



## Monday Morning Report

October 28, 2024

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### INTERNAL

The next meeting of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council Executive Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20 at 2 PM by Zoom. If you would like to add an item to the agenda or request and invite, please contact [council@thecorridor.org](mailto:council@thecorridor.org).

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### INFRASTRUCTURE

The Edwards Aquifer is at its lowest level in 34 years, the **San Antonio Express-News** reports, and at one Bexar County well the level dropped below 625-feet - the lowest level since the well was drilled in 1932. Lagging rainfall, prolonged drought conditions, climate change, and surging populations are blamed. [Story](#).

**San Marcos** began implementing Stage 3 water restrictions yesterday (10/27), limiting water usage after resources from four local agencies hit levels that required countermeasures, officials said. Home car washing, decorative water features, filling swimming pools and washing impervious surfaces are no longer allowed. [Story](#).

Although voting is already underway on the issue, four homeowners have sued the **Hays County** Commissioners Court over a \$440 million transportation bond set for the ballot as Proposition A last August. The lawsuit alleges the bond offering was approved in violation of the Texas Open Meetings Act. [Details](#).

The Federal Aviation Administration has just formally recognized vertical takeoff and landing vehicles - air taxis, if you will - as the first new category of aircraft in roughly eight decades since the approval of helicopters in the 1940's. The agency officially formalized training pilot certification rules for electric-powered flying craft. [Story](#).

In yet another boost to its program to transition from traditional internal combustion to electric vehicles, the **Washington Post** reports that the Biden administration last week approved permitting to develop a large lithium mine in Nevada to support US battery supplies, despite objections from environmental groups. [Story](#).

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### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and Other News)

Rising cargo traffic is straining capacity at Mexico's ports and stretching wait times for importers, the **Loadstar** logistics newsletter reports, with customs clearance becoming one of the main bottlenecks. Industry executives have called for broad measures - particularly infrastructure investments - for ports, roads, and rail. [Story](#).

The **Dallas** city council last week approved paying a consulting firm more than \$500,000 to study the economic impact that the proposed **Dallas-to-Houston** high speed rail line - and a planned connection to **Ft. Worth** - could have on the region. The combined rail projects are expected to cost \$36 billion, officials said. [Story](#).

There's only so much heat the human body can take, and new research indicates that even lower temperatures than previously studied - but already being experienced by much of the globe's population - may cause damage sooner than earlier studies suggested, the **New York Times** reports. "It's scary as hell," a scientist said. [Story](#).

Meanwhile, a United Nations study released last week says that nothing but a 'quantum leap in ambition' will suffice at a time when the world is blowing past all targets for limiting global warming, according to the **Washington Post** reports. Record high temperatures for the last 14 consecutive months have had deadly consequences via record Middle East heat, massive hurricanes swelling in unusually warm Gulf waters, and more. [Story](#). [More](#).

A veteran **San Antonio** firefighter, Valerie Frausto, is set to become the city's first female fire chief if approved this week by the city council. She's worked for 24 years in nearly every branch of the fire department. [Details](#).

## Thought of the Week

*"People often say, I'm not interested in politics. They might as well say, I'm not interested in my standard of living, my health, my job, my rights, my freedoms."*

- Martha Gellhorn

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