

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)
Project Updates in the Guadalupe Blanco River Basin
March 2010

Elm & Sandies Creek (Segments 1803A and 1803B) – Bacteria and Dissolved Oxygen

- Elm Creek (Segment 1803A) and Sandies Creek (Segment 1803B) are two predominantly rural streams located in the Guadalupe River Basin in South Central Texas. The water bodies were placed on the *1999 Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List* for elevated levels of bacteria and low concentrations of dissolved oxygen.
- The development of the bacteria TMDLs was discontinued in January of 2009. Review of the *2008 Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List* indicated that both Elm and Sandies Creeks would meet the revised water quality standard for primary contact recreation which was proposed January 13, 2010.
- The development of the dissolved oxygen TMDLs were discontinued in January 2009 due to the results of an in-depth study that indicated a lower aquatic life use than the “High” use standard presumed based upon a perennial flow regime. The Water Quality Standards Group of TCEQ plans future studies to determine the appropriate aquatic life use standard.

Guadalupe River Above Canyon Lake (Segment 1806) – Bacteria

- In 2002, the Upper Guadalupe River was identified as impaired for recreational use.
- A TMDL for bacteria was adopted by the Commission in July, 2007 and subsequently approved by EPA in September, 2007.
- The TMDL identified possible bacteria sources including domestic waterfowl, leaking collection lines in sanitary sewer infrastructure, failing septic systems, livestock, and urban storm water runoff.
- An Implementation Plan developed by the stakeholders is nearly complete. Implementation activities are already underway for this project through the efforts of the Upper Guadalupe River Authority and local stakeholders.
- The implementation strategy includes one control action, Monitor and report effluent E. coli concentrations from wastewater treatment facilities, and the following management measures:
 1. Reduce bird feeding at Louise Hays Park and Kerrville-Schreiner Park.
 2. Install exclusion/deterrent devices on Highway 16 bridge over water.
 3. Manage waterfowl population at Louise Hays Park and Kerrville-Schreiner Park.
 4. Reduce human contributions through ongoing lateral sewage line replacement, sewage inspection and rehabilitation, and ongoing septic system plan review and registration.
 5. Implement education program for pet owners and install pet waste stations at public parks.

Peach Creek (Segment 1803C)

- Peach Creek was first identified as impaired for recreational use in the *Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List* (TCEQ 2000). This impairment continued and was identified on subsequent lists.
- Preparation of the TMDL Report is complete, and satisfies requirements of the joint technical task force report on Bacteria TMDLs, established by the TCEQ and Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB).
- Final adoption of the TMDL has been delayed due to proposed revisions to the water quality standards.
- The Gonzales County Soil and Water Conservation District has a full-time employee, funded by TSSWCB with a Clean Water Act §319(h) grant, dedicated to providing technical assistance to cattle raisers along Peach Creek and throughout the watershed.
- Prior to moving forward, meetings with stakeholders will be scheduled to discuss options for future actions.

Middle Texas Coast Oyster Waters Bacteria

- 2441 East Matagorda Bay, 2442 Cedar Lakes, 2451 Matagorda Bay/Powderhorn Lake, 2452 Tres Palacios Bay/Turtle Bay, 2453 Lavaca Bay/Chocolate Bay, 2456 Carancahau Bay, 2462 San Antonio Bay/Hynes Bay/Guadalupe Bay
- TMDL has begun data analysis to describe this impairment, determine how much is known about potential sources, and determine a strategy for TMDL development.

Additional Information

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<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/nav/basins/guadalupeindex.html>