

By: Puente

H.R. No. 75

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, J. J. Amaro retired from the board of trustees of the
2 San Antonio Water System (SAWS) in February 2004, after rendering a
3 decade of outstanding volunteer service to that utility and to the
4 people of the Alamo City; and

5 WHEREAS, Appointed to the board in 1994, two years after the
6 City of San Antonio merged all of its water agencies into one body,
7 Mr. Amaro has helped guide SAWS to its present position as one of
8 the most innovative and highly regarded water systems in the
9 country; while maintaining some of the lowest water rates in the
10 state and nation, SAWS has garnered awards for environmental
11 excellence, engineering excellence, wastewater treatment
12 operations, financial reporting, youth education, and public
13 information programs; and

14 WHEREAS, During Mr. Amaro's tenure, SAWS has taken
15 significant steps to promote water quality in the Edwards Aquifer
16 recharge zone, implementing regulations and purchasing more than
17 9,000 acres to protect that vital resource; in addition, the
18 utility has developed a community-based master plan for the
19 Mitchell Lake Wetlands project on the city's Southside; and

20 WHEREAS, Measures to improve business operations have
21 included three operational reviews to identify efficiency
22 opportunities and a restructuring of water rates to achieve equity
23 between residential and commercial customers and to encourage water
24 conservation; the SAWS operating budget for fiscal year 2001 was

1 reduced by \$10 million, and SAWS bond ratings increased from A to
2 AA; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Amaro and the board have overseen notable
4 advances in customer service, such as the completion of a new call
5 center, the institution of a single SAWS phone number for customer
6 inquiries, and an expanded program to assist low-income households
7 with their water-supply costs; the water bill/bill insert package
8 designed by SAWS has been recognized as the best in the nation; and

9 WHEREAS, Area citizens have been invited to take an active
10 role in shaping agency plans and policies; SAWS has worked with
11 citizens committees to formulate long-range planning and to
12 restructure rates, appointed a permanent citizens committee to
13 assess water-resources policies, plans, and projects, and created a
14 Community Conservation Committee for citizen input on conservation
15 programs; the utility has also instituted the state's first
16 commercial water conservation program, an undertaking funded by
17 local businesses; and

18 WHEREAS, With the population of San Antonio projected to
19 double over the next five decades, Mr. Amaro and his fellow trustees
20 have devoted untold hours to SAWS as that agency has prepared to
21 meet mounting demands for service; today the utility is working to
22 implement a 50-year master plan that it developed and that the city
23 council approved in 1998; SAWS has taken advantage of new
24 technology to develop an aquifer storage and recovery system,
25 concluded a number of arrangements to secure water from new
26 sources, initiated the premier water recycling program in the
27 country, and developed the top water conservation program in the

1 state; and

2 WHEREAS, SAWS has gained tremendously from Mr. Amaro's sound
3 judgment and effective leadership, and it has not been alone in that
4 good fortune; this esteemed gentleman, who serves as vice president
5 for marketing with BudCo, also sits on the board of directors for
6 the St. Peter/St. Joseph Children's Home and the United Negro
7 College Fund; together with his family, he participates in the Feed
8 the Homeless Program of the St. Vincent de Paul Society; and

9 WHEREAS, J. J. Amaro has given unstintingly of his talents,
10 energy, and expertise in behalf of San Antonio and his fellow
11 citizens, and it is a pleasure to join in recognizing his
12 immeasurable contributions to the betterment of this community;
13 now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
15 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby honor J. J. Amaro on the
16 occasion of his retirement from the San Antonio Water System Board
17 of Trustees and extend to him profound gratitude for his many years
18 of exemplary public service; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for Mr. Amaro as an expression of high regard by the Texas
21 House of Representatives.