



NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
933 EAST COURT STREET · SEGUIN, TEXAS 78155 · FAX [830] 379-9718

GBRA, UGRA ANNOUNCE PLANS TO WORK TOGETHER FOR KERR COUNTY WATER NEEDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Thursday, June 18, 1998

Contact: Judy Gardner, GBRA, [830] 379-5822, 379-2111 Ext. 223 or
email: gardner@gbra.org
J. T. Brown, UGRA, [830] 896-5445 or FAX [830] 792-6763

SEGUIN – The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority and Upper Guadalupe River Authority Boards of Directors have approved a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlines how the two organizations would work together to provide future water, wastewater and related services to residents of Kerr County. The MOU was approved by the GBRA board on May 20 in Seguin, and by the UGRA board yesterday at their monthly meeting in Kerrville.

According to GBRA general manager Bill West, all of Central Texas – including Kerr County – is experiencing rapid business and population growth. “The increasing demand on surface and ground water supplies is creating serious concerns about the availability of reliable water supplies and wastewater systems needed to support long-term and environmentally-sound economic development in the region,” said West.

“The MOU between GBRA and UGRA is an example of the spirit of regional cooperation that is required to resolve today’s water issues,” said J. T. Brown, UGRA general manager. “We will be working closely with local officials and residents to help address these concerns and to ensure the intent of Senate Bill 1 in planning effectively for Kerr County’s needs.”

The efforts outlined in the MOU are primarily directed at areas that do not have existing water and wastewater services and will not affect incorporated areas currently served by other water companies or service providers.

West and Brown emphasized that while GBRA’s and UGRA’s primary responsibility is to serve the needs of their respective basins, “there will be occasions when we can best serve our citizens through coordinated regional planning and water management initiatives, such as those included in this MOU.”

(more)

According to Brown, a portion of the existing surface water rights for municipal use within Kerr County are dependent upon the subordination of GBRA's water rights on the Guadalupe River. Future additional water rights to meet the needs of Kerr County may also be dependent upon the availability of surface water managed by GBRA from Canyon Reservoir. "Because of these significant connections to the two river authorities, Kerr County is a logical area to benefit from cooperative water and wastewater planning and development by GBRA and UGRA," said Brown.

The MOU does not commit the GBRA and the UGRA to specific projects but establishes the criteria for planning such projects, including the use of water resources from the Guadalupe River Basin, the water demands of the Kerr County area, the quantity and quality of water resources, development of area water resources, gathering and sharing of streamflow and weather monitoring data and technology, and working with legislative and regulatory processes to address Kerr County's requirements.