



**SAN ANTONIO
RIVER AUTHORITY**

TO: Board of Directors

VIA: Derek Boese, General Manager

FROM: Rick Trefzer, Deputy General Manager 

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget

The San Antonio River Authority's FY 2024-25 (FY25) Budget and Work Plan is presented for your consideration. The Budget is balanced and focused on supporting the mission, goals, and objectives of the San Antonio River Authority (River Authority). Projects and departmental operating activities included in the Work Plan provide services to the citizens and stakeholders throughout the district.

Annually, staff begins the budget development process with strategic planning sessions including stakeholders internal and external to the organization and directed by the Board of Directors (Board). This year's process involved the development of a new Strategic Plan for FY 2025-30. Strategic Plan Goals are broken down into three main goals and outlined below. The organization vision and mission statements remain unchanged:

Vision Statement

Inspiring Actions for Healthy Creeks and Rivers

Mission Statement

Committed to Safe, Clean, Enjoyable Creeks and Rivers

Strategic Plan Goals (Proposed)

GOAL 1: Acquire strategic assets that increase the ability to preserve and enhance creeks and rivers throughout the basin.

GOAL 2: Grow portfolio of engagement opportunities to ensure a diversity of accessible experiences.

GOAL 3: Leverage core services throughout the basin to further preserve and enhance creeks and rivers.

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The agency goals are outlined with additional detail within the Strategic Plan provided in the introduction section of the Annual Detailed Budget Book (Budget Book). Resources necessary to complete plan's objectives and the proposed level of service are detailed throughout the Budget Book. The following outlines key issues and priorities taken into consideration in assembling the FY25 Budget.

Key Issues

The FY25 Budget Development process consisted of reviewing current operations including staffing needs to support existing projects and those that are ramping up next year (e.g. Bexar County Creeks and Trails, Martinez wastewater system expansions, Facilities Design and Construction – Sheridan Administrative Building).

In Texas, every state agency, and many political subdivisions, like river authorities, are audited by the Sunset Advisory Commission. The San Antonio River Authority (River Authority) as a political subdivision underwent its first ever sunset review in 2022-23. The end product of an audit by the Sunset Advisory Commission is a state legislative bill that amends an agency's governing statute and a list of recommended management actions. As a follow up to last year's mention of the Sunset Review, FY25 will signify the first fiscal year beginning on the newly designated start date of October 1. The staff have worked to minimize the potential disruptions associated with having a 15-month FY24 and the challenges of transitioning our budgeting activities, to include modifications within our financial system.

Key Priorities

In addition to major initiatives that continue into FY25, the River Authority staff has held work sessions and delivered presentations, with internal and external stakeholders to inform the priorities of the next fiscal year. During the budget development process staff outlined the following as key topics:

- Facilities improvements – design is nearly complete of the Sheridan Administrative Building project. In next fiscal year, the project will move from pre-construction phase services to construction. Beyond the new facility, the staff will be assessing and completing improvements across several field offices in Bexar County as well as the lower basin in a continued effort to address space and maintenance needs.

- Bexar County Creeks and Trails Program – in FY 25, several existing task orders will continue the design phases. There are a total of nine (9) task orders heading into FY25. Of note, the San Antonio Zoo Well installation is anticipated to complete construction in the early part of 2025. In addition, River Authority staff will begin public outreach and Rights-of-Way acquisition activities to support the advancement of the program and this tri-party agreement between the River Authority, Bexar County, and City of San Antonio.
- Westside Creeks Ecosystem Restoration – project design continues in FY25. The River Authority will act as the non-federal sponsor on behalf of Bexar County. As part of the agreement, the River Authority will support Bexar County's contribution of 35% local funding to USACE, and provide work-in-kind services, including hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, survey, and public meeting support and coordination.
- Park Development – work continues that is informed by the master planning of three properties completed in FY23. Trueheart Park and Hendrick Arnold Park are now open to the public with minimal improvements. With the new parks added to the portfolio, San Pedro Creek phase completions, and the future potential operations and maintenance responsibilities for Westside Creeks projects, staff will be performing analysis of the impact to park operations and maintenance costs, to include personnel.
- Strategic Plan – as referenced, a priority for the River Authority in FY25 will be to begin work on the new developed Strategic Plan. This will include gathering baseline data for the adopted goals for FY25-30 and build upon the sub-goals and opportunities identified through the planning process. This effort will inform future year Work Plans.

Budget Summary

Of the \$373.8 total available funds, \$53.7 million are General Fund revenues with 92 percent generated from property tax. Other major revenue sources include utility Charges for Services of \$29 million generated by the wastewater treatment services provided by the River Authority and grant funding of \$5.9 million. Another significant source of funding is Intergovernmental Revenue which totals \$100.9 million, primarily generated through Capital Improvements managed by the River Authority. This group of Funds represents 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 & Trails Program and the Westside Creeks Ecosystem Restoration Project.

The FY25 budget includes the authorization of 52 projects across all funds, with 15 projects in the San Antonio River Authority Projects Fund totaling \$10.4 million in new funding for FY25. Highlights within the San Antonio River Authority Projects Fund include: D2MR Upgrade (new project), Freshwater Mussel Reintroduction, Facilities Design & Construction, Cibolo Water Quality Modeling, and Watershed Master Plan Update – Atlas 14. The Utilities Capital Improvement Projects totaled \$29.7 million in new funding. Details are provided in the following sections of the FY 2024-25 budget book: Budget Overview and Projects.

Conclusion

The River Authority continues our commitment to Safe, Clean, and Enjoyable creeks and rivers. Through our comprehensive and deliberate budget process and collaboration with the Board, we believe this annual budget positions the River Authority well to advance the vision and mission of our agency. In all that the River Authority does, we strive to provide valued public service, to be accountable to our constituents, and to be good fiscal stewards of the public resources with which we are entrusted.

ALL FUNDS BUDGET SUMMARY



**Photo by Mariela A. Rodriguez
2023 River Clicks Photo Contest
Special Category Winner**

All Funds Summary
Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2025

	FY 2024-25	FY 2024-25
	All Funds	General Fund (01)

AVAILABLE FUNDS

Beginning Balance			
Unassigned Fund Balance	\$	16,497,211	\$ 16,497,211
Unrestricted Fund Balance		9,714,358	-
Committed Balance		7,323,868	-
Assigned for Projects		18,081,545	-
Restricted Fund Balance		99,258,361	-
Total Beginning Balance	\$	150,875,343	\$ 16,497,211
Revenue			
Taxes, Penalties and Interest	\$	48,799,934	\$ 48,799,934
Intergovernmental		100,964,434	590,500
Charges for Services		34,014,302	590,100
Miscellaneous		491,409	231,409
Investment Earnings		4,668,378	1,623,188
Proceeds from Debt Issuance		14,834,500	-
Impact/Connection Fees		3,500,000	-
Transfers - Support Fees		1,896,092	1,896,092
Transfers		13,833,810	-
Total Revenue	\$	223,002,858	\$ 53,731,223
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$	373,878,201	\$ 70,228,434

APPROPRIATIONS

Expenditures			
Personnel Expenditures	\$	32,342,341	\$ 26,763,108
Operating Expenditures		31,920,679	15,567,640
Capital Outlay		1,196,190	934,190
Capital Improvement Projects		202,796,830	-
Debt Service		10,391,340	-
Transfers		15,729,902	13,833,810
Reimbursements		(1,640,000)	(1,300,000)
Total Expenditures	\$	292,737,282	\$ 55,798,748
Ending Balance			
Unassigned Fund Balance		11,436,808	11,436,808
Unrestricted Fund Balance		12,918,194	2,992,879
Committed Balance		7,558,244	-
Assigned for Projects		-	-
Restricted Fund Balance		49,227,674	-
Ending Balance	\$	81,140,919	\$ 14,429,686
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$	373,878,201	\$ 70,228,434

All Funds Summary Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2025	Utility Funds
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	FY 2024-25 SARA Wastewater (70)	FY 2024-25 Salitrillo Wastewater (71)	FY 2024-25 Randolph Air Force Base (73)	FY 2024-25 Utility O&M (75)
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AVAILABLE FUNDS

Beginning Balance

Unassigned Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Unrestricted Fund Balance	1,965,366	1,177,865	510,328	497,499
Committed Balance	-	-	-	-
Assigned for Projects	-	-	-	-
Restricted Fund Balance	73,697,002	17,381,600	4,900,705	-
Total Beginning Balance	\$ 75,662,368	\$ 18,559,465	\$ 5,411,033	\$ 497,499

Revenue

Taxes, Penalties and Interest	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Intergovernmental	-	277,402	654,747	465,025
Charges for Services	19,777,797	9,284,920	-	-
Miscellaneous	175,000	-	-	-
Investment Earnings	2,250,000	575,000	1,624	8,374
Proceeds from Debt Issuance	-	-	-	-
Impact/Connection Fees	3,000,000	500,000	-	-
Transfers - Support Fees	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue	\$ 25,202,797	\$ 10,637,322	\$ 656,371	\$ 473,399

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS **\$ 100,865,165** **\$ 29,196,787** **\$ 6,067,404** **\$ 970,898**

APPROPRIATIONS

Expenditures

Personnel Expenditures	\$ 3,562,262	\$ 2,016,971	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Expenditures	3,001,388	1,967,688	200,000	435,362
Capital Outlay	181,000	81,000	-	-
Capital Improvement Projects	54,281,047	8,443,328	2,549,471	-
Debt Service	4,047,837	1,601,789	-	-
Transfers	1,225,811	670,281	-	-
Reimbursements	(340,000)	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 65,959,345	\$ 14,781,057	\$ 2,749,471	\$ 435,362

Ending Balance

Unassigned Fund Balance	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted Fund Balance	2,140,912	1,355,975	310,328	535,536
Committed Balance	-	-	-	-
Assigned for Projects	-	-	-	-
Restricted Fund Balance	32,764,908	13,059,755	3,007,605	-
Ending Balance	\$ 34,905,820	\$ 14,415,730	\$ 3,317,933	\$ 535,536

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS **\$ 100,865,165** **\$ 29,196,787** **\$ 6,067,404** **\$ 970,898**

All Funds Summary Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2025	Special Revenue Funds
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	FY 2024-25 SACIP Land Sales (22)	FY 2024-25 Public Facilities Corp (23)	FY 2024-25 Park Resources Development (26)	FY 2024-25 Edward Aquifer/RWRDGD (31)
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AVAILABLE FUNDS

Beginning Balance

Unassigned Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Unrestricted Fund Balance	-	-	-	-
Committed Balance	-	150,378	498,309	-
Assigned for Projects	-	-	-	-
Restricted Fund Balance	344,615	2,578,294	-	174,270
Total Beginning Balance	\$ 344,615	\$ 2,728,673	\$ 498,309	\$ 174,270

Revenue

Taxes, Penalties and Interest	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	200,590
Charges for Services	-	-	128,414	3,009
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
Investment Earnings	5,000	100,000	4,300	-
Proceeds from Debt Issuance	-	14,834,500	-	-
Impact/Connection Fees	-	-	-	-
Transfers - Support Fees	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	3,287,875	-	-
Total Revenue	\$ 5,000	\$ 18,222,375	\$ 132,714	\$ 203,599

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$ 349,615	\$ 20,951,047	\$ 631,023	\$ 377,869
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APPROPRIATIONS

Expenditures

Personnel Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Expenditures	-	-	-	377,869
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-
Capital Improvement Projects	4,659	17,411,132	-	-
Debt Service	-	3,287,875	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-
Reimbursements	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 4,659	\$ 20,699,007	\$ -	\$ 377,869

Ending Balance

Unassigned Fund Balance	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted Fund Balance	-	-	-	-
Committed Balance	-	252,040	631,023	-
Assigned for Projects	-	-	-	-
Restricted Fund Balance	344,957	-	-	-
Ending Balance	\$ 344,957	\$ 252,040	\$ 631,023	\$ -

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$ 349,615	\$ 20,951,047	\$ 631,023	\$ 377,869
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All Funds Summary Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2025	Special Revenue Funds		Debt Service Fund	Insurance Fund
	FY 2024-25 Regional Water Alliance (32)	FY 2024-25 Grants (36)	FY 2024-25 Debt Service (02)	FY 2024-25 Insurance (90)

AVAILABLE FUNDS

Beginning Balance

Unassigned Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Unrestricted Fund Balance	-	-	-	5,563,300
Committed Balance	-	-	-	-
Assigned for Projects	-	-	-	-
Restricted Fund Balance	38,801	10,757	-	-
Total Beginning Balance	\$ 38,801	\$ 10,757	\$ -	\$ 5,563,300

Revenue

Taxes, Penalties and Interest	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Intergovernmental	-	5,974,934	1,325,233	-
Charges for Services	-	-	-	4,230,062
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	85,000
Investment Earnings	892	-	-	100,000
Proceeds from Debt Issuance	-	-	-	-
Impact/Connection Fees	-	-	-	-
Transfers - Support Fees	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	128,607	-
Total Revenue	\$ 892	\$ 5,974,934	\$ 1,453,840	\$ 4,415,062

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS **\$ 39,693** **\$ 5,985,691** **\$ 1,453,840** **\$ 9,978,362**

APPROPRIATIONS

Expenditures

Personnel Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Expenditures	-	5,974,934	-	4,395,798
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-
Capital Improvement Projects	-	-	-	-
Debt Service	-	-	1,453,840	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-
Reimbursements	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$ -	\$ 5,974,934	\$ 1,453,840	\$ 4,395,798

Ending Balance

Unassigned Fund Balance	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted Fund Balance	-	-	-	5,582,564
Committed Balance	-	-	-	-
Assigned for Projects	-	-	-	-
Restricted Fund Balance	39,693	10,757	-	-
Ending Balance	\$ 39,693	\$ 10,757	\$ -	\$ 5,582,564

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS **\$ 39,693** **\$ 5,985,691** **\$ 1,453,840** **\$ 9,978,362**

All Funds Summary Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2025	Capital Improvement Funds
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	FY 2024-25 SARA Project (04)	FY 2024-25 City of San Antonio CIP (11)	FY 2024-25 Bexar County Westside Creek (54)
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AVAILABLE FUNDS

Beginning Balance			
Unassigned Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Unrestricted Fund Balance	-	-	-
Committed Balance	6,675,181	-	-
Assigned for Projects	18,081,545	-	-
Restricted Fund Balance	-	171,476	368,407
Total Beginning Balance	\$ 24,756,726	\$ 171,476	\$ 368,407
Revenue			
Taxes, Penalties and Interest	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Intergovernmental	-	25,004,926	6,828,336
Charges for Services	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Investment Earnings	-	-	-
Proceeds from Debt Issuance	-	-	-
Impact/Connection Fees	-	-	-
Transfers - Support Fees	-	-	-
Transfers	10,417,328	-	-
Total Revenue	\$ 10,417,328	\$ 25,004,926	\$ 6,828,336
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$ 35,174,054	\$ 25,176,402	\$ 7,196,743

APPROPRIATIONS

Expenditures			
Personnel Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Expenditures	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	-	-	-
Capital Improvement Projects	28,498,873	25,176,402	7,196,743
Debt Service	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-
Reimbursements	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 28,498,873	\$ 25,176,402	\$ 7,196,743
Ending Balance			
Unassigned Fund Balance	-	-	-
Unrestricted Fund Balance	-	-	-
Committed Balance	6,675,181	-	-
Assigned for Projects	-	-	-
Restricted Fund Balance	-	-	-
Ending Balance	\$ 6,675,181	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$ 35,174,054	\$ 25,176,402	\$ 7,196,743

All Funds Summary Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2025	Capital Improvement Funds
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	FY 2024-25 Bexar County Capital Projects (59)	FY 2024-25 City of San Antonio Westside Creeks (61)	FY 2024-25 Other Capital Projects Fund (57)
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AVAILABLE FUNDS

Beginning Balance

Unassigned Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Unrestricted Fund Balance	-	-	-
Committed Balance	-	-	-
Assigned for Projects	-	-	-
Restricted Fund Balance	(581,542)	39,248	134,727
Total Beginning Balance	\$ (581,542)	\$ 39,248	\$ 134,727

Revenue

Taxes, Penalties and Interest	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Intergovernmental	57,859,483	773,202	1,010,056
Charges for Services	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Investment Earnings	-	-	-
Proceeds from Debt Issuance	-	-	-
Impact/Connection Fees	-	-	-
Transfers - Support Fees	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-
Total Revenue	\$ 57,859,483	\$ 773,202	\$ 1,010,056

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS **\$ 57,277,941** **\$ 812,450** **\$ 1,144,783**

APPROPRIATIONS

Expenditures

Personnel Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Expenditures	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	-	-	-
Capital Improvement Projects	57,277,941	812,450	1,144,783
Debt Service	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-
Reimbursements	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 57,277,941	\$ 812,450	\$ 1,144,783

Ending Balance

Unassigned Fund Balance	-	-	-
Unrestricted Fund Balance	-	-	-
Committed Balance	-	-	-
Assigned for Projects	-	-	-
Restricted Fund Balance	-	-	-
Ending Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS **\$ 57,277,941** **\$ 812,450** **\$ 1,144,783**