

# Water Quality Standards: Proposed Revisions

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**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**

Office of Water

Water Quality Planning Division

Monitoring & Assessment Section

Water Quality Standards



# WQ Standards Revision Process

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- Multiple Advisory Workgroup Meetings
- Proposed Standards - Jan 18, 2010
- Public comment period – ended Mar 17, 2010
- Held public hearing - Mar 11, 2010
- TCEQ Agenda for adoption - Jun 30, 2010
- Texas Register - July 2010
- Send to EPA for Review & Approval



# Key Standards Revisions

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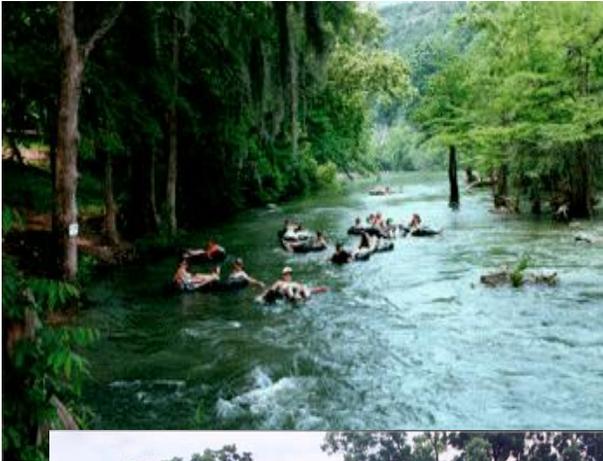


- Contact recreation use
- Nutrient criteria
- Revised toxic criteria
- Site-specific standards



# Proposed Contact Recreation Use

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- Expand categories
  - Primary contact
  - Secondary contact 1
  - Secondary contact 2
  - Noncontact
- New procedures to determine level of contact recreation use
  - Basic UAA survey
  - Comprehensive UAA survey
  - Use local knowledge and input
- Change numeric criteria
  - Use EPA guidelines



# Proposed Nutrient Criteria

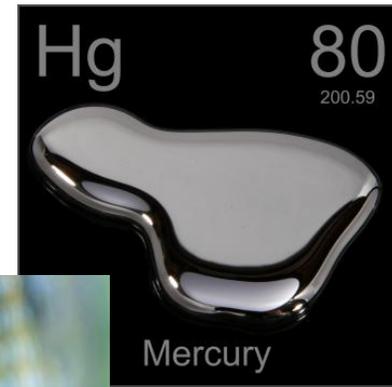
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- Proposed for 93 reservoirs
  - Chlorophyll *a* concentrations in main pool
  - Based on historical data for each reservoir
  - Assessed as long-term median
  - Secondary screening with Total Phosphorus and Transparency
- Under development: streams, estuaries



# Proposed Toxic Criteria

- Human-health criteria
  - Include child exposure
  - Assume more fish eaten
- Aquatic-life criteria
- Methylmercury in fish tissue
  - New EPA guideline
  - First tissue-based criterion
  - TCEQ – 0.7 ppm    EPA – 0.3 ppm
  - Also add for DDT, PCBs, dioxin
- Numerous revised criteria



# Proposed Site Specific Uses & Criteria

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- Based on use-attainability analyses
- EPA preliminary review



# Proposed Changes for the Guadalupe River Basin

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- Revise the critical low-flows for spring-fed segments (1808, 1811, 1813, 1814, 1817)
  - to provide additional protection to segments with federally listed endangered or threatened aquatic or aquatic-dependent species
- Temperature criteria lowered for specified portions of the Comal River (1811) and Upper San Marcos River (1814)
  - to provide additional protection to listed federally endangered species.



# Proposed Changes for the Guadalupe River Basin

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## ➤ Camp Meeting Creek (1806)

- A minimum DO criterion of 2.0 mg/L and a 24-hour average of 4.0 mg/L apply from July 1st to September 30th.
- Upstream of Ranchero Road, a minimum DO criterion of 1.0 mg/L and a 24-hour average of 2.0 mg/L apply from July 1st to September 30 th.

## ➤ Canyon Lake (Seg 1805)

- Chl a 3.6 ug/L    TP 0.3mg/L    Secchi 2.17m



# Contacts / Information

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Standards Revision Questions

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[www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/eq/eq\\_swqs.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/eq/eq_swqs.html)

