



12930 Country Parkway  
San Antonio, Texas 78216

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Sheryl Sculley, City Manager  
Peter Zaroni, Deputy City Manager  
Mike Frisbie, TCI Director and City Engineer  
City of San Antonio  
PO Box 839966  
San Antonio, Texas 78283-3966

Re: Proposed Storm Water Fee Increase

To all concerned,

On behalf of the board of directors and membership of the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce we are writing you to express our opposition to the City of San Antonio's proposed Storm Water Fee restructuring. The North SA Chamber recognizes the City's interest in modifying the methodology for calculating storm water fees for property owners in the city and in generating additional revenues to pay for needed storm water system maintenance; however, the proposed fee changes will increase the cost of doing business exponentially in San Antonio and be a hindrance to moving our local economy forward.

As Transportation & Capital Improvements (TCI) proposed the project to "migrate the existing Storm Water Utility Fee from one based upon land use and parcel size to one based upon impervious cover," TCI has communicated the change in rate methodology to various stakeholders including governmental agencies, chambers of commerce, professional and other organizations, as well as school districts. We thank you for including us in these presentations.

As the process has progressed, the North SA Chamber, as a stakeholder, has determined the proposed Storm Water Fee changes will penalize property owners for building activity that occurred before the adoption of the new proposed methodology and rates. We believe the new methodology and rates will result in an onerous increase in commercial fees that cannot be absorbed by public schools, colleges, universities and existing businesses with large campuses including corporate headquarters, manufacturing facilities, hotels/resorts, attractions, multi-family housing, commercial office complexes, auto dealerships and others. Additionally, the new methodology and rates would be unattractive to an existing business considering expansion or a new business considering relocation within the city limits of San Antonio, thus will result in a negative impact on business retention, expansion and recruitment.

The North SA Chamber board of directors met Tuesday, July 22, and voted in opposition of the proposed Storm Water Fee as it is currently presented. We have seen example commercial Storm Water Fee calculations using the proposed methodology showing in most cases, increases of several hundred percent, and in some cases, increases of more than 1000% or even 2000%. This is unreasonable. Since the City has proposed significant fee increases that will primarily be paid by the business community, and we believe such increases will have a chilling effect on business retention, expansion and recruitment, the North SA Chamber is opposed to an increase in Storm Water Fees to any individual user of more than 10% in any given fiscal year.

The North SA Chamber respectfully requests that the proposed Storm Water Fee restructuring not be adopted in the 2015 budget, and that the process be permitted to continue further until the City and stakeholders can address issues including the definition of impervious cover, methodology, rate structure and appeals.

Thank you for your prompt consideration,

Annie Turner  
North San Antonio Chamber, Chairman of the Board

Duane Wilson  
North San Antonio Chamber, President CEO

Cc: Mayor Ivy R. Taylor  
Councilman Diego Bernal, District 1  
Councilwoman Rebecca Viagran, District 3  
Councilman Rey Saldana, District 4  
Councilwoman Shirley Gonzales, District 5

Councilman Ray Lopez, District 6  
Councilman Cris Medina, District 7  
Councilman Ron Nirenberg, District 8  
Councilman Joe Krier, District 9  
Councilman Mike Gallagher, District 10