

SAWS Act PAC

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Media Advisory
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SAWS Stinky Suit on Ratepayers Tuesday, January 19, 10 am Hearing

- Who: City of San Antonio & SAWS v. Citizens Petition for SAWS Accountability Act
- What: Hearing on Plea to the Jurisdiction of “1205 petition” legal action aimed at SAWS Accountability Act Petition
- Where: [Travis County 201st District Court](#), the Honorable Judge Amy Clark Meachum presiding
- When: Tuesday, January 19, 10 a.m. (also viewed [here](#) on YouTube)

On December 10th, the City of San Antonio, acting through the San Antonio Water System (SAWS), filed litigation in Travis County to prevent the SAWS Accountability Act citizens’ charter amendment from going forward, with claims that the petition would do harm to SAWS’ ability to meet their bond debt and to the city’s bond rating.

The lawsuit was clearly directed at the SAWS Act Pact, but SAWS purposely did not name the PAC or give it any direct notice of the filing. The PAC only learned about the action on Christmas Eve in a newspaper’s Legal Notice section.

A January 4th hearing in which the SAWS Act PAC, Reinette King, petition coordinator and spokesperson, George Alejos, LULAC Concilio Zapatista 4383, Joe Yakubik, Vice-Chair of the SAWS Rate Advisory Committee Terry Burns, MD, Alamo Sierra Club, and SAWS Act PAC, Treasurer Stanley Mitchell, intervened, resulting in a hearing set for Tuesday, January 19 at 10 am on a “plea to jurisdiction”, which is a preliminary challenge to a court’s authority to decide the action before it.

Bill Bunch, Esq., Executive Director of the Save Our Springs Alliance is providing pro-bono representation for King, Alejos, Yakubik, and Burns. James Murphy, Esq. of San Antonio is providing pro-bono representation for the SAWS Act PAC, Stanley Mitchell, Treasurer.

The significance of this case is the attempt by a \$1 billion public water utility to use the courts to deal a fatal blow to the guaranteed right of citizens to petition in Texas since the Constitutional Amendment for Home Rule was passed in 1912.

The SAWS legal action was covered by the [San Antonio Report](#) on December 30th [here](#) and the San Antonio Express-News [here](#).