

Dear GEAA members and friends,

City Councilman Ron Nirenberg and four other Council Representatives have asked the San Antonio City Council to approve putting a renewal of the hugely successful [Edwards Aquifer Protection Program](#) (EAPP) and linear parks on the ballot for the May 2015 elections. Most recently, funds from this program enabled [San Antonio to successfully protect the Bracken Bat Preserve](#) from encroaching development. By compensating landowners for their cooperation in permanently protecting the Edwards Aquifer, the EAPP serves as a national model for smart and equitable conservation of groundwater resources

According to [this report in the San Antonio Express News](#), “at least some council members are raising questions about whether the 1/8 cent sales tax that’s been devoted to the two programs since 2000 might eventually be better spent in other ways”. **“Nirenberg is now trying to convincing his council colleagues to again pledge the sales tax to the initiatives by Thursday’s council meeting in order to meet various state election deadlines...** However, Mayor Ivy Taylor says she’s not sure the two programs should be on the May ballot or if they should be amended... Taylor said, adding later, “I’m not necessarily ready to say let’s continue as is.”

This ballot initiative has earned the approval of the voters of San Antonio three times and the resulting programs have proven incredibly successful in achieving our goals of Aquifer and watershed protection. We see no reason not allow voters to approve this program again in May.

Please contact San Antonio [Mayor Ivy Taylor](#) (Mayor.IvyTaylor@sanantonio.gov/210-207-7060) and City of [San Antonio Council Representatives](#) (210.207.7040 or the individual numbers/e-mails can be found on each District page) **ASAP to let them know that you support putting the EAPP and linear creeks on the May Ballot for renewal on the City Council Agenda this Thursday, January 15th or no later than January 29th.**

Our thanks go out to Councilmen Ron Nirenberg and Ray Lopez for co-sponsoring this request to put the EAPP on the May ballot, and to Councilmen Roberto Treviño, Alan Warrick, Rey Saldaña, and Mike Gallagher for their support.

Thank you for your help. Have a wonderful weekend!

Annaisa Peace, Executive Director

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