

San Antonio Water System Minority and Woman-owned Business Enterprise Disparity Study

Frequently Asked Questions



San Antonio Water System (SAWS) is conducting Minority and Woman-owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Disparity Study to ensure that M/WBEs have equal access to contracting opportunities and that SAWS' current programs remain legally defensible and administratively successful.

What is a “Disparity Study”?

A disparity study involves compilation of evidence to determine whether SAWS has a strong basis for implementing race- and gender-conscious contracting remedies for its contracts, and narrowly tailoring its SMWVB program. This includes statistical evidence of disparities, if any, between the availability of M/WBEs and their utilization on its contracts and related subcontracts and throughout the San Antonio economy as a whole.

The study will further examine factors necessary for entrepreneurial success, such as access to business capital, bonding, networks, suppliers, and other resources. The study also will gather anecdotal evidence of any continuing effects of past or present race and sex discrimination, and the impact of the current SMWVB program. Finally, the study will review SAWS' current program and activities and make recommendations for future initiatives and enhancements, including data collection to assist the agency in setting its goals.

Who is conducting the study?

Colette Holt & Associates (CHA), a San Antonio-based, nationally-recognized expert team on disparity studies and M/WBE programs, in conjunction with local partners Auxiliary Marketing Services (“AMS”) and Mentor Documents and Consulting, LLC.

How can business owners and other interested parties be involved?

The participation of business owners and other interested parties such as trade associations, advocacy groups, community organizations, etc. is critical to the study's outcomes in two important ways. The study team will contact businesses to confirm information on specific contracts and/or to receive additional contract information that is currently not available to SAWS. CHA will also conduct interviews with business owners and stakeholders to collect information regarding

discriminatory barriers and the current SAWS Small, Minority, Woman and Veteran-owned Business (SMWVB) program. An electronic survey will also be sent to interested parties to collect additional anecdotal information.

How will the public meeting and stakeholder/business owner interviews be conducted and how do I participate?

CHA will host a public information webinar to introduce the study methodology and process. A bit later in the process, CHA will host stakeholder/small group business owner interviews. Lastly, CHA will administer an online survey for business owners.

Participants who are unable to attend the meetings or the interviews but who would like to provide input to the disparity study are encouraged to return the survey and to submit written statements at the study email: SAWS-study@mwbelaw.com.

When will the study be completed?

The study is anticipated to be completed Spring 2021.

Where can I find additional information?

Study Website: www.saws.disparity-study.com
SAWS.disparity-study.com.

Who do I contact with questions?

Study Consultant:
Colette Holt & Associates
SAWS-study@mwbelaw.com
855-692-3529.

Or you may contact:

San Antonio Water System contact:
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