

September 30, 2014

The Honorable Mayor Ivy Taylor
City of San Antonio

Re: Transparency for the Vista Ridge Contract Decision

Dear Mayor Taylor,

We appreciated your important questions raised at the SAWS Board meeting of September 29th, when the Board voted to approve the preliminary Vista Ridge contract.

We are also very concerned that this contract is moving much too quickly, without enough care being given to the huge implications for San Antonio's ratepayers, the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone, the exporting aquifer in Burleson County, and everyone involved along the 142-mile pipeline route.

Two speakers who have extensive backgrounds in public finance law attended the SAWS Board meeting on Monday. They attempted to raise serious questions that would have benefited the public vetting of this contract. They were given exactly two-minutes each to speak to you about a 522-page contract that was released on Friday and that is still not complete. We would welcome another opportunity to share this information with you and your City Council representatives.

We are asking you to slow this process down. Most importantly, we are asking you to hold a full public hearing on this contract and community meetings in each Council District before you vote on the Vista Ridge Contract. We believe we – San Antonio's ratepayers and all the people along the route who will be impacted financially and ecologically – deserve at least that.

Again, we appreciate that you are listening to us. Please do not fail us now. We are counting on you to guard the public trust.

Sincerely,

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance

Mike Phillips
Leader
COPS/Metro Alliance

Phyllis Ingram
President
League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area

Linda Curtis
Executive Director
League of Independent Texans

Peggy Day
Chairman
Alamo Group of the Sierra Club

Bob Wise
President
imagine San Antonio

Petra Mata
Executive Director & Co-Founder, Fuerza Unida
Viola Casares
Program Director & Co-Founder, Fuerza Unida

Betty Dabney, PhD
Chair, Green Sanctuary Team
on behalf of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio

Richard Reed
Chair of Environmental Studies
Trinity University

Luke Metzger
Executive Director
Environment Texas

Ron Green
President
Helotes Heritage Association

Steve Box
Executive Director
Environmental Stewardship
Bastrop, Texas

Bill Bunch
Executive Director
Save Our Springs Alliance

Added 10-3-14

Travis Brown
President
Neighbors for Neighbors, Inc.

Travis Brown
Vice President
Pines and Prairies Land Trust