



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

COSA - CITY CLERK
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TO: Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk

FROM: Councilmember Ivalis Meza Gonzalez, District 8 & Councilmember Marina Alderete Gavito, District 7

COPIES: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Andy Segovia, City Attorney; Joe Frank Picazo, Interim Assistant to the City Manager; Emily McGinn, Assistant to the City Council

SUBJECT: Guajolote Ranch Project CCR

DATE: October 1, 2025

Issue for Proposed Consideration

After coordinating this Council Consideration Request (CCR) with the City Manager, I respectfully request for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

Requesting consideration of the Guajolote Ranch Project CCR

Issues:

Potential Aquifer Threats: Development over the recharge and contributing zones may compromise water quality, recharge capacity and long-term sustainability for San Antonio's primary water supply.

Limited City Oversight: Projects outside San Antonio city limits often fall beyond direct zoning or land use controls, requiring alternative strategies for protection.

Opportunity for Acquisition or Conservation Easements: Studying the Guajolote Ranch property could identify option for purchase, conservation easements, or partnerships to preserve sensitive aquifer land.

Brief Background

The Edwards and Trinity Aquifers serve as the lifeline for San Antonio's water supply. Protecting the recharge and contributing zones is critical to the long-term sustainability, affordability, and safety of our drinking water.



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Recently, a development proposal known as the Guajolote Ranch Project near Helotes has raised concerns among community members, environmental organizations, and water protection advocates. The project location sits in an environmentally sensitive area with potential impacts to the aquifer recharge zones and water quality.

Historically, the City of San Antonio has partnered with the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP), SAWS, and other agencies to conserve sensitive lands and mitigate risks to our water supply. The EAPP, the land buying program for watershed protection, and partners, have spent approximately \$50 million on 6,000 acres to protect the aquifer in the Helotes Creek watershed. Additionally, 15% of the total Edwards Aquifer Recharge comes from the Helotes Creek Watershed, the primary drinking water source for up to 2.5 million people across multiple counties.

Since 2000, the EAPP program had spent \$315 million to protect over 175,000 acres of watershed land. It would be counterproductive and costly to risk contamination from the proposed water treatment plant associated with the Guajolote Ranch Project. As growth continues in areas adjacent to San Antonio, the need for proactive evaluation and protection of the aquifer properties is more urgent than ever.

Request

1. **Assess possible dangers or impact of the proposed Guajolote Ranch Project** that would consequently affect the water supply for the City of San Antonio, Bexar County and other surrounding counties, that rely on the Edwards and Trinity Aquifers for drinking water.
2. **Evaluate funding sources for potential land acquisition, conservation easements or other protective measures:** Including but not limited to the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program, Compatible Land Foundation (CLF), Texas Nature Conservancy, Sentinel Landscape Initiative grants, bond proceeds, intergovernmental partnerships, and private conservation contributions that could be used to preclude or limit development through fee simple or easement purchases. Work in coordination with Bexar County, SAWS, the Edwards Aquifer Authority, the Greater Aquifer Alliance, EAPP and working subgroups to include the Scientific Evaluation Team (SET), the Conservation Advisory Board (CAB) and AACOG.
3. **Council Briefings on Aquifer Threats:** Require city staff and SAWS to provide timely briefings to city council on any new or emerging development projects or environmental issues that pose potential threats to the Edwards or Trinity Aquifers affecting our drinking water supply.



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Submitted for Council consideration by: Ivalis M. Gonzalez
Councilmember Councilwoman Ivalis Meza Gonzalez

Marina Alderete Gavito
Councilmember Councilwoman Marina Alderete Gavito

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (exactly 3)

District

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