



NEWS

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GBRA APPROVES REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

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SEGUIN-Directors of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) have approved a contract that will provide for the construction of a water treatment plant and treated water transmission pipeline system that will provide treated surface water to portions of Comal, Kendall and Bexar counties. GBRA calls this effort the "Western Comal Project."

"The action by the GBRA Board exemplifies good regional water management and sets a tone of regional cooperation in the use of water resources by multiple parties in an economic and efficient manner. This is a win-win situation" said Chairman of the Board, T. L. Walker.

GBRA's water treatment plant will be located near Canyon Lake and deliver treated water to project participants' ground storage tanks or other delivery points through a water transmission pipeline system. Bexar County participants may include San Antonio River Authority, San Antonio Water System, Bexar Metropolitan Water District, and San Antonio River Authority. In-district participants may include Bulverde Utility Company, Apex Water Services, Comal Independent School District, City of Fair Oaks and City of Boerne. Over the next two months GBRA anticipates approval of this agreement by in-district and out of district customers.

"This project alone is not a solution to the need for new water for the Edwards Aquifer Region. However this is a start and a tribute to the ability of diverse interests to work together" said General Manager, Bill West.

Project Manager, David Welsch, noted this action is being taken after months and in some instances years of effort and is being taken after extensive meetings and discussions with many parties.

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An Outline of Preliminary Agreement for Regional Water Supply Development was also approved by the GBRA Board. The outline will lead to an agreement for orderly management and development of other needed water sources. The outline is an expansion of a Letter of Intent signed in April 1995, by SARA, SAWS and GBRA, which provided a framework "to develop a Plan to respond the critical need in Bexar County and surrounding areas for substantial amounts of treated water from alternative sources..." The initial phase of that Plan is being implemented through the Western Comal Project and another contract for the Canyon Regional Water Authority which was approved by GBRA several months ago. The Parties to the Preliminary Agreement desire to build upon the concepts in the LOI to work together through the Senate Bill 1 planning process.

The Parties recognize:

- Each of the Parties has a responsibility to ensure that the water needs of the Edwards Aquifer Region are met through efficient management of the region's water resources.
- The water demands of current users of the Edwards Aquifer, including those of the City of San Antonio and other municipal and industrial users in Bexar County, exceed the amounts permitted by the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) and will continue to increase in the future.
- Management of withdrawals of water from the Edwards Aquifer depends on the availability of additional supplies to meet current and future water needs by those in the Edwards Aquifer Region.
- The planning process will consist of identifying available sources of supply; studying alternative methods of developing these supplies; conducting the regional planning necessary to utilize these supplies; and developing the appropriate contracts.

"It is in the best interest of the Parties and their constituents to work cooperatively to develop projects on a regional basis to meet the present and future water needs of the whole region," said West.