

Water Quality Updates from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

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Texas Clean Rivers Program



Water Quality Updates

Texas Surface Water Quality Standards

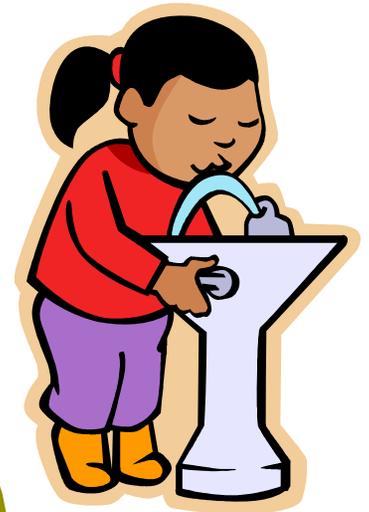
Water Quality Assessment

Watershed Action Planning



Texas Surface Water Quality Standards - Status

- The TCEQ approved proposed revisions to the Surface Water Quality Standards in June 2010.
- EPA has approved some items, disapproved some items, and not acted on some others.



Texas Surface Water Quality Standards - Highlights

EPA Action	Water Quality Standards Proposal
Approved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreation Use Categories - bacteria - Only use geometric mean to assess use attainment – bacteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 99 human health numeric criteria (except mercury in fish tissue)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated saline inland water bodies for Enterococci (seg #s)
Under Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Segment Delineations (Lavaca, Black Cypress Bayou)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site-specific aquatic life criteria (Harrison Bayou, Black Cypress Bayou)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Numeric nutrient criteria for selected reservoirs
Disapproved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High Flow Exemption for bacteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mercury in Fish Tissue (still have Mercury in water, 0.0122 ug/L)

Surface Water Quality Standards – Proposed Changes for Guadalupe Basin

- Canyon Lake – Chlorophyll *a* set at 5 ug/L at the dam
 - Calculated using the long term median; majority of the data is < 5 ug/L
- Comal River – Temperature changed from 80 to 78 deg F
- Upper San Marcos River
 - Temperature changed from 80 to 78 deg F (from Loop 82 to Sessom's Ck)
- All streams retain the primary contact recreation criteria
 - Calculated using the long term geometric mean (< 126 cfu/100mL)
- Lower San Marcos, Upper Blanco, and North Fork Guadalupe
 - Critical low flows are calculated based on 5th percentile of all flows
- Upper San Marcos and Comal Rivers
 - Critical low flows are calculated using the 0.1 percentile value
- Camp Meeting Creek
 - minimum DO changed from 5mg/L to 1 mg/L and 2 mg/L from July –Sept.



Texas Surface Water Quality Standards – Next Steps

- Next triennial revision is underway
- Workgroup meetings March 28, possibly May and July
- Major discussion topics:
 - Mercury
 - Tissue-based human health criteria
 - Additional site-specific standards for water bodies
- Nutrient Criteria Development Plan
 - Nutrient workgroup meeting planned for Fall 2012



Water Quality Assessment – The Integrated Report

- Evaluate whether water body meets its designated use
- Updated every two years by TCEQ
- Data for the assessment is collected by:
 - Clean Rivers Program partners
 - TCEQ Region Office Staff
 - Other data providers that meet TCEQ quality assurance protocols
- The 2012 Integrated Report is under development.
 - Use data collected from 2004 through 2010
 - Public comment period will likely occur in May or June



Watershed Action Planning – Taking Action on Water Quality Issues

- Select strategies to address water quality impairments
 - What is the best “next step”?
 - Meet with stakeholders
- Track input
- Take action
- Track progress



Strategies for Taking Action

- Evaluation
- Monitoring
- TMDL / Implementation Plan
- Watershed Protection Plan
- Standards Evaluation
- Other



Questions/Comments?

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For more information on the Assessment and/or Standards go to www.texascleanrivers.org and click on the links to the Water Quality Standards and the Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program near bottom of page.

