

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY  
APRIL 7, 2008

The Operations Committee of the SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY Board of Directors was called to order by H. B. Ruckman III, Chairman, at 2:03 p.m., Monday, April 7, 2008, in the Boardroom of the San Antonio River Authority, 100 E. Guenther, Bexar County, Texas.

Ms. Adair Sutherland, Secretary, called the roll and certified a quorum for the Operations Committee Meeting as follows:

Hector Morales	Present
Názirite Rubén Pérez	Present
H.B. Ruckman III	Present
Adair R. Sutherland	Present
Thomas G. Weaver	Present

Staff members present were:

Suzanne B. Scott, General Manager  
Steve Graham, Assistant General Manager  
Steve Raabe, Director of Technical Services  
Susan Eason, Director of Internal Resources  
Sharon McCoy-Huber, Finance Manager  
Jim Boenig, Engineering Manager  
Rudy Farias, Water Resources and Community Development Manager  
Nefi Garza, Watershed Management Manager  
Al Astran, Utilities Manager  
Mike Gonzales, Environmental Services Manager  
John Gomez, Utilities Engineer  
Phil Weynand, Internal Resources Administrator  
Addison Looney, Engineer  
Russell Persyn, Engineer  
Karen Bishop, Communications Program Developer  
Lori Sebben, Administrative Assistant

Others present were:

Sally Buchanan, Board of Directors  
Roberto Rodriguez, Board of Directors  
David Ross, Legal Counsel  
Barbara Witte-Howell, River Road Neighborhood Association  
Larry Demartino, River Road Neighborhood Association  
Randy Wauters, Individual  
Michael Sullivan, Individual

Mr. Ruckman called for **Agenda Item 5: Introduction of Visitors:** Karen. Bishop introduced Barbara Witte-Howell and Larry Demartino with the River Road Neighborhood Association, Roberto Rodriguez, San Antonio River Authority Board of Directors, Randy Wauters, Individual, and Michael Sullivan, Individual.

Mr. Ruckman called for **Agenda Item 6: Citizens to be Heard:** Ms. Bishop indicated that Barbara Witte-Howell and Larry Demartino would address the committee when **Agenda Item 19** was discussed.

Regarding **Agenda Item 7: Approval of the Minutes of the Operations Committee Meeting Held on March 10, 2008.** Mr. Weaver moved to approve the minutes as written and, seconded by Mr. Morales, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Ruckman called on Steve Graham, Jim Boenig, and Jim Doersam for **Agenda Item 8: Presentation, Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding an Amendment to the Martinez IV Sewer Plant, Ltd. Sewer Reimbursement Agreement**

Mr. Boenig distributed information and gave a PowerPoint presentation and explained that the revised M4 “Sewer Reimbursement Agreement,” approved by the Board on December 10, 2007, provides SARA services for the design and construction of a new wastewater collection system and treatment plant in eastern Bexar County, which is also known as the Graytown Road Wastewater System. Since that time, some progress has been made on Phase I of the Agreement which includes: construction of Segments 1 and 2 of the new collection system, the design and purchase of easements for Segments 3-6, purchase of the land for the new treatment plant, and design of the new 2 MGD wastewater treatment plant. Due to the recent slower than expected EDU sales in the area, the schedule for completing these tasks is behind schedule, and M4 has requested an Amendment to the Agreement to complete these tasks and to proceed to Phase II.

Phase II of the Agreement includes the construction of Segments 3-6, design and easement purchases for Segments 7-13, and construction of the new 2 MGD WWTP. As a result of the circumstances described above, M4 has requested that Phase II be divided into the following three sub-phases, as follows:

- Phase II (a): Construct Segments 3-6 of the collection system;
- Phase II (b): Design Segments 7-13 (including a lift station) and purchase all related easements; and,
- Phase II (c): Construct the 2 MGD WWTP.

SARA staff provided an overview of the proposed Amendment with a revised schedule for completing each task and an update on the current overall progress related to this project. Staff also distributed the proposed Amendment for discussion.

Staff recommended a Motion authorizing the General Manager to negotiate an amendment to the Martinez IV Sewer Plant, LTD., Sewer Reimbursement Agreement and indicating Operations Committee support for presenting the proposed amendment to the Board of Directors for approval.

Mr. Ruckman called for said Motion. Mr. Weaver so moved and seconded by Mr. Morales, Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ruckman called on Jim Boenig for **Agenda Item 9: Presentation, Discussion, and Appropriate Action Regarding the Award of a Contract for Electrical Demolition of the Southton Road Disposal Site for the Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project - Phase 1 of the San Antonio River Improvements Project.**

Mr. Boenig gave a PowerPoint presentation and explained that as local sponsor to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the Mission Reach of the San Antonio River Improvements Project, the San Antonio River Authority is responsible for obtaining, designing and operating the project disposal site which will receive the excavated soil and other materials generated by the Mission Reach project. Per the terms of the project Interlocal Agreement with Bexar County and the City of San Antonio, Bexar County is funding all costs associated with the disposal site. Per the Project Cooperation Agreement with the USACE, these local costs are eligible to be cost shared with the federal government but are dependent upon the amount of federal funding received.

The scope of this project is the removal and disposal of electrical-related materials throughout the 244-acre Southton Road property owned by the River Authority. The removal and proper disposal of these materials is necessary for the safe and efficient operation of the site by trucks and other pieces of equipment used in the disposal process. The current estimate for the work is between \$50,000.00 and \$75,000.00.

The project schedule is:

Advertisement began	-	March 31, 2008
Bids due	-	April 18, 2008
Operations Committee Briefing	-	April 7, 2008
Award Authorization	-	April 24, 2008
Notice To Proceed	-	May 22, 2008
Completion	-	July 6, 2008

Solicitations for bids were advertised as required by statute, and will be received until April 18, 2008. The number of bidders, recommended bidder and bid amount will be reported at the Board meeting, as bids were not received in time to be included with the agenda packet. The bids are evaluated on the basis of lowest and best bid. The bid tabulation, summarizing all bids, was distributed to the Board members during the meeting.

Staff recommended a Motion indicating Operations Committee support for presenting to the San Antonio River Authority Board of Directors a recommendation for River Authority staff to proceed with the execution of a contract with the recommended contractor in the amount of the bid and contingency for the electrical demolition of the Southton Road disposal site in conjunction with the Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project, San Antonio River Improvements Project.

Mr. Ruckman called for said Motion. Ms. Sutherland so moved and seconded by Mr. Morales, Motion carried unanimously.

Due to time constraints for the citizens to be heard, Mr. Ruckman moved forward to **Agenda Item 19:** and called on Nefi Garza for **Presentation and Discussion Regarding a Request from the River Road Neighborhood for the San Antonio River Authority to Review Proposed Development as it Affects the San Antonio River and the Floodplain at the Brackenridge Golf Course.**

Mr. Garza gave a PowerPoint presentation and explained that the River Road Neighborhood Association had requested the San Antonio River Authority to review the Flood Plain information for the proposed Brackenridge Golf Course improvement project. The project had been previously reviewed by the City of San Antonio Stormwater Department which found it to be in compliance with the Unified Development Code. The San Antonio River Authority reviewed the Flood Plain information and is in agreement with the City of San Antonio based on paper copies of the results.

The River Road Neighborhood Association also requested the San Antonio River Authority to estimate the volume of material needed to be removed from the San Antonio River upstream from River Road in order to remove all of the neighborhood structures from the Flood Plain. To make this analysis, the River Authority attempted to verify the paper copies by reviewing the digital data which contains the models and drawings. There was some reluctance from the developer when the release of digital data was requested. Councilwoman Cisneros assisted the River Authority in securing this data. The River Authority's preliminary analysis is that the project will maintain, but not reduce, the current flood plain.

An outstanding issue that the River Authority will continue to coordinate with the City of San Antonio for updated information is whether the developer intends to follow the original plan to remove 25,000 cubic yards of fill from the flood plain. Removal of that fill from the floodplain will, under the City's plan, reduce the floodplain by three inches. To illustrate the amount of fill required to remove every neighborhood structure out of the floodplain, Mr. Garza reported that fill the equivalent of a football field filled 250 feet deep would be required. That is not within the original plan's scope.

At the request of the neighborhood, the River Authority also examined some of the walls being constructed in the project. These temporary structures are water quality control structures that will protect water quality during construction.

Mr. Perez requested that Mr. Garza continue his communications with the City and the developer on behalf of the citizens.

Ms. Witte-Howell addressed the committee and thanked the River Authority for its support of the neighborhood by securing the requested flood plain data. She reported her concern that, with the 1998 and 2002 floods, and then last year's heavy rains, the neighborhood is seeing flooding faster and with less rain with each passing storm event. She stated that it is the height of the greens that is of greatest concern to her. She again thanked the River Authority and indicated she would be taking the information learned during the meeting back to the Neighborhood Association.

Mr. Demartino also addressed the committee. A resident of River Road neighborhood since 1970, Mr. Demartino is also seeing flood events more often and with less amounts of rain. He said the neighborhood is looking for some relief as, with the new DFIRM lines, there will be 23 rather than just three homes in the flood plain. His primary concern is the alignment of fairways paralleling the river and the large amounts of fill he has observed where previously the river has flooded. He is concerned the golf course design will result in moving storm events closer to the neighborhood. He thanked the River Authority for its leadership in obtaining and analyzing information about the project. He also thanked River Authority Directors Sally Buchanan and Roberto Rodríguez for their support and assistance.

Mr. Ruckman returned to the posted order of business and called on Jim Boenig and Mark Sorenson for **Agenda Item 10: Presentation, Discussion, and Appropriate Action Regarding an Agreement between the San Antonio River Authority and the San Antonio River Foundation to Support the Funding for the Design and Construction of a Grotto Feature in the Museum Reach of the San Antonio River Improvements Project.**

Mr. Sorenson gave a PowerPoint presentation and explained that the River Authority and the San Antonio River Foundation approved an agreement on April 11, 2007 for the foundation's initial commitment of \$3,000,000 to fund construction related expenses on the Urban Segment of the Museum Reach. As part of the agreement, the River Authority and the foundation anticipated the need to execute subsequent agreements to support additional funding commitments made by the foundation to support additional elements within the Urban Segment.

The River Authority and the foundation are currently negotiating the terms and conditions of an agreement to support the foundation's funding of an enhanced grotto feature located between Camden Street and Newell Street in the Museum Reach-Urban Segment. The agreement details the terms for the foundation to fund the additional design and construction costs relating to this approved art feature. The original designs for the Urban Segment prepared by Ford Powell and Carson proposed a small grotto water feature at the location. The foundation is contracting with local artist Carlos Cortez, Jr. to work with Ford Powell and Carson to create an enhanced grotto feature. The construction of the grotto will be coordinated within Zachry's current construction schedule.

The agreement confirms the foundation's funding commitment of \$466,000 for the additional design cost and \$3,012,000 for the additional construction cost. The River Authority serves as project manager and has direct oversight to ensure that the design and construction schedule is coordinated with the project partners. The agreement establishes an invoicing procedure for payment from the foundation to the River Authority. The City of San Antonio and Bexar County have agreed that the artist installation components of the grotto may extend beyond the May 2009 project completion date, but that this installation will not impede access to the completed project area.

The final terms and conditions of the agreement were presented to the Operations Committee.

Staff recommended a Motion indicating Operations Committee support to present to the San Antonio River Authority Board of Directors for approval the agreement between the San

Antonio River Authority and the San Antonio River Foundation for \$3,478,000 to fund the design and construction of the enhanced Grotto feature within the Museum Reach-Urban Segment of the San Antonio River Improvements Project.

Mr. Ruckman called for said Motion. Mr. Morales so moved and seconded by Mr. Pérez, Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ruckman requested that a suggestion be made to Mr. Cortez, the grotto artist, to include child-friendly items, such as a tree-house or playground, in the grotto design.

Mr. Ruckman called on Rudy Farias for **Agenda Item 11: Presentation, Discussion, and Appropriate Action Regarding Entering into an Agreement with the City of Kenedy to Provide Maintenance of Escondido Creek.**

Mr. Farias gave a PowerPoint presentation and explained that in an effort to provide community assistance, the San Antonio River Authority has negotiated an interlocal agreement with the City of Kenedy to shred Escondido Creek, within the City limits, three times annually to promote erosion resistant cover, slope stability and flood conveyance efficiently. The length of the maintenance runs from the end of the Karnes County airport runway to the confluence of Nichols Creek.

An initial cleanup effort of the Creek was performed by the River Authority at an estimated cost of \$15,000. The City shall be responsible for payment of all costs related to general maintenance of the Creek at a cost of \$2,500 per occurrence. Based upon three cleanups per year, the River Authority will receive payment of \$7,500 per year. Watershed Operations has staff availability and the resources to provide maintenance service.

Staff recommended a Motion indicating Operations Committee support for presenting to the San Antonio River Authority Board a recommendation to approve an agreement between the City of Kenedy and the San Antonio River Authority for maintenance of Escondido Creek.

Mr. Ruckman called for said Motion. Mr. Morales so moved and seconded by Mr. Pérez, Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ruckman called on Dale Bransford for **Agenda Item 12: Presentation, Discussion, and Appropriate Action Regarding Ratifying a Paddling Trail Partnership Program Agreement with Canoe Trail Goliad, Inc., to be used for Design and Construction of a River Access Site on the Goliad Paddling Trail.**

Mr. Bransford explained that the Fiscal Year 07/08 budget established initial funding for a multi-year program to cultivate Paddling Trail Partnerships promoting river access sites in selected segments of the San Antonio River, based on the "San Antonio River Basin Plan for Nature-Based Park Resources." The program offers a one-to-one challenge grant aimed at encouraging local entities to recognize the recreational, environmental, and economic benefits their communities would experience by co-funding the development of paddling trail access sites. The grant is not to exceed \$25,000.

In September 2007, staff proposed the first Paddling Trail Partnership Program Agreement to Canoe Trail Goliad, Inc. (CTG). During the next few months and as required in the Agreement, CTG attained incorporation through the Texas Secretary of State and designation as a 501.c.3 organization by the IRS. They also received a private donation of \$25,000, which provided their match. At the March 5, 2008, meeting of their Executive Committee, the CTG Chairman was authorized to sign the Agreement, which was then signed on behalf of the River Authority by the Park Services Manager, named in the Agreement as the program administrator. Ratification of executing the Agreement through San Antonio River Authority Board of Directors action will provide the proper authorization.

Major stipulations of the Agreement are that the CTG match must be obtained by June 30, 2008 (already accomplished), that the funds must be used for the design and/or construction of the State Park River Access Site along the Goliad Paddling Trail, and that the CTG must maintain incorporation and non-profit status during the term of the Agreement which is June 30, 2010, or upon completion of the designated River Access Site, whichever occurs first.

Staff recommended a Motion indicating Operations Committee support for presenting to the River Authority Board of Directors a recommendation to ratify a Paddling Trail Partnership Program Agreement with Canoe Trail Goliad, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$25,000, to be used for design and construction of a river access site on the Goliad Paddling Trail.

Mr. Ruckman called for said Motion. Ms. Sutherland so moved and seconded by Mr. Weaver, Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ruckman called on Lauren Minarcik regarding **Agenda Item 13: Presentation, Discussion, and Appropriate Action Approving the Texas Outdoor Family Program Agreements for a Term of One Year with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.**

Ms. Minarcik explained that with Board approval, the San Antonio River Authority and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) agreed to conduct an initial Texas Outdoor Family Workshop held November 10-11, 2007, at Braunig Lake Park. The goal of this growing statewide program is to merge a natural setting and an outdoor education program with families interested in learning basic outdoor skills that will promote their successful future recreational activities.

The 2008 programs will be held at Calaveras Lake Park, with one scheduled for May 17-18 and possibly another in the fall. Workshop topics will include camping skills, fishing, archery, paddling, geocaching, and nature activities. The capacity for the workshop is fifteen families or sixty participants. An activity fee is required that offsets the workshop costs.

Staff recommended a Motion indicating Operations Committee support for presenting to the River Authority Board of Directors a recommendation to approve Texas Outdoor Family Program Agreements with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department for a period of one year.

Mr. Ruckman called for said Motion. Mr. Weaver so moved and seconded by Mr. Morales, Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ruckman called on Claude Harding for **Agenda Item 14: Presentation, Discussion, and Appropriate Action Regarding an Ordinance Determining the Necessity for, and Authorizing the Condemnation of, Lot 18, Block 3, Lakewood Acres, Bexar County, Texas, for Flood Control Purposes.**

Hector Villanueva gave a PowerPoint presentation and explained that Bexar County has authorized San Antonio River Authority to condemn Lot 18, Block 3, Lakewood Acres, Bexar County, Texas, on behalf of Bexar County as part of the Lakewood Acres Flood Buyout Program. The property is located within the flood plain and is subject to repeated flooding. The property is the last property of 282 properties to be acquired in Lakewood Acres. The ownership of the property is divided between approximately fourteen people. Acquisition of the property is required for flood control purposes.

The Lakewood Acres Flood Buyout Program was implemented as a result of the 1998 flood event.

Staff recommended a Motion indicating Operations Committee support for presenting to the River Authority Board of Directors a recommendation to approve an Ordinance determining the necessity for, and authorization of condemnation of, Lot 18, Block 3, Lakewood Acres, Bexar County, Texas, for flood control purposes.

Mr. Ruckman called for said Motion. Mr. Weaver so moved and seconded by Mr. Morales, Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ruckman called on Al Astran for **Agenda Item 15: Presentation, Discussion, and Appropriate Action Regarding an Ordinance Authorizing Amendment No. 38 to Sewage Transportation, Treatment, and Disposal Contract Establishing New Points of Entry Within the Salatrillo Outfall Line.**

Mr. Astran gave a PowerPoint presentation and explained that the purpose of this amendment is to establish new points of entry within the Salatrillo Outfall Line. Within the Contract document, Points of Entry (b) is hereby modified to read as follows:

(b) Sewage will be accepted into the system at points of entry mutually agreed upon by the wholesale Customer and the Authority. Points of Entry are shown in the Points of Entry (b) Exhibit "E" attached hereto and dated \_\_\_\_\_, 200\_. The original Exhibit "E" dated May, 1978 has been updated to include lines added through Amendment 4 dated November 5, 1980 and areas and facilities to be operated by Converse under the authority of Amendment No. 38. As identified in Exhibit "E" identified outfall lines will be operated and maintained by the Authority.

Staff recommended a Motion indicating Operations Committee support for presenting to the River Authority Board of Directors a recommendation to approve a Resolution to authorize Amendment No. 38 to Sewage Transportation, Treatment, and Disposal Contract establishing new points of entry within the Salatrillo outfall line.

Mr. Ruckman called for said Motion. Mr. Morales so moved and seconded by Ms. Sutherland, Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ruckman called on Steve Graham regarding **Agenda Item 16: Consultant Selection Activities and/or Consultant Contract Authorizations, Renewals, Amendments or Extensions.**

Mr. Graham explained that Board Policy Number EO 0003 regarding the Selection, Monitoring and Evaluation of Professional Services / Consultants has defined Board notification requirements. For services expected to exceed \$50,000 staff shall notify the Board Operations Committee or other appropriate Board Committee prior to initiation of the selection process for consultant professional services to receive board input. Upon completion of the selection process staff shall report on: solicitation, evaluation, contract negotiation and the consultant selected. Staff shall also report the increase and total cost each time a consultant's services are renewed, amended or extended initially exceeding \$50,000 in total cost or exceeding \$50,000 for the amended service.

Staff reviewed with the Operations Committee consultant selection activities and/or consultant contract authorizations, renewals, amendments or extensions. Specifically, current activities for the following consultant services were reviewed:

- i. Estuary Response Project (ERP) project in San Antonio Bay – request for professional qualifications
- ii. Professional services contract for the creation of the Leon Creek Regional Storm Water Facility Master plan.

#### **Estuary Response Project – Biological Study of San Antonio Bay**

The proposed project would develop a custom data base to extract and manipulate specific biological density data from the Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPWD) Coastal Fisheries data file. Currently the TPWD data base is so large that it cannot be opened by standard software.

Development of the custom data base will be required to extract TPWD data for both the Estuary Response Project (ERP) and the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). This custom data base will help to assimilate the basic data needed to determine the environmental flows mandated in Senate Bill 3.

The estimated cost of the project is \$55,000. The San Antonio River Authority and the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority would split the cost of the project 50/50. The funds for SARA's share of the cost are included in the FY 2007/08 budget.

#### **Professional Services Contract for the Creation of the Leon Creek Regional Stormwater Facility Masterplan.**

This study will identify and analyze locations in the Leon Creek Watershed to construct regional storm water facilities (RSWF) to reduce the flow in the Leon Creek and tributaries. This effort will re-visit the proposed locations in the Upper Leon Creek Watershed that were originally proposed by the City of San Antonio. This analysis will also study other RSWF identified in that watershed. Results from this effort will then be used by Bexar County to fund the top priority structures.

Mr. Ruckman called on David Ross and Sharon McCoy-Huber regarding **Agenda Item 17: Executive Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071, Consultation with Attorney on a Matter in which the Duty of the Attorney to the Governmental Body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas Clearly Conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code Concerning Wastewater Service Revenues Collected by Bexar Metropolitan Water District and Paid to San Antonio Water System.**

After appropriate disclosure in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, the Open Meetings Act, Section 551.071, Mr. Ruckman then recessed to meet in Executive Session at 3:30 p.m. for consultation with attorney on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas disciplinary rules of professional conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code concerning wastewater service revenues collected by Bexar Metropolitan Water District and paid to San Antonio Water System.

The Executive Session having concluded, the meeting of the Operations Committee resumed into Open Session at 3:38 p.m.

Mr. Ruckman called on Suzanne Scott for **Agenda Item 18: Presentation, Discussion and Appropriate Action Concerning a Proposed Agreement Regarding Reconciliation of Wastewater Service Revenues with San Antonio Water System.**

Ms. Scott explained that in 2007 the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) brought to the River Authority's attention a billing discrepancy discovered when SAWS began to directly bill wastewater customers residing in the Bexar Metropolitan Water District (BexarMet) water service area. SAWS discovered that BexarMet had been billing River Authority wastewater customers as SAWS wastewater customers. Once this was brought to the River Authority's attention, our staff worked with SAWS and BexarMet staff to reconcile the bill error. It has been determined that since 2001 approximately 400 River Authority customers were billed incorrectly.

The River Authority informed customers by letter in December of the error and reported that customers would begin to be billed at the River Authority rate. SAWS has performed an audit of the amounts incorrectly billed by BexarMet and collected by SAWS and has presented the agreement, included in the agenda packet, to reimburse the River Authority \$150,184.75 in fees SAWS has collected from the River Authority's customers.

The River Authority's finance staff has reviewed the reconciliation performed by SAWS and concurs with the recommended reimbursement. The uncollected revenue for the River Authority since 2001 resulting from the difference between the SAWS wastewater rate and the River Authority rate is reconciled by the River Authority finance staff and was reviewed with the committee.

As previously reported, the River Authority is soliciting professional services to conduct a comprehensive review of third party billings. The findings of this audit may result in additional recommendations for the board's consideration.

Staff recommended a Motion indicating Operations Committee support for requesting the San Antonio River Authority Board of Directors' acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Agreement Regarding Reconciliation of Wastewater Revenues between the San Antonio River Authority and the San Antonio Water System and authorization for the General Manager to execute the agreement.

Mr. Ruckman called for said Motion. Ms. Sutherland so moved and seconded by Mr. Pérez, Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ruckman called on Neftali Garza for **Agenda Item 20: Briefing Regarding the Status of the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (dFIRM) in Bexar, Wilson, Karnes, and Goliad Counties.**

Mr. Garza briefed the committee on the status of the dFIRM in Bexar, Wilson, Karnes, and Goliad counties, with a focus on recent and future public outreach efforts and on upcoming comment, appeal, and response periods associated with the new flood plain maps.

Mr. Ruckman called on Steve Raabe for **Agenda Item 21: Briefing Regarding Land Rights Acquisition Status.**

Mr. Raabe explained that on March 22, 2006, the San Antonio River Authority Board of Directors approved Ordinance No. O-1266. This ordinance established a real estate policy for the River Authority. The policy delegates to the General Manager the authority to purchase or lease land rights for \$25,000 or less per parcel as long as the purchase or lease price is within the amount budgeted for the project. The policy also states that such acquisitions of land rights will be reported to the Board.

Land rights acquisition efforts are in progress for all active projects. A list of consummated acquisitions sorted by project was included in the agenda packet. It also included pending condemnations.

Summarized below is a list of active projects:

- San Antonio River Improvement Project, Mission Reach
- San Antonio River Improvements Project, Museum Reach
- Graytown Road Wastewater Treatment Collection System.

Mr. Ruckman called on Sharon McCoy-Huber for **Agenda Item 22: Briefing Regarding the Randolph Air Force Base Wastewater Collection System Contract.**

Ms. McCoy-Huber briefed the committee on the Randolph Air Force Base Wastewater Collection System Contract. Progress is being made on the contract with the Contracting Office in Alexandria. Ms. McCoy-Huber's goal is that the River Authority's April 10 response to that office be accepted as final. In addition, the Alexandria office has pledged, after the Rehabilitation and Replacement (R&R) Study is complete, to walk the River Authority through development of a price redetermination.

Mr. Ruckman called on Steve Raabe regarding **Agenda Item 23: Briefing on Water Resources Development and Planning Activities.**

Mr. Raabe briefed the committee on water resources development and planning activities. On April 10, the Edwards Aquifer Recover Implementation Program will meet. On May 1, the Region L water planning group will meet, with their efforts resulting in preparation of the 2011 Regional Water Plan. In addition, names are being compiled for the Bay and Basins Stakeholder Group for the Guadalupe – San Antonio River and Bay system.

Ms. Sutherland requested that staff compile and provide the names of individuals serving on the various SARA-sponsored committees. Ms. Scott reported that the River Authority, SAWS, and other agencies are coordinating the list of names to avoid competition, to achieve a good cross section, and to support each other's nominations.

Ms. Scott informed the committee that she and Mr. Weaver would be attending the Senate Natural Resources Committee meeting scheduled for April 8. Ms. Scott will be sitting on a panel discussing wastewater. Mr. Weaver will be making note of the San Antonio River Authority's elected versus appointed board.

Mr. Ruckman called on Suzanne Scott for **Agenda Item 24: Status Report on the San Antonio River Improvements Project**

Ms. Scott gave the committee a status report on the San Antonio River Improvements Project, with a focus on progress toward consultant selection, contract negotiation, and notice to proceed on Phase 1 Mission Reach. April 17 is the target for making an offer to the preferred vendor, with notice to proceed following in late April. Ms. Scott also reported that Mr. Weaver had served as Master of Ceremonies during the event honoring Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison the week prior. She also reported that the City of San Antonio had requested a status report be given on the upcoming Thursday, April 10, and she asked Mr. Weaver if he would be available to give an overview on the San Antonio River Improvements Project.

Ms. Sutherland indicated she had a question related to Item 12 and canoe trail development in Goliad County. She reported knowledge of a potential land donor who wishes to enhance one of the proposed Canoe Trail Goliad public access sites through the donation of land. Ms. Scott indicated that the land could be deeded to the San Antonio River Authority, the San Antonio River Foundation, the Canoe Trail Goliad, or any number of agencies and organizations—with the decision generally depending upon donor preference. She also stated that, should the River Authority take over the operations and maintenance of that land, as it has other public access sites in Goliad County, then deeding the land to the River Authority would be optimal. Ms. Sutherland agreed, indicating that such an acquisition would be consistent with the San Antonio River Basin Plan for Nature-based Park Resources. Ms. Scott referenced the land acquisition guideline that the River Authority Board had recently approved for this type of donation. The guideline evaluates the potential donation against the plan. Ms. Scott and Ms. Sutherland indicated that Karen Bishop, who sits on the Canoe Trail Goliad board, should take the guidelines to the upcoming meeting of that board. Ms. Buchanan stated that it is also important that the San Antonio River Foundation support the plan.

There being nothing further to report, Mr. Ruckman adjourned the meeting at 4:14 p.m.

PREPARED AND RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE MANAGER.

---

SUZANNE B. SCOTT, General Manager

APPROVED BY THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE AT THE MEETING HELD ON  
MAY 12, 2008.

---

H. B. "TRIP" RUCKMAN III, Chairman

ATTEST:

---

STEPHEN T. GRAHAM, Assistant Secretary