



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?**

In my term as Councilwoman from 2005 to 2007, the record shows that I rejected any zoning over the Aquifer that was above 15% impervious cover. I learned from the AGUA recommendations on each case. I'm also a member of AGUA.

- 2. Please identify priority water issues in your district.**

District 7 does not lie on the Aquifer boundaries yet each person is affected by the purity and price of our water. Just as water is the lifesource of our body so too is our water the lifeblood of our City. We have a pure, low cost resource and as a councilmember will do everything I can to preserve its integrity. To do such benefits the residents and businesses in my district and city.

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

False

- 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?**

As noted above, the science taught me that above 15% impervious cover can give danger to the Aquifer and I voted with this safety precaution in mind.

- 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.

- 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.

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

In my term, I began the conversation of how SAWS could incentivize growth outside of the Northern growth boundaries. We got a win in the pumping charges of new installations. Also I was one of four councilpeople who sponsored the Westside Development Corporation to feature the Westside corridor for new growth development. It's about moving the focus to the west, south and east corridors for residential and commercial growth that can help.

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

No one has a "right" to such an opportunity.

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

NAME: Elena Guajardo

DISTRICT: 7

My record shows that I denied zoning that was not in agreement to the neighborhood surrounding the development. I disagree.

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

Disagree. I believe every councilperson should strive to find the conscience and will for their district. This is work to go beyond the lobby voices and seek out the voice of the members they represent.