



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

Agenda Item Number: 3

Agenda Date: May 24, 2022

In Control: Municipal Utilities Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Finance Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

SAWS Recycled Water System

SUMMARY:

Briefing by the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) on the SAWS Recycled Water System, including impacts to the City.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In the mid to late 1990s, San Antonio planned for and developed the San Antonio Direct-Recycled Water program to provide an alternative water supply to conserve and offset use of the limited Edwards Aquifer potable ground water supply. Water recycling – the effective treatment and reuse of wastewater – protects public health, the natural environment and the wildlife that depends on it, downstream water supplies, and water sources for recreational use.

SAWS largest in the nation purple pipe recycled water system serves not only as a conservation tool, but also an economic attractor for many companies who are able to use this water at a lower cost for their industrial and irrigation purposes. Companies such as Toyota, Microsoft, Navistar and other local manufacturing customers, as well as local parks and golf courses are some of the 95 user sites of the system. Another main use of the system is for river flows to ensure an

adequate flow for the Salado Creek and the San Antonio River, making up the Riverwalk, Museum & Mission Reaches and the Greenway hike and bike trail system. Treated effluent is also the primary source water for Braunig and Calaveras Lakes, ensuring the CPSE electrical system works to keep the power on in San Antonio. The City of San Antonio is the largest customer of the Recycled System and contract renewal discussions are on-going about the continued needs, costs and capacity of the system. Business terms have been agreed to with SAWS and a new agreement is anticipated to be scheduled for City Council consideration in June 2022.

Use of treated effluent is critical to the healthy river flows downstream and into the coastal region. SAWS has applied for an historic permit to ensure that San Antonio is able to utilize certain recycled water flows to ensure the water is not taken out of the river, but rather ensure it flows through the rivers and into the bays and estuaries.

ISSUE:

SAWS staff will provide a briefing on the SAWS Recycled Water System, including impacts to the City.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for briefing purposes only