

Commissioner Adkisson speaking points
Lady Justice Fountain installation
December 7, 2008

- Thanks
- It may look like we have a lot of lighting that will burn through energy, but the total connected light load is 7.5 kilowatts. By comparison, two clothes driers have a connected load of 5.4 kilowatts.
- The façade lighting system generates very little stray light, keeping it on the building and not off into the night sky.
- Most of the large fixtures you will see here in a few minutes are high pressure sodium lamps. They produce a golden orange color to enhance the color of the Pecos Red Sandstone, but they also use 70 percent less energy than standard incandescent floodlights and they last up to ten times longer.
- Additionally the sodium lamps are less visible to many animal species, so it minimizes the impact on most migratory birds and other wildlife.
- The LED accent lighting also has a long life and uses very little energy.
- The primary source of fountain water during the summer months will be treated condensation from the air conditioning systems in both the courthouse and the justice center. During the winter, because of low humidity and lack of air conditioning use, some potable water may be used.
- The overall fountain system will reduce the amount of effluent discharge to the sanitary sewer system and it reduces the amount of waste water treatment.
- The recycled condensation also will save the amount of maintenance on the fountain's internal water system because it won't leave calcium build-up much like you see with our domestic water.
- The overall preservation of the historic Bexar County Courthouse and our continued commitment to preserving it for future generations is the ultimate energy conservation program.
- That's because of a concept called embodied energy, which is the amount of labor and energy consumed in the production of a building, from the harvesting of the natural resources to the fabrication and delivery of materials to the installation of these materials and products.
- Preservation of the courthouse — and the embodied energy — was always the primary goal of our participation in this project.
- All of the new storm sewer work and changes to the handicapped entrance ramp will prevent flooding of the courthouse basement. The waterproofing of the foundation, cleaning of the stone façade and connecting the internal roof drains directly to the storm drains all preserve the building for continued use
- The energy embodied in the Courthouse since its original construction began in 1892 is immeasurable and by preserving use of that embodied energy for future generations, we are in the midst of the ultimate energy conservation program.