



Vista Ridge Water Quietly Comes On Line

There was no musical fanfare. No heartfelt speeches. And not a TV camera or reporter in sight.

But with the turn of a valve and the click of a mouse, a row of shiny blue pumps whirred to life at Agua Vista Station on April 15. And with that, the Vista Ridge supply, San Antonio's largest-ever non-Edwards Aquifer water source, began gushing through the pipes, on its way to homes and businesses.

Barely a dozen SAWS leaders, engineers and plant operators were on hand for the low-key occasion — and all wore face masks in light of the ongoing coronavirus emergency.

“Somehow I never imagined our ‘grand opening’ would look like this,” said SAWS President/CEO Robert R. Puente. “This is probably the biggest achievement in our lifetimes to secure San Antonio’s water supply for the next 30, 40, 50 years.”

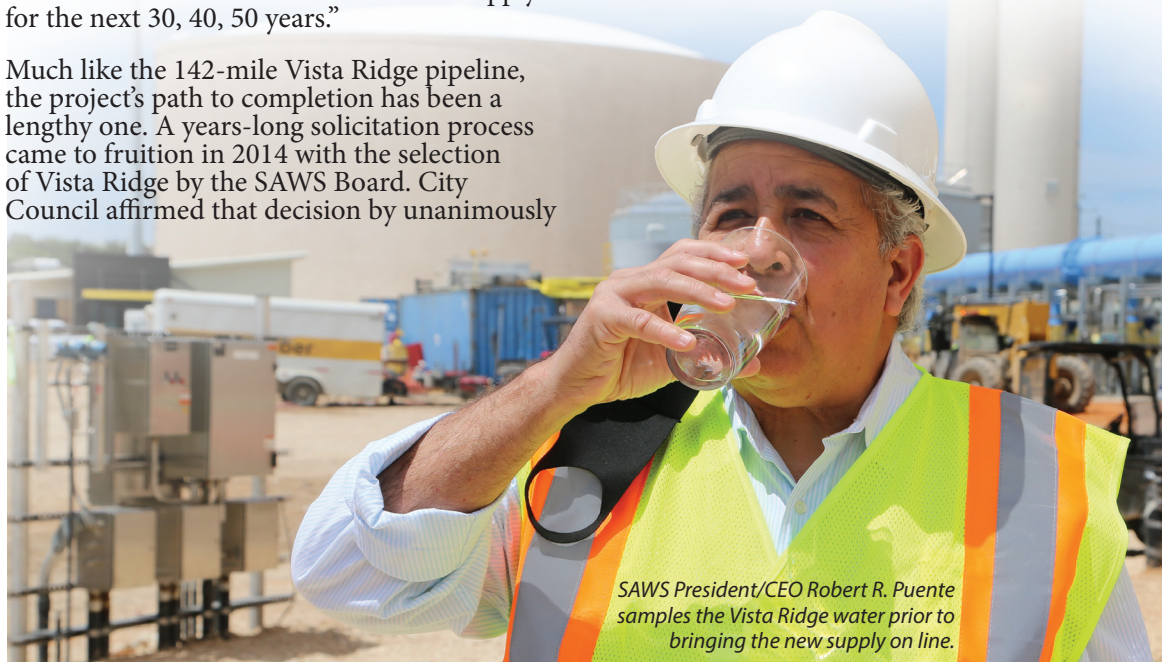
Much like the 142-mile Vista Ridge pipeline, the project’s path to completion has been a lengthy one. A years-long solicitation process came to fruition in 2014 with the selection of Vista Ridge by the SAWS Board. City Council affirmed that decision by unanimously

approving a multiyear rate plan to fund the project.

SAWS set a new benchmark for transparency by negotiating the public-private partnership at open meetings attended by the news media, elected officials, environmental groups and the public.

Under the terms of the contract, if the project cannot provide water for any reason, SAWS will not have to pay. The project will ultimately supply up to 20 percent of San Antonio’s water needs, via 3,400 long-term water leases with landowners in Burleson County.

“I guess the big celebration will have to wait,” Puente said. “Right now, I’m just incredibly proud of what our city, our board, our staff and our community has accomplished, bringing this new water supply to San Antonio.”



SAWS President/CEO Robert R. Puente samples the Vista Ridge water prior to bringing the new supply on line.

COVID-19 and Your Water

As the coronavirus situation continues to unfold, San Antonio Water System employees are working 24/7 to make sure your safe, reliable water and wastewater services never stop.

Just like always, SAWS water quality experts continue to test our community’s water around the clock. Be assured that it always has been, and continues to be safe for cooking, cleaning, bathing and drinking.

Because this public health emergency is changing rapidly, we encourage you to follow @mysaws on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for updates or visit saws.org/covid19.

For the latest COVID-19 guidance from city and county officials, call 311 or visit sanantonio.gov/covid19.

A Week's Worth of Water Wisdom

Need a waterful new challenge for your home-bound youngsters?

To celebrate Drinking Water Week, the SAWS Education Team poured out a bucket full of fun, engaging activities to help them (and you) learn all about our drinking water and its vital role in our lives.

From the math of water conservation to a virtual water tower tour, students of all ages can make a splash (pun intended) with these interactive adventures. The fun begins at saws.org/dww.

Extra credit: Share your love for water learning and tag [@mysaws](https://www.facebook.com/mysaws) on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency
210-704-SAWS (7297)
saws.org/waternews

How To Reduce Indoor Water Use During COVID-19

More hours with more people at home adds up to more cooking, baking, cleaning, flushing and washing. And while every household is different, it's normal for water use — and your water bill — to creep up with the sudden influx of stay-at-home, work-from-home activity.

The good news is how much it increases is under your control. Here are some tips to help reduce water use indoors.

- **Turn off the water while washing your hands.** You only need it on for wetting and rinsing, not the 20 seconds of scrubbing in between.



- **Run full loads in the dishwasher.** Try soaking dishes in a container instead of prewashing under running water. No dishwasher? Use bowls of soapy water and rinse water to hand-wash dishes.
- **Wash only full loads of laundry.** Consider which cycle you're using — some take less water and still clean well.
- **Check for running toilets.** Put a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If the color appears in the bowl without flushing, you've got a leak.

Get a Flume for Free!

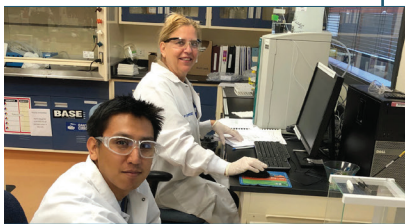
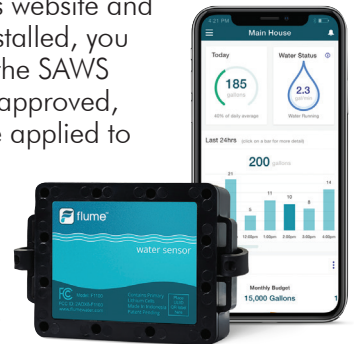
With summer approaching, wouldn't it be great if you could get a smart device that monitors your water use 24/7? To help keep your bills low and detect costly leaks?

Through June 15, Flume is temporarily reducing its water monitor's price, making it free (including tax and shipping) when combined with the SAWS Water Flow Sensor Rebate of \$150. Flume is one of several devices eligible for this rebate.

You must have Wi-Fi and a smart phone to use these products. The Flume offers

easy self-installation; no plumber required. Once the device is purchased directly from the company's website and successfully installed, you can apply for the SAWS rebate. Once approved, a credit will be applied to your SAWS bill within two billing cycles.

To see all rebate-eligible devices and get started on your water-saving journey, visit GardenStyleSA.com/sensor.



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