officer. "Of course, our ultimate goal is an upgrade in all of our bond ratings, which would result in millions of dollars in savings for SAWS ratepayers. We will continue to work diligently toward that goal in the year ahead."

Along with the upgraded outlook, Fitch has assigned an A+ rating to SAWS' \$8.1 million water system junior lien revenue and refunding bonds, series 2007, and \$35.4 million water system junior lien revenue and refunding bonds, series 2007A.

At Moody's Investors Service, analysts cited SAWS' large, diverse, and growing service area as well as sound water supply and capital planning as reasons for its high quality ratings of the utility. Historically well-maintained financial operations and debt service coverage ratio were also mentioned as positive factors.

According to Standard & Poor's analysts, sound financial performance, competitive rates and positive water supply strategies were major contributing factors to its strong bond ratings for SAWS.

Mitchell Lake Bird Lover's 10K Run

The San Antonio RoadRunners are hosting the Inaugural Bird Lovers 10K Run of Mitchell Lake on Saturday, February 10.

The RoadRunners promote health and fitness in San Antonio by sponsoring several races throughout the year. Proceeds from this race will benefit Mitchell Lake Audubon Center.



The Mitchell Lake Audubon Center is a bird haven for 300+ species and is nestled on a 1200-acre area.

San Antonio Water System has partnered with Audubon to display this unique and natural area to the public and provide science education for area schools.

Location:	Mitchell Lake Audubon Center 10750 Pleasanton Road San Antonio, Texas 78221
Race Day:	February 10 7:30 a.m. – On site registration available 9:00 a.m. – Start of Race
Registration:	\$16 – SARR Members & Active Military \$18 – Non-Members \$20 – All Late Registrations/Race Day Early Registration Closes Feb. 2
For more Information:	Gib Hafernick (210) 492-7517 Gibguy76@yahoo.com

Drinking, bathing, cleaning, cooking....



Many people take water for granted. But every day, families risk losing water service because they can't afford to pay their water bill. If you'd like to help keep water flowing to our neighbors in need, you can contribute to Project Agua, a non-profit program from SAWS helping customers pay their water bill. It's simple and no contribution is too small to help. Just look for the donation box on the return portion of your SAWS bill.

Water News is published for customers of San Antonio Water System.

Numbers to Know
 Customer Service 704-SAWS
 T.D.D. 233-3153
 CleanStream Hotline 212-5326
24-Hour Emergency
 Customer Service/
 Water Waste Reporting 704-SAWS
 Visit our Web site at www.saws.org