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SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY ADOPTS FY27 BUDGET TO FUND NEXTGEN FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM

SAN ANTONIO, TX– The San Antonio River Authority (River Authority) Board of Directors has approved a \$427.6 million budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27 (FY27), which begins on October 1, 2026. The budget is based on a newly adopted tax rate of 1.93 cents per \$100 of property valuation, approved by the Board on Wednesday, September 16, 2026. This equates to approximately \$60.24 per year for the average homestead in the River Authority's four-county district: Bexar, Wilson, Karnes, and Goliad counties.

The change in tax rate represents a modest annual increase from the previous year and is expected to generate approximately \$1.9 million in additional revenue as compared to the prior rate. These funds will support enhanced flood mitigation, the continued implementation and expansion of the NextGen Flood Warning System, including ongoing operations and maintenance.

The adopted budget reinforces the River Authority's ongoing commitment to ensuring safe, clean, and enjoyable creeks and rivers for the communities it serves.

"The increase is a necessary investment enabling us to better serve our community," said River Authority's Board Chair, Derek Gaudlitz. "By continuing to fund flood mitigation efforts in all four counties, we are enhancing the safety and protection of our communities."

What is included in supporting flood mitigation?

The Next Generation Flood Warning System (NextGen) was implemented throughout Bexar County and has modernized the region's flood monitoring capabilities by replacing outdated, proprietary systems with state-of-the-art technology. These upgrades reduce the time needed to collect gauge and sensor data, allowing for quicker analysis and faster reporting to first responders during flood events.

Bexar County has committed \$21 million to fund projects within its boundaries. A portion of the revenue generated from the increased tax rate will be allocated for further NextGen implementation in Wilson, Karnes, and Goliad counties. The River Authority staff will work collaboratively with stakeholders to identify and prioritize investments. The resulting rollout of NextGen across these three counties represents an accelerated \$1.2 million investment aimed at installing low water crossing warning systems, gauges, and other technology upgrades that significantly improve regional flood safety.

Highlights of the project include:

- The proposed tax rate ensures continued investment in regional flood early flood warning systems, predictive flood modeling capability and flood mitigation infrastructure.
- There's a necessary investment in ensuring the resilience and reliability of technological infrastructure that is exposed to harsh climate conditions, and this budget invests in assuring flood warning systems operate effectively.
- Enables the River Authority to invest and leverage multi-county funding for comprehensive flood warnings and protection.
- Improve public flood risk awareness and safety amongst all that live, work and play in the San Antonio River Watershed.

How can I learn more about the River Authority's Tax Rate?

The annual tax rate must be set at the same rate throughout the River Authority's four-county district of Bexar, Wilson, Karnes, and Goliad counties. A public hearing was held on September 16, 2026, prior to the Board of Directors' adoption of the new tax rate. A budget summary is available on the River Authority's Transparency page on the agency's website.

1. Visit our transparency page to learn more about the FY 27 Budget.
2. Request a community presentation to learn more about the River Authority's efforts in your community. Virtual options are also available.

How is the River Authority's budget funded?

Of the total available funds, General Fund revenues are primarily generated from property taxes, with 89 percent derived from this source. Other major revenue sources include utility charges for services generated by the wastewater treatment services provided by the River Authority, as well as grant funding.

Another significant source of funding is Intergovernmental Revenue, primarily generated through Capital Improvements managed by the River Authority. These intergovernmental revenues represent investments in the completion of capital improvement projects, such as the collaboration with Bexar County and the City of San Antonio for the construction of the Bexar County Creeks and Trails Program.

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About the San Antonio River Authority

The San Antonio River Authority (River Authority) was created by the 45th Texas Legislature on May 5, 1937 and reorganized in 1961 to plan, manage, and implement water-related programs and projects within the San Antonio River Watershed. The State of Texas empowered the River Authority to preserve, protect, and manage the resources and the ecology of the San Antonio River and its tributaries. To learn more about the River Authority, visit our website at sariverauthority-tx.org.