

Thank you, Councilman Courage, Councilman Trevino, Councilwoman Garcia, and Citizens Soto and Trevino for the opportunity to speak with you today. Thank you for serving our community.

My name is Reinette King. I am a former cost/price analyst and federal contracting officer with 33 years' experience in government contracting. Among other things, I used independent audits extensively in my negotiations to protect the taxpayers' money. I stand ready to assist you to protect SAWS ratepayers' money as well.

I am also a member of the Vista Ridge Resolution Coalition. We currently consist of Alamo Sierra Club, Bexar County Green Party, Environmental Stewardship, Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance, Fox Run Neighborhood Association, Highland Park Neighborhood Association, Homeowner Taxpayer Association of Bexar County, Joshua Initiative, League of Independent Voters of Texas, LULAC Concilio Zapatista 4393, San Antonio Making Bureaucracies Accountable, Simsboro Aquifer Water Defense Fund, Texans Uniting for Reform & Freedom.

Our purpose is to see our Draft Resolution, included with Stan Mitchell's November 9 letter to you, acknowledged by City Council. Colleen Waring has just shared with us a method for conducting an audit cost effectively.

Rate payers are upset by the hikes and deserve to know where their hard-earned money is being spent.

- 1) SAWS gave Abengoa a \$120M bridge loan to buy the pipe for the Vista Ridge pipeline. As we warned, Abengoa went belly up, never bought the pipe, and never returned the money. Rivard Report showed \$119M of that money was cycled through a non-profit. We want to know where is our money?
- 2) The man who obtained the water leases did so while on probation, having pled guilty to a theft of \$2.4M.
- 3) Additionally, there is already a cost overrun of \$50M on one portion of the Vista Ridge project, the Agua Vista Station. Vista Ridge hasn't even started delivering water to San Antonio yet.
- 4) Since the PUCT can raise the rates, given adequate grounds such as restricted pumping, we are all at risk. We need to assess where we are and proceed with caution.
- 3) We are delighted that at the October 31 special briefing of Council by SAWS, Mr. Puente welcomed an independent audit. SAWS is holding 488 days of cash on hand, which is rate payers' money. Assuming funds are available, that is more than sufficient to pay for a fully independent audit that needs to be managed by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, not selected by SAWS.

These are all reasons why we are asking you to require a cost-effective audit of this project. We ask that you move the resolution through council.

Thank you!

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