



122 MADISON
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78210

PHONE: (210) 227-8786

FAX: (210) 227-8030

INFO@OURKWA.ORG

WWW.KINGWILLIAMASSOCIATION.ORG

March 1, 2016

Historic and Design Review Commission
1901 S Alamo St
San Antonio, Texas 78204

RE: Case #2016-1995: 100 E. Guenther St. – *King William Historic District*
Sustainable Storm Water Management Features – San Antonio River Authority Headquarters
Certificate of Appropriateness

Dear HDRC Commissioners,

The King William Association Architectural Advisory Committee met to review the project after the HDRC gave the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) conceptual approval for the permeable pavements and bio-retention features at their meeting on January 20, 2016, but approval for the five unscreened metal water cisterns was withheld by the Commission. Representatives of the San Antonio River Authority met with the King William Architectural Advisory Committee on February 1, 2016 to discuss SARA's updated plan to sheath the tanks with a wire mesh to support evergreen cross vine that, along with strategically planted shrubbery, intended to integrate the tanks into the landscape and lessen their visual impact.

The AAC appreciated that the River Authority came to us and offered the screening in an effort to make the tanks presence in our historic neighborhood less conspicuous. The HDRC stipulation that the tanks be unscreened to serve as an educational prop to inform the passersby about water conservation will not be diminished by the vegetative screens. In fact tastefully screening the tanks will promote the idea of integrating water conservation and other sustainable devices into our built environment with a sense of grace and sensitivity. Additionally, we are concerned that this will set an unwanted precedent in that unscreened water tanks will be allowed anywhere and in locations visible from any right-of-way, contrary to the Historic Design Guidelines:

Chapter 3 Guidelines for Additions: #6 Designing for Energy Efficiency "If designed and sited properly, energy and water efficient features such as solar panels (top) and cistern (bottom) can be incorporated into historic districts with minimal visual impact. Ideally, such features should be located towards the rear of the property to minimize the visual impact on the public right-of-way."

The AAC asks that the HDRC allow the River Authority to install the water tanks with vegetative screens as they proposed in their application for a Certificate of Appropriateness and which action complies with the City's design guidelines.

Best Regards,

Mickey Conrad, AIA
Chair, Architectural Advisory Committee

Harry Shafer
President, KWA Board of Directors