

# Vista Ridge Pipeline Construction Hits Home Stretch

The end is near — the end of the pipeline that is. There's less than 40 miles to go before construction of the Vista Ridge pipeline is complete.

The project — the largest non-Edwards Aquifer water supply in San Antonio's history — will deliver more than 16 billion gallons per year from the Carrizo and Simsboro aquifers in Burleson County. That's enough to meet 20 percent of the city's water needs in a system that serves 1.7 million people.

About 105 miles of the 142-mile pipeline — or 74 percent — is already in the ground, traversing seven counties from Burleson to Bexar.

"There are four crews installing 60-inch and 54-inch pipe in different areas at the same time," said SAWS engineering manager Marty Jones.

Construction of the well field in Burleson



Construction crew lowers pipe into place for installation in a tunnel beneath the San Marcos River.

County is also moving at a swift pace. Drilling is complete for all 18 wells. There are nine well sites, each with two wells — one in the deeper Simsboro aquifer and one in the shallower Carrizo aquifer.

Adjacent to the well field is the powerful pump station where all the water will be treated to drinking water standards before it's piped to San Antonio. The site houses a 4-million-gallon storage tank, disinfection facility and high service pumps.

Meanwhile, at Agua Vista Station in Stone Oak, SAWS contractors are making steady progress on the second 10-million-gallon tank that will receive and distribute the Vista Ridge water.

"The main focus for SAWS this year will be getting all the integration components constructed and tested so we can accept this water and integrate it into our system," Jones said.

The new water supply is scheduled to come on line in April 2020.

## Calling All Novice Gardeners — Spring Bloom Is For You!

New to San Antonio? Or maybe a first-time homeowner ready to add a little pizzazz to your yard? Then you'll want to make a beeline for Spring Bloom at SAWS Headquarters, Saturday, March 9!

The free annual event is your prime opportunity to learn about gardening and landscape care from the pros — all while saving water.

This year's focus will be on the rookie gardener. Learn all the basics to get started — from selecting soil to picking



**Saturday, March 9**  
**9 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
SAWS Headquarters  
2800 U.S. Hwy. 281 North

plants to maintaining a less thirsty, more drought-hardy landscape.

Attendees also will have the opportunity to earn up to five WaterSaver Rewards points and a \$50 coupon to use toward water-conserving mulch for your landscape!

Local gardening experts will be speaking throughout the day, offering great tips to help spruce up your yard while still saving water. Plus there will be a fun-filled learning area for children.

Come early — the first 1,000 visitors get a free plant!



**Leon Valley Earthwise Living Day** is Saturday, March 2. The free event features health and wellness, composting demonstrations, solar options, recycling, organic gardening and more! Details at [leonvalleytexas.gov](http://leonvalleytexas.gov).

## Event Calendar

### Mardi Gras Artisan Show

**March 1-3**

San Antonio River Walk  
Downtown

[thesanantonioriverwalk.com](http://thesanantonioriverwalk.com)

### SAWS Spring Bloom

**March 9**

SAWS Headquarters  
2800 U.S. Hwy 281 North  
[saws.org/springbloom](http://saws.org/springbloom)

### Native Plant Walk

**March 15**

San Antonio Botanical Garden  
555 Funston Place  
[sabot.org](http://sabot.org)

### Beginner Bird Walk

**March 23**

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center  
10750 Pleasanton Road  
[mitchelllake.audubon.org](http://mitchelllake.audubon.org)

### Monarch Fest

**March 23-24**

San Antonio Zoo  
3903 N. St. Mary's Street  
[sazoo.org](http://sazoo.org)

**Customer Service and  
24-hour Emergency**

**210-704-SAWS (7297)**  
[saws.org/waternews](http://saws.org/waternews)

## Notice a Change in Your Bill?

As of Jan. 1, your SAWS services are now being billed at our new rates.

Rates for 2019, approved in December 2017 by San Antonio City Council, will enable SAWS to replace aging critical systems throughout the city, as well as support SAWS improvements being made in connection with street projects funded by the city's 2017 bond program.

The adjustment will also allow multiyear water and sewer projects to move forward, in addition to major technology upgrades such as possible wireless meter reading.

The average residential customer can expect to see an increase of 4.7 percent, or about \$2.94, on their monthly bill (excluding pass-through fees). To learn more, visit [saws.org/rates](http://saws.org/rates).

## Don't Be a Drip Fix a Leak Week is March 18-24

Household leaks account for more than 1 trillion gallons of water wasted nationwide every year. That's equal to the annual household water use of more than 11 million homes.

Common types of leaks found inside and outside the home include leaking toilet flappers, dripping faucets or showerheads, faulty outdoor spigots and broken sprinkler heads. All are easily fixed.



Fix a Leak Week, part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program, encourages you to be proactive and check your plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks.

For more information on costly household leaks and how to fix them, visit [epa.gov/watersense](http://epa.gov/watersense).

## Fix a Leak Week

## Marching For the Dream



SAWS employees and their families joined more than 300,000 fellow San Antonians who took part in the Martin Luther King Day March, Jan. 21, to commemorate the civil rights leader's message of equality and peace. San Antonio's annual MLK Day proceedings are among the largest in the U.S.