



NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
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GBRA ACTIVATES SALT WATER BARRIER; ISSUES BOATING CAUTION

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SEGUIN- The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority has issued a boating caution for anyone who uses the lower Guadalupe River near Tivoli for water recreation. According to Herb Wittliff, manager for GBRA Calhoun County Operations, steel barrier plates commonly called stop logs are being installed today on the Calhoun County side of the Lower Guadalupe Diversion Dam and Salt Water Barrier. This structure spans the river and is located near Tivoli, about 10 miles upstream of the mouth of the Guadalupe River.

The new fabridam bag on the Refugio County side will also be inflated. Warning signs are posted and lights have been installed for night-time illumination.

Wittliff said there can be a 2 to 4 foot drop in water level from the upstream to the downstream side of the barrier. Trying to travel through the Salt Water Barrier in a boat while the barrier is in operation could result in serious injury, or possible loss of life, if a boat were to collide with the stop log wall or be swamped by water flowing over the fabridam bag.

In addition, boaters on the upstream side should stay a safe distance away from the structure to avoid being carried downstream by a strong current.

The Salt Water Barrier was constructed in 1965 by GBRA and is an important part of the Water Resource Division's diversion system that delivers raw water from the Guadalupe River for industrial, municipal and agricultural uses in Calhoun County. When river levels and flows are extremely low, or in the event of a hurricane and high tides, it is possible for salt water to move upstream. If this water enters the main diversion canal located just upstream of the barrier, it could contaminate sources of municipal and industrial water supply.

To prevent this, the barrier is activated by installing stop logs and/or inflating nylon and rubber fabridam bags with river water. When not in operation, which is about 90% of the time, the bags are deflated and lie flat on the bottom of the river.

Wittliff emphasized that the barrier is designed to allow river flows to pass through the barrier at all times. Even when the barrier is activated, upstream water simply pools to the top of the bag and then continues its normal flow downriver.

The stop logs are expected to remain in place during the summer months until significant rainfall occurs. For more information, contact the GBRA Port Lavaca Water Treatment Plant at (512) 552-9751.