

By: Menendez

H.R. No. 1613

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The San Antonio Water System has been named the  
2 winner of a 2011 Texas Environmental Excellence Award in the  
3 innovative operations/management category; and

4           WHEREAS, Each spring the Texas Environmental Excellence  
5 Awards are presented to individuals, communities, organizations,  
6 and businesses that have created successful programs to preserve  
7 and protect the environment of the Lone Star State; nominated by a  
8 blue ribbon committee and selected by the Office of the Governor and  
9 the commissioners of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality,  
10 the award winners have made outstanding contributions to the effort  
11 to prevent pollution, reduce waste, and conserve natural resources;  
12 and

13           WHEREAS, The San Antonio Water System was recognized for its  
14 Wastewater Trifecta, a project to develop environmentally  
15 beneficial uses for the water, biosolids, and waste gas that are the  
16 major by-products of the city's wastewater treatment process; as  
17 part of the project, SAWS developed the largest direct recycled  
18 water delivery system in the nation--a network of more than 110  
19 miles of pipeline that delivers treated, recycled water for  
20 commercial and industrial use; the high-quality water is also used  
21 to help restore streams and aquatic ecosystems in the city; and

22           WHEREAS, The second part of the Trifecta involves turning the  
23 organic matter produced at wastewater treatment plants into compost  
24 that is used by landscapers and gardeners to improve soil quality;

1 in 2009, 98 percent of the organic material produced was recycled as  
2 compost; SAWS has also succeeded in recycling the methane gas that  
3 is generated from the biosolids; once simply burned off into the  
4 atmosphere, the gas is now refined in such a way that it becomes  
5 chemically identical to natural gas, and it is then transferred to a  
6 commercial pipeline for distribution as fuel for heating and  
7 cooking; and

8 WHEREAS, In addition to establishing the Wastewater  
9 Trifecta, SAWS has created numerous other programs and community  
10 outreach campaigns to promote water conservation, and the  
11 cumulative effect of its efforts has been to lower the amount of  
12 water used in the city each day; less water use has meant reduced  
13 water pumping, which has helped to protect the Edwards Aquifer and  
14 to preserve habitats for endangered species; and

15 WHEREAS, By developing conservation initiatives such as the  
16 Wastewater Trifecta, the San Antonio Water System has demonstrated  
17 that it is a good steward of its water resources, and it is indeed  
18 deserving of this prestigious honor; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
20 Legislature hereby congratulate the San Antonio Water System on  
21 receiving a Texas Environmental Excellence Award and extend to all  
22 those associated with the organization sincere best wishes for  
23 continued success; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
25 prepared for SAWS as an expression of high regard by the Texas House  
26 of Representatives.