



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

Diane Cibrian
Councilwoman
District 8

For Immediate Release
January 24, 2008

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REQUEST FOR COVERAGE

WHAT: City of San Antonio Tree Planting Program

WHO: District 8 Councilwoman Diane G. Cibrian
Rawlinson Middle School Students
Rawlinson Middle School Administrators
Environmental Experts

WHEN: Friday, January 25, 2008 10:30 am
(Arbor Day is Saturday, January 26, 2008)

WHERE: 14100 Vance Jackson Rd.
Rawlinson Middle School

MORE: Councilwoman Cibrian has initiated the implementation of a city-wide street tree planting program that will revitalize the City's tree canopy. The first phase of this program will launch above the Edward's Aquifer Recharge Zone and Contributing Zones, where 100 large trees will be planted. This program also includes plans to plant trees in each Council District in San Antonio.

Trees provide countless environmental and societal benefits to our community. The initial 2002 American Forest study concluded that the Greater San Antonio area had a 22% loss of heavy tree canopy between 1985 and 2001. This loss of tree canopy represents a \$1.3 billion financial loss to the City in one

time storm-water management costs, and annual costs of \$42 million and \$17.6 million for air quality and energy savings respectively. As a result of these findings, and in an effort to equalize the entire City, the American Forest recommended in 2003, an overall 35% canopy coverage for the entire Greater San Antonio area. The specifics of the recommendation followed the American Forest's philosophy for a lower tree canopy in downtown areas, graduating to a much higher level in the suburbs. In order to reach this goal, the City of San Antonio is initiating a new tree planting effort that will strategically plant trees along major streets throughout the city where they will provide the greatest benefit for air quality.

The City of San Antonio is conducting an update on the tree canopy survey to be released in August, 2008. This effort is designed to address these findings in order to protect the diminishing tree canopy over the very sensitive Edwards Aquifer recharge zone.