



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

RON NIRENBERG
MAYOR

April 19, 2022

Sunset Advisory Commission
Ms. Jennifer Jones
Executive Director
PO Box 13066
Austin, TX 78711-3066

Dear Ms. Jones:

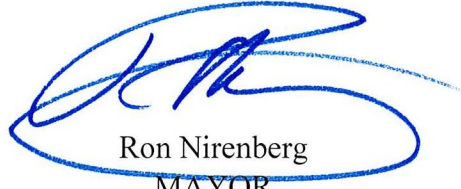
Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Sunset Commission Staff's Report on the San Antonio River Authority's (SARA) Sunset Review. As Mayor of the City of San Antonio, I have learned firsthand that SARA is a critical partner in managing and preserving the creeks and rivers throughout the San Antonio River Watershed. I concur with the report that SARA is well-run and highly-respected for their expertise across flood planning and mitigation, water quality programs, parks and recreation, stakeholder engagement and their other projects and programming. As a community with a deep connection to our waterways, SARA is a trusted and valued steward of the watershed.

SARA has been a key partner of the City of San Antonio by investing in and creating holistic watershed master plans that identify regional flood mitigation, water quality and recreational opportunities. SARA has worked with the City's Public Works Department to provide the technical data that has assisted in identifying regional flood mitigation projects that have been funded and implemented through the City's 2012 and 2017 bond packages. SARA is at the forefront of encouraging the greater San Antonio community to embrace nature-based stormwater; infrastructure that helps reduce flooding, but also improves water quality in our creeks and rivers.

Additionally, SARA was the project manager of the Museum and Mission Reach projects – extending the San Antonio River Walk to the north and south – that have yielded tremendous flood, water quality, economic development, health and recreation benefits to the greater San Antonio area. SARA managed these projects to completion on time, on budget in one case, and under budget in the other.

The City and all local public entities strive to improve and evolve to meet their communities' needs. While we all acknowledge that there is always room for improvement, SARA is a high functioning public entity, and we are appreciative of their expertise, communication, and ability to manage major creek and river related projects for our community.

Sincerely,



Ron Nirenberg
MAYOR