



The Senate of The State of Texas

Senator José Menéndez

District 26

Press Release:

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Joint Base San Antonio and Alamo Area Council of Governments Win Big with \$5 Million State Grant to Build Water Infrastructure

Austin, Texas - Today, \$5 million dollars was awarded to the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) to develop long term water infrastructure projects for Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA), Camp Bullis, Fort Sam Houston, Lackland Air Force Base, and others. Water security is a top priority for all of San Antonio's military installations.

The \$5 million was awarded from the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG), which under Senator José Menéndez's leadership was funded for the first time in two legislative sessions. The DEAAG program is administered by the Texas Military Preparedness Commission. Grants are awarded to defense communities who partner with military bases in order to develop projects that would strengthen their installation.

"Funding the DEAAG program is an important budget investment that I have been working on for years. I'm grateful to see it finally come to fruition and benefit JBSA," said Senator Menéndez. "I'm proud that San Antonio was a direct recipient of this grant and now JBSA will have a viable water supply to provide their missions and the heroes who serve there."

The JBSA grant application was the highest ranked proposal. It was made possible through a collaborative partnership with AACOG, JBSA, SAWS, City of San Antonio, Bexar County, San Antonio Chambers, the Military Transformation Task Force and Senator Menéndez.

The \$5 million will allow SAWS to develop waterlines and other infrastructure to directly link Camp Bullis with their services. It will also allow SAWS to be the secondary water source for JBSA, Fort Sam, and Lackland Air Force Base. The city of San Antonio played a key role by waving impact fees of \$5 million in order to develop this \$10 million project. This innovative water infrastructure project for JBSA is estimated to be completed by August of 2017.

"The future of San Antonio military installations were dependent on this investment," Senator Menéndez added. "We must do everything we can to protect our bases not only for our country's national security, but for the tremendous economic impact it provides our community. JBSA is linked to nearly 300,000 jobs and contributes \$46 billion to the Texas economy."

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