



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF KENEDY**

Joe Baker, Mayor

303 W. Main, Kenedy, TX 78119 • (830) 583-2230 • (830) 299-1953 cell • [mayor@kenedytx.gov](mailto:mayor@kenedytx.gov)

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Sadie Smeck

Via email at [Sadie.smeck@sunset.texas.gov](mailto:Sadie.smeck@sunset.texas.gov)

Dear Ms. Smeck,

As mayor of Kenedy, and on behalf of the people of Kenedy, I would like to take this opportunity to let the Sunset Review Commission know that there is no organization that has been of greater service and assistance to this community than the San Antonio River Authority (SARA).

SARA has helped this community primarily through its expertise in flood control. Through the operation and maintenance of 13 dams in Karnes County, the people of this community have benefited by the engineering solutions that have kept this community safe from the impact of flooding events for the past several decades. Older residents who remember how devastating these floods once were, are very thankful to SARA for the successful completion and ongoing maintenance of these dams which have helped keep this community safe and have limited the extent of local property damage caused by floodwaters.

SARA has also been instrumental in the construction of a new breathtaking park – The Escondido Creek Parkway – which is a new jewel for this community. With walking trails, and numerous amenities along the Escondido Creek, this park not only brings much needed recreation to the people of this community but also facilitates safe passage for pedestrians traveling from the heart of the old downtown area to the city's other park – Joe Gulley Park – without the hazard of having to cross the busy U.S Highway 181. For this “first class” park, the people of Kenedy will be forever grateful.

SARA has been a community partner in numerous educational events and efforts. The youth of this community have learned so much about the importance of good stewardship of our rivers, streams and natural world, through the efforts of SARA and their staff.

The list of wonderful things SARA has done for Kenedy and indeed, all of Karnes County, could fill numerous pages.

In short, it is my wish, and I believe it is also the wishes of the people of Kenedy and Karnes County that SARA be allowed to continue in its vital and critical mission of service to this and all the other communities that it serves for many generations to come.

With best regards,

Joe Baker  
Mayor  
City of Kenedy