



March 8, 2009

POSITION

Mayor's Sustainable Building Task Force Recommendations

The San Antonio Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA San Antonio) strongly endorses the Ordinance to Approve and Adopt the Recommendations of the Mayor's Sustainable Building Task Force.

As one of the Mission Verde Initiatives, the Sustainable Building Task Force was to develop building-specific recommendations that would conserve our energy and water resources in San Antonio. The operation and maintenance of buildings account for over 90% of the electricity consumption in San Antonio; likewise, potable water use in buildings and in landscapes around buildings accounts for the majority of water usage, which means that increasing the efficiency of resource use in and around buildings can have a strong positive effect on resource conservation. The Task Force Recommendations apply to new residential and commercial construction, and will include minimum performance-based standards, voluntary standards, and incentives.

AIA San Antonio supports this plan for the following reasons:

- The Task Force Recommendations adheres to the American Institute of Architects "High Performance Building Position Statement" which calls for increased energy efficiency through better design and operation of the built environment.
- By establishing a policy based on these recommendations, San Antonio can demonstrate its commitment to being a leader in energy and water efficiency and high performance buildings.

AIA San Antonio prefers the following outcomes:

- The City of San Antonio will support all sections of the Ordinance to Approve and Adopt the Recommendations of the Mayor's Sustainable Building Task Force.
- The City will act quickly in the forming of the Stakeholder Sustainable Building Committee that consists of a wide group of representatives from the architectural and building sectors. Specifically we would like to see AIA representation on this committee and would like to ensure that this committee is empowered to examine other aspects of sustainability that the Mayor's Task Force did not have time to address (i.e. increasing energy efficiency of existing buildings, sustainable development, etc.).
- That the City and their partners will establish meaningful incentives that encourage sustainable building to be adopted on a large scale throughout the city and will help San Antonio earn a reputation for having a progressive green building policy.