



## 2009 SAN ANTONIO CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES' QUESTIONNAIRE:

### 1. How will you protect the Edwards Aquifer, our City's drinking water source, if elected to City Council?

During my first term on City Council, I have established a strong record of protecting our city's most precious resource, the Edwards Aquifer. I have opposed zoning cases over the aquifer that carry unnecessarily high levels of impervious coverage. I have supported responsible development that does not have a negative impact on the aquifer region.

In my second term, I will continue to seek advice from groups like AGUA, even after scrutinizing the SAWS recommendations. I believe that this is the only way to ensure that the best possible decision is made on these important zoning issues.

### 2. Please identify priority water issues in your district.

District One constantly faces water quality issues due to runoff from the northern part of our city. It has been my goal to implement stringent regulations on developers who pave over the northern part of San Antonio with little regard for the impact their development will have on the inner city.

Additionally, many residents in my district live in houses that have an aged infrastructure and may not realize the benefits of water conservation measures. While in office, I have advocated for increased investment by SAWS into programs that advocate water conservation education. I have held forums with SAWS to provide residents with the information and equipment, at no cost, in order to help combat this issue.

### 3. True or false: The Edwards Aquifer filters stormwater runoff that enters it.

True

### 4. According to the 1995 San Antonio Water Quality Ordinance, the amount of impervious cover allowed in the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone is up to 30% for Residential, 50% for Multifamily, and 65% for Commercial developments. (Note: Impervious cover = any surface that does not allow water infiltration). Why are different amounts of impervious cover allowed for different kinds of development?

Commercial development will usually have a greater negative impact on water quality issues than a less intensive type of development. However, I have always held developers to a higher amount of impervious cover than the minimal amounts required under the Water Quality Ordinance.

### 5. Would you support extending impervious cover and land use restrictions (for example, prohibiting uses that might threaten or degrade water quality) to the Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone within San Antonio and the ETJ?

Yes. While serving on Council, I have had a personal policy of holding developers to higher levels than the recommended ones.

### 6. Would you support a Proposition to purchase land or conservation easements in the Recharge Zone and Contributing Zone within the San Antonio Metropolitan Area?

Yes, I believe that this is the type of investment that will pay more in the long term than any type of development that could possibly be used for that land.

### 7. What do you propose to relieve traffic congestion on the Northside while protecting the Edwards Aquifer?

**NAME: Mary Alice Cisneros**

**DISTRICT: 1**

While serving on Council, I have advocated for a better mass transit system. Whether it is light rail, increased express bus services, bus rapid transit, or a mixture of those options, it is essential that we implement a system that has a regional approach and increases ridership throughout the entire San Antonio metropolitan area.

**8. Agree or disagree: Developers have the right to the highest possible return investment on their land.**

I believe that developers left to their own devices will usually look for the highest possible return on investment. However, it is the responsibility of elected officials to balance those interests, with policies that advocate what is best for the entire city.

**9. Agree or disagree: Land owners are entitled to any rezoning request that is allowed by the Unified Development Code.**

Disagree. Land use is never an inherent right, but a privilege that is granted only after the proposed use is balanced against the greater good of the community.

**10. Agree or disagree: Each Council Member knows what is best for his or her own district.**

It truly depends on what the issue is. Certainly, each Council member should know the interests of their specific constituency, however, when it comes to water quality issues, Council should examine these issues on a macro level.

We will all experience the negative effects of bad policy regarding water issues in our city. In order to avoid this type of inconsistent regulatory policy, it has been my approach to advocate for a broader policy discussion.