

Dear GEAA members and friends in San Antonio and the surrounding areas,

We invite you to attend a press conference to be held at the SAWS HQ at noon on Monday, July 21st at SAWS HQ (2800 U.S. Hwy 281 North) in front of the building where SAWS Board Meetings are held. We will be asking the SAWS Board to call a moratorium on issuing new Utility Service Agreements on the Edwards Recharge Zone. (see press release below)

By approving these Utility Service Agreements, SAWS opens new areas of highly sensitive Aquifer lands to high-density development. Gene Dawson, President of Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc. sums up the issue quite succinctly in an April 9th article in the San Antonio Express News, *Business in, waste out*, stating that "Organized wastewater collection is what drives development." When SAWS provides water and sewer service it enables much higher density, usually as high as 4-6 lots per acre. Housing developments of this density bring increased traffic, thoroughfare construction, sewage infrastructure installed within streams that recharge the Aquifer, and other related impacts, all leading to non-point source pollution of the Aquifer. For this reason, the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA) has consistently opposed SAWS wastewater service contracts over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge and Transitions zones, and the contiguous Contributing Zone.

Feel free to send this message on to your friends. The more the merrier. You are welcome to bring signage and bring or wear means of identifying your affiliation with GEAA and other organizations. We would really like to have a big crowd to show SAWS that we are serious about our request that they stop encouraging new development of the Edwards watershed. The message is simple: **GEAA opposes the acquisition of the Vista Ridge water supplies if those supplies are to be used to expand service on the Recharge Zone.**

Following the press conference, all are invited to attend the SAWS Board Policy and Planning meeting to be held at 12:30 at the SAWS Customer Service Building further up the hill.

I hope to see you on Monday!

Annalisa Peace, Executive Director, [Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#)