



Word from the Group Chair

Vista Ridge Update

Sierrans and many regional partners have been working very diligently to look into the San Antonio Water System's (SAWS) Vista Ridge project and contract, which was approved by the SAWS Board of Trustees on September 29th. Vista Ridge commits SAWS to buy 50,000 acre feet of water per year for 30 years from Bureson County. It is our view that due diligence should go beyond SAWS limited scope. The City of San Antonio and other stakeholders should exercise proper oversight to assure that this deal meets diverse, long-term best interests of the City and its citizens.

SAWS has proven able to manage our water needs, but this project and process is different. Remember that Vista Ridge partners offered this package in response to SAWS' request for proposals. SAWS staff responded that the pipeline proposals were not desirable or necessary. We believe that pressure from business interests railroaded this project and fast track approval. It is unjustifiable that this project be adopted quickly for there is inadequate evaluation and public awareness, and proponents' claims—such as decades of water crisis, loss of jobs, need for abundant water, to lock in interest rates, or because we deserve it for our conservation efforts—are questionable.

Interested stakeholders have discovered many Vista Ridge concerns—from a lack of due diligence, excessive rate increases for area citizens, partner weaknesses, unreliability of the groundwater supply, questionable aspects of the contract, to excessive supply which will also be used to fuel poorly controlled sprawl risking our primary Edwards Aquifer water source, among other problems. This intense scrutiny leads environmental leaders to believe that SAWS and San Antonio can do better for our citizens.

Please go to the Alamo Sierra Club website to learn more about this important, fast-moving issue. There you can access [a clearinghouse of vital documents on Vista Ridge concerns](#), which is regularly updated with new reports. Please use the City Council contact information to communicate your views to decision makers, in whose hands the decision rests. As of this writing, Mayor Taylor still had not delayed the vote—scheduled for Oct. 30—on the 16% SAWS rate increase request that enables Vista Ridge, as requested. We hope that City Hall will delay the vote and open up input and deliberations.

-By Margaret Day, Chairperson,
Executive Committee of Alamo Group

Alamo Group Events

For updates on all events check the Alamo Group website, alamosierraclub.org.

Battery recycling! Bring your spent small batteries to the meetings below and place them in the box provided. Thanks to Gay Wright for coordinating this initiative.

Witte programs

Third Tuesday each month, 6:30 pm at the Witte Museum, 3801 Broadway. Free and open to the public. Access free parking garage from south on Ave. B, from Funston St. or temporarily from Tuleta St., south side entry, due to construction. Service by bus routes 9, 10 and 14.

Lion's Field programs

The next event will be in January due to the holidays. Please check the [website events page](#) for updates.

Socials

Regrettably the Alamo Sierra Club Friday socials have been discontinued due to limited interest. Thanks to all of you that have participated in the past. If you would like to help get these socials started again in the future, contact Loyd Cortez at loydcortez@earthlink.net.

Event Schedule

November 18 Tuesday

Witte museum: *Solar Update*.

Lanny Sinkin, Executive Director of [Solar San Antonio](#), will give an update on progress made in solar energy, particularly distributed energy.

December 9 Tuesday

Alamo Group holiday party, see details on pg 2. See you there!

No program at Witte museum this month due to the party.

January 20 Tuesday

Witte museum: topic to be announced; check the [website](#).

News and Contributions

November 8 Saturday: *San Antonio Arbor Day and National Public Lands Day*

Lots of activities for families! At Eisenhower Park, 19399 NW Military Hwy, 8 am-12 pm.

8 am: Tree K fun run, with Rent-a-Rover option

9 am: volunteer park clean up

10 am: free tree adoption; 200 trees, 1 per family

Also: booths, saw mill and tree climbing demos and pet adoptions.

For more info see the Alamo Group's [Community Events page](#) or the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Dept [calendar web page](#) (crowded calendar!). Or call Parks and Rec, 210-207-3108.

Holiday Party Features Special Venue, Music, and Silent Auction

Come celebrate the Alamo Group's very successful year at our annual Holiday Party and Potluck Dinner, Tuesday, Dec. 9, 7 to 9 pm.

This special event will be held at Dorcol Distillery, 1902 S Flores St (south of Cevallos, at the railroad crossing). Dorcol's unique elixirs will be available—made with traditional apricot brandy or non-alcoholic.

There will be a tour of the distillery at 7 p.m. Our party will feature a variety of music and great food (potluck dishes welcome) our members are known for. As in years past, there will be a silent auction of unique gifts and certificates donated by members, local businesses and craftspeople. Auction items will be posted on our website, texas.sierraclub.org/alamo, on the *Events* page shortly before the event so you can bid on them via email in case you can't make it to the party.

There will be a \$10 cover fee at the door. All proceeds go to promote our worthwhile cause. There is free parking on the streets and the public is welcome. Please contact Margaret Day, peggyday@hotmail.com, if you have any questions, would like to help, or wish to donate to our auction.

Please check the website soon for updates about this event, particularly for the auction items! This is an important fundraiser for Alamo Group. Net proceeds from the 2013 party and auction were nearly \$2,300.

Welcome to our new membership co-chairs!

Hi! My name is Julie Cornelius and I am your new Membership co-chair. I've been a member since 2011 and also serve on the conservation committee. I look forward to recruiting new members and engaging some as volunteers. My Co-chair is Sarah Foster, who is a new (but very enthusiastic) member. She's all about sustainability and finding other like-minded people in San Antonio. I'm passionate about water and land conservation, organic gardening, and sustainability. I am a Master Naturalist, the District 2 appointee for the City of San Antonio's Citizen's Environmental Advisory Committee and am involved in several other organizations around town that all involve some aspect of sustainability.

San Antonio is faced with some important environmental issues right now due to rapid growth and I'd love to see the Alamo Group grow, gain strength and continue inspiring San Antonio to change! It takes a village, though, so I'm counting on all current members to bring in new members. We're starting a membership drive contest. There will be a grand prize of cash and other cool prizes. In order to qualify, there will be minimums for the number of paid members you recruit so start recruiting now. Stay tuned to the newsletter and

come to meetings for more info. See you at the next meeting!

Get Your 2015 Sierra Club Calendars

Support Sierra Club Youth Outdoors San Antonio by purchasing your 2015 calendars from us. Anne Pearson will be handling the sale of these beautiful calendars. Contact Anne at 408-6321 or just bring your money to the next membership meeting or the holiday party. Remember, you can't go wrong with a Sierra Club Calendar as a gift. The engagement calendars are \$16, the wall calendars \$15.

Please Consider The Alamo Sierra Club In Your Holiday Giving

Each December we ask you for a donation to help cover our expenses, such as this newsletter and our Witte fee. Your financial help frees volunteers to work on our education and conservation campaigns. This year we're asking for a contribution of \$10. Your money will be well spent and deeply appreciated. Because we work on political issues this contribution is not tax deductible. If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation on our behalf you may make it out to the Sierra Club Foundation, for the Alamo Group. Please send your donation to Alamo Group of the Sierra Club, PO Box 6443, San Antonio, TX 78209. You can use the fundraising/ballot box to enter your donation. Thanks for your continuing support and environmental activism.

Executive Committee Candidate Statements

Members please send in your vote for our annual election using the ballot on page 3; clip that out and your address label is on the reverse side. We have three positions open on our Executive Committee for three-year terms.

Terry Burns

I have served on the Alamo Sierra Club Executive Committee since my appointment in 2013, and I am running for a full term. I have also been Co-Chair of the Alamo Conservation Committee during this time. I have been involved especially in Clean Air, SAWS, CPS and VIA issues. I serve as an elected member of the Lone Star Chapter Executive Committee, providing us linkage with State issues. I am a life member of the Sierra Club and recently retired physician. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue working on the important local environmental issues of vital concern to us all. Thank you for your support.

Margaret (Peggy) Day

I have an M.A. in planning, specializing in environmental planning.

A Club member since 2002, I first served as a Puerto Rico Chapter founding director and serve on the Alamo Group ExCom, as chair for the last five years. As well, I regularly help with publicity, fundraising, tabling, events, programs, outings, political, conservation, newsletter, and education committees. I thank you for your endorsement.

Alan Montemayor

I am a lifelong San Antonio native and have been active with the Sierra Club since 1983. I am an environmentalist, hiker, retired mechanical engineer and love to travel the world with my wife and friends. I'm passionate about conservation of natural resources, clean energy, local agriculture, sustainability and improving the quality of life for not just San Antonio and Bexar County residents, but the whole world.

My Sierra Club contribution of:

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$_____



is enclosed.

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible. They support the Sierra Club's advocacy and lobbying efforts.

Executive Committee Ballot (for members only)

Please vote for three candidates below (bios in an article above). If you have a joint membership you may mark the second column also.

	Individual	2nd (joint) member
<i>Terry Burns</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Peggy Day</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alan Montemayor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Please mail by December 31st to: Alamo Group of the Sierra Club, PO Box 6443, San Antonio TX 78209 -

Sierra Club national news

Sierra Club's national website is at sierraclub.org. Of note at this time...

San Gabriel Mountains National Monument established

This new 350,000 acre national monument, established by presidential proclamation, is within Angeles National Forest and an hour's drive for 17 million people. These mountains provide 1/3 of Los Angeles County's drinking water. [Here's the article.](#)

Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument expanded

This national monument was originally established by President George W. Bush and now is six times larger. This national monument, administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service, will help protect critically endangered and threatened species in this fragile central Pacific Ocean environment from exploitation. Here is the national monument's [website](#).

The five best foods to forage

...As the article says, "Who needs the agricultural-industrial complex when you can gather food near home? The first way humans got food is still free - and green."

Note the link to the right of [the article page](#), which provides a signup option for receiving daily green tips by e-mail.

Sierra Club *Politics and Elections* web page

Per [the page](#), "The Sierra Club will promote leaders who take bold action on climate and clean energy, and expose those who still choose toxic money over human health."

Here is [the Sierra Club web voter guide](#) for Texas.

"We don't need any more evidence - the time for action on the climate crisis is now. The American people know. Polls show that huge majorities have been personally affected by extreme weather and want the government to do something about it. The market knows. Coal's outlook is sinking and clean energy's is skyrocketing." -Melissa Williams, National Political Director

Sierra Club Membership

Are you a member? Please [join or renew!](#)

Thanks!

...To SA Offset Printing, Inc. 4115 Gardendale, San Antonio, 692-9166 for our nominal newsletter cost.

Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter news

The Lone Star Chapter is Sierra Club's Texas presence, largely working out of an Austin office. For news from the Lone Star chapter see texas.sierraclub.org.

Of note at this time is an article about LCRA's Fayette coal-fired power plant, which is the fifth-largest emitter of carbon dioxide in the state. The Austin city council has directed Austin Energy to discuss with LCRA how improve operational control of the plant so as the reduce environmental impact.

Also, "As the beginning of the next Texas Legislature gets closer, the Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter is looking for committed students and recent graduates with a strong passion for the environment and social justice to fill engaging and rewarding internship positions in its Austin office to begin January 2015." Here is [more information about our internship program](#). Current internship position openings include [Community Outreach](#), [Political Engagement](#), and [Media and Communications](#).

To see what is happening at other Sierra Club chapters, go to the chapter list at sierraclub.org/near-you.

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Food for thought

Water, water, water... there is no shortage of water in the desert but exactly the right amount... unless you try to establish a city where no city should be.

-Edward Abbey, from *Desert Solitaire*

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PERIODICAL



Alamo Group of the Sierra Club

Website: alamosierraclub.org

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