

Subject: Vista Ridge

Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 2:03:20 PM Central Daylight Time

From: Donovan Burton

To: gwestbrook@posgcd.org

Gary,

SAWS appreciates the continued dialogue with the District regarding the Vista Ridge Project. SAWS received the letter from POSGCD regarding the temporary discharges to Mud Creek as well as some questions that I think you posed to Mr. Puente. I want to address a couple thesee question raised.

Integration of Vista Ridge water into the distribution system was carefully planned, using a methodical approach to ensure the health and safety of SAWS' customers. Any new water project requires a thorough review and testing period of finished water prior to distribution to customers to avoid potential negative water quality impacts.

The hardness of the water from the Vista Ridge Project is different from what exists in San Antonio currently, and SAWS must ensure that this change in water chemistry does not react in the distribution system, producing a situation similar to that experienced in Flint, Michigan.

SAWS used water received from Vista Ridge LLC for the municipal purpose of safely integrating a new water source into the potable water distribution system. SAWS phased the introduction of this water into defined geographical areas of the distribution system so that its effects could be carefully studied, water quality analyzed and adverse water quality impacts avoided.

SAWS also used this water for performance and operational testing of the facilities constructed for and owned by SAWS at the Agua Vista site. The structural integrity of this new construction and the function of all ancillary equipment was tested under operational conditions. The majority of this testing was not completed until June 30, 2020. All functional testing will be completed when SAWS successfully operates the Agua Vista facility at a sustained maximum flow rate, which has begun today, Tuesday August 11th.

As part of this process, in 2019 SAWS planned to move water into distribution areas in a structured sequence. As part of that process, SAWS had already planned to move water to a larger distribution area coincidentally about the same time frame that you initially called concerning this issue. While I recognize that this may seem to be a result of the call, I assure you that SAWS' planning for that expanded distribution occurred months before. This general planning process was publicly explained during SAWS' December 2019 Board briefing by SAWS' Chief Operating Officer. At that meeting he described the methodical approach being planned. Additionally, an item was approved at that same Board meeting to perform work at "Facility 63", which allowed SAWS to move water into the distribution system in that sequentially planned manner. You can watch that video of our Board meeting at <https://vimeo.com/showcase/3827092> and find the agenda item #14 on that agenda at https://apps.saws.org/who_we_are/board/agenda/documents/2019-12-10.AGN.pdf.

SAWS appreciates the concerns of the District. SAWS would not have taken the approach I have described if it was not necessary. SAWS could not ignore the events in Flint Michigan and in other cities where new sources of water were provided to customers without performing the analysis necessary to determine that there would not be harmful impacts upon their health and safety.

Through engineering evaluations in advance of project startup, and careful planning and testing as we increase flows from the project, SAWS has been able to determine that there will be no negative impacts upon customers with the introduction of Vista Ridge water into the system. SAWS is now able to distribute all water received into the distribution system and, as I have noted previously, discharges are no longer occurring.

Thanks again and we are always available for any more discussion that you or your Board may request.

Donovan