



Upgrades On Tap for S.A.'s Rock Star Sewage Plant

San Antonio is well-known for many things: the Alamo, the Spurs and the River Walk to name a few. In the utility world, our city is famous for something most of us would rather not think about: top-notch sewage treatment.

Since 1987, the majority of the city's sewage has flowed into the Dos Rios Water Recycling Center. Today, the 500-acre South Side facility remains a cornerstone of our wastewater system, and claims bragging rights to many industry "bests" and "firsts":

- Largest direct recycled water system in the nation.
- First in the world to produce treated biogas for the natural gas market.
- First to reuse all three sewage treatment byproducts: water, solids and methane gas.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's best treatment plant in the country in 2004.

Even the water along San Antonio's River Walk comes from Dos Rios, providing much of the famed river's flow all the way to the Texas coast.

Now, more than 30 years after it opened,

Dos Rios is getting some much-needed improvements. Among the upgrades: an overhaul of the plant's electrical system.

"The largest operational cost for wastewater treatment plants is electricity," said Marisa Martinez Palmer, engineering manager for the project. In all, there are four phases of electrical upgrades, expected to be complete by 2025.

Also under construction are improvements to the chlorine disinfection system — the last step in the treatment process that prepares recycled water for reuse or release into the river. Completion of this project is scheduled for early 2020.

Upgrades to the plant's solids processing facilities are already in operation, increasing the recycling center's capacity significantly.

The most impressive part? All the work is being done while Dos Rios continues to process 100 million gallons or so of sewage each day. "One of the greatest challenges with these upgrades, as it is with any project at our plants, is making sure not to interrupt plant operations," Palmer said.



Last Call for Spring WaterSaver Coupons

Time is ticking away — have you applied for SAWS WaterSaver coupons yet? You've got until May 31 to decide if this will be the summer to refresh your landscape.

SAWS residential customers can apply for up to four \$100 WaterSaver coupons to replace part of your thirsty lawn with lush, drought-tolerant garden beds and/or porous patios.

For each coupon, you must remove at least 200 square feet of grass and cap any irrigation heads. And if you have an automatic irrigation system, you must schedule a free irrigation consultation at consult@saws.org or 210-704-SAVE (7283).

Learn more and apply online at GardenStyleSA.com/coupons.

Event Calendar

Deer Proof Gardening

June 1

Rainbow Gardens
2585 Thousand Oaks Drive
rainbowgardens.biz

Texas Folklife Festival

June 7-9

UTSA Institute of Texan Cultures
801 E. César Chavez Blvd.
texasfolklifestival.org

Gardens and Yoga

June 8

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabot.org

Outdoor Film Series: Karate Kid

June 20

Mission Marquee Plaza
3100 Roosevelt Ave.
missionmarquee.com

Beginner Bird Walk

June 22

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
10750 Pleasanton Road
mitchelllake.audubon.org

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

210-704-SAWS (7297)
saws.org/waternews

SAWS Impact Fees Being Discussed at City Council

Impact fees are one-time charges to builders and developers for connecting to the city's water and wastewater system. The fees pay for the costs of expanding water and sewer infrastructure to new homes and businesses. Impact fees are not charged to existing SAWS customers.

SAWS impact fees are reviewed every five years. The fee amounts are based on the cost of providing service to the future customers, and the distance of the building or business from the central infrastructure.

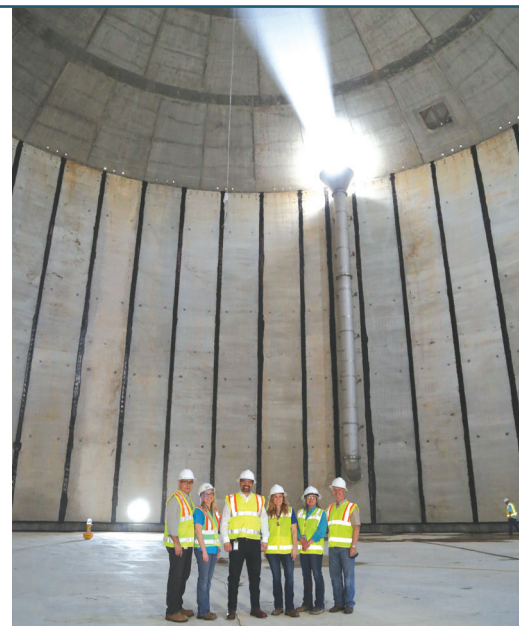
Generally, impact fees are higher in the far northwest portion of the city, and lowest in the central and southern portions.

After a citizens committee review of proposed new impact fees, the SAWS Board of Trustees approved the new fees in April, and City Council is currently considering them and is scheduled to vote in May.

For more information, please visit saws.org/ImpactFees.

Touring the Tank

Several SAWS leaders got to explore the utility's newest water tank from the inside out, April 9 at Agua Vista Station. The 10-million-gallon tank will help distribute water from the Vista Ridge pipeline beginning spring 2020, ensuring water for generations to come. Visit MySAWS on Facebook to get a 360-degree view inside the massive vessel.



May the Flush Be With You

Can Obi Wan Commodi protect the Galactic Throne from the evil Darth Flusher and his enormous Death Clog? Sewer Wars, a space-based saga of good versus evil, was the theme of SAWS' float in this year's Fiesta Flambeau parade. Beyond the plentiful potty humor, the plumbing-themed parody made a serious point: #WipesClogPipes in any galaxy.

