

Why City Council Should Pass The Vista Ridge Resolution NOW

- Vista Ridge is the controversial **\$3.4 billion**, 142-mile water pipeline slated for operation April 2020 resulting in 52% water rate hikes. It was given one month's vetting before being **rushed through Council in 2014 and never voted on by the public.**
- **Vista Ridge is an imminent threat to a major Texas water resource.** It will pump 50,000 acre-feet of groundwater per year (AFY) for 30 years from an ancient aquifer underlying Bureson, Milam, Lee and Bastrop counties – an aquifer that does not recharge in human lifetimes. It will dry up landowners' wells, but Vista Ridge is not liable to pay for that harm.
- **Vista Ridge will pump far more water than San Antonio can even use** – by almost a third of the project (15,000 AFY). But Vista Ridge's private partner, Blue Water, is seeking the legal right to pump even **more** water.
- **Contrary to SAWS' claims, Vista Ridge contract does NOT protect ratepayers or the City from significant risks.** The SAWS wholesale water rates can be challenged by private interests involved in Vista Ridge.
- **Vista Ridge water is the most expensive water in Texas**, likely 5-6 times more expensive than Edwards Aquifer water. It could be the most expensive in the country.
- **A \$120 million loan taken out by the original private partner, Abengoa, to purchase pipe was not returned** when Abengoa went bankrupt -- nor was any pipe purchased with the loan. This has been widely known for at least two years.
- **Thankfully, the Governor vetoed SAWS' House Bill 1806.** It would have allowed SAWS to move cheaper Edwards water outside the zones of the Edwards Aquifer, while moving far more expensive Vista Ridge water in **at ratepayers' expense.**
- **SAWS CEO Robert Puente is paid nearly 3 times more than any other public water CEO in Texas, about \$600,000.**
- SAWS Chair, Berto Guerra, a key supporter of Vista Ridge completed his second and last term on the SAWS Board May 31, 2018. **But he is still serving and voting on key matters on the SAWS Board.**
- **In May 2019, the City Council waived the impact fees of \$87 million over 10 years to be paid by developers.** Who will pick up the tab? Ratepayers, of course.
- Water leases underlying Vista Ridge were gathered by a man on probation **having pled guilty to a \$2.4M theft.**

Vista Ridge is called the San Antone Hose because urban and rural Texans are all getting hosed.

The Vista Ridge Resolution has been sitting on the Mayor and Council's desks since March.

Take these three steps to get the Vista Ridge Resolution passed already!

1. **Call the Mayor and your Council Member** (210.207.7040). Urge they move the VR Resolution now. No more foot dragging.
2. Contact your County Judge and Commissioner, State Representative, State Senator (<https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov>) and Gov. Greg Abbott (512.463.2000). Tell them you want an **independent audit of Vista Ridge and proper oversight of SAWS.**
3. **Ask your local organization or church to help us spread the word.**

These organizations have endorsed the Vista Ridge Resolution. *More are coming!*

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

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