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SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY'S EXPERTISE SOUGHT IN EFFORTS TO CLEAN GANGA AND COOUM RIVERS

Agency to address Government of India, World Bank

NEW DEHLI -- The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) will be a featured speaker at the "Global Experience in River Clean-up and Basin Management – Relevance for the Ganga" workshop beginning on Saturday, April 17. At this workshop, speakers from around the world will discuss ways to improve water quality in rivers. Steven Schauer, Manager of External Communications at SARA, will discuss how the agency is protecting the San Antonio River and its basin. Schauer will join speakers representing the countries of Australia, Brazil and Europe at the workshop. The World Bank is funding all costs associated with this trip.

The Ganga River, also known as the Ganges River, is one of the largest rivers on the Indian subcontinent. The river basin covers nearly 390,000 square miles and the river supports close to 400 million people. The Ganga has great cultural and religious significance to the people of India. However, it is also known for being heavily polluted. In 2009, the World Bank agreed to loan India \$100 billion over five years to clean the river.

Following the workshop in New Dehli, Schauer will travel to Chennai to address the Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust, an organization devoted to the clean-up and restoration of the Cooum River. SARA has previously hosted members of the World Bank and the Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust in San Antonio. The meeting in Chennai will be a continuation of earlier discussions regarding how the San Antonio River Authority may be able to provide assistance to the Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust.

"SARA is honored to share our experience and expertise with the World Bank and its associated countries," says Suzanne Scott, SARA's General Manager. "One of our goals is to exemplify environmental leadership and stewardship. We are pleased to be able to share lessons we have learned improving water quality in the San Antonio River to benefit the global environment.

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 Basin. 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.

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