



NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
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GBRA Board Approves Agreement to provide water to greater Dripping Springs area with LCRA

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SEGUIN-The greater Dripping Springs area can look forward to receiving a dependable supply of treated drinking water following Wednesday's approval by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority Board of Directors of a Facility Engineering and Design Agreement with the Lower Colorado River Authority.

According to GBRA general manager Bill West, Dripping Springs is one of the fastest-growing areas in Hays County. Residents currently depend on wells drilled into the Trinity Aquifer although studies indicate it will cannot supply all water needed in the future to support increased population and business growth.

The agreement is one result of a Memorandum of Understanding approved last January between GBRA and the LCRA that calls for the two agencies to develop joint activities including planning, financing, constructing and operating regional water and wastewater facilities for the benefit of Hays County.

"Hays County is unique because the entire county is within GBRA's statutory district, but is also included in LCRA's electric service area. In addition, portions of the county are in the Colorado River watershed and LCRA's water service area. By working together to find solutions to Hays County's future water requirements, we are reflecting a growing statewide trend toward cooperative efforts in water planning," said West.

Water will come from the West Travis County Regional Water System (WTCRWS) that was recently acquired and expanded by LCRA to provide needed services to western Travis and northern Hays counties.

The project scope includes construction of a water pipeline along U.S. Highway 290 from the Hays County line to Dripping Springs, as well as storage and pumping facilities. LCRA will complete the preliminary engineering and final design studies. At GBRA's request, LCRA will also obtain the land rights for the Hays County portion of the project. Both agencies will jointly market the project in Travis and Hays counties.

West said costs are anticipated to be approximately \$2,800,000, with GBRA financing its portion of \$1,067,000 either as part of the capital cost or as a repayment to LCRA from the water rate charges for treated and delivered water.