

SAWS Act PAC

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For Immediate Release

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SAWS Act PAC Saves City \$100,000 in CEO's Pay

San Antonio, 6:45 am: The coalition petitioning for a public vote on SAWS Accountability and an audit of Vista Ridge – the SAWS Act PAC – claimed a small victory in getting a \$100,000 reduction in SAWS CEO, Robert Puente's pay, by a vote of the SAWS Board of Trustees at yesterday's monthly meeting.

A SAWS Act PAC spokesperson, Reinette King said, "Three outgoing SAWS Trustees, including Board Chair and Vista Ridge Cheerleader, Berto Guerra, had to vote their friend, Puente, a pay cut. Truth is, Puente should have been sent out the same door with the Trustees for hiding the recent waste of Vista Ridge water that is likely to have cost the ratepayers about \$3.7 million dollars. We just filed a complaint with the Attorney General's office that SAWS is holding records ransom by demanding we pay \$2,540--or more--for records on the water waste they should have already made public."

Alice Canestaro-Garcia, longtime San Antonio activist and Treasurer of the SAWS Act PAC said, "If we get our 20,000 signatures and voters pass the SAWS Accountability Act next May, the general manager's pay will be substantially reduced to no more than ten times the lowest paid fulltime employee at SAWS, similar to how the City Manager is currently paid. That still could be at the high range for the nation. SAWS has for years ripped the PUBLIC out of our public utility by forcing Vista Ridge on ratepayers, not listening to our reasonable concerns. "Waterful" goes against San Antonio water conservation culture."

Retired business executive, Stan Mitchell, who also serves on the SAWS Act PAC Board said, "SAWS has become a cash cow for the SAWS/City staff/developer bloc which demanded the Vista Ridge project and then wouldn't help pay for it. They persuaded SAWS to move the integration pipeline for Vista Ridge water to the north, necessitating costly boring through limestone, causing an engineering nightmare.

Puente advised premature pumping and resulting water waste to be able to claim that SAWS met the April 15th deadline to their private investors. Meanwhile, Vista Ridge pipeline costs continue to escalate. In my experience misrepresenting financial reality to an appropriator of funds is a firing offense."

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Media is invited to join us anytime on the petition trail. We're out in public locations most every day.