



NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
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GBRA ISSUES TEMPORARY RULES FOR HYDRO LAKES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Wednesday, November 25, 1998

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SEGUIN-.....At the November 18 Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority Board meeting in Seguin, GBRA directors adopted temporary restrictions governing the use of all motor-powered watercraft on the GBRA hydro lakes, and established guidelines regarding removal of personal property and modification of shorelines for waterfront construction.

Boating restrictions adopted by the Board state that no motor-powered watercraft may be operated on Lakes Dunlap, McQueeney, Placid, Nolte, H-4 and Lake Wood (H-5), located in Comal, Guadalupe and Gonzales counties, until February 15, 1999.

These restrictions do not apply to Canyon Lake, or to any employee or officer of a law enforcement or regulatory agency, and may be removed earlier by action and notice of GBRA's general manager.

According to David Welsch, director of project development, GBRA may issue a temporary permit to individuals who need to use their watercraft to salvage lost personal items, repair shoreline property or for other related activities. The holder of a permit may not transfer it to another person and the permit must be displayed prominently on the watercraft at all times.

Plans are being discussed to lower each hydro lake for a brief period to inspect structures, identify and mark underwater hazards, and evaluate cleanup requirements. These will probably take place in January, and advance public notice will be provided through the local media. Welsch said there may be some opportunity for homeowners to inspect and clean along shorelines at this time.

Welsch said scheduling the inspections for January will allow time to assemble enough volunteers to help, and must also be scheduled to avoid releases of floodwaters from Canyon Reservoir by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Once the inspections are complete, arrangements will be made for public cleanup events.

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The Board of Directors also issued guidelines requiring owners to remove abandoned boats, cars, trailers, barges and other items from the hydro lakes, because many people do not realize these items are still considered the personal property of the owner, Welsch said.

As items are identified by individuals or GBRA, the identification number and location of the property should be provided to the appropriate County Sheriff or to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at (512) 389-4848, who will contact the owner.

The third set of guidelines issued applies to modification of shorelines, including retaining walls, piers and boathouses on or adjacent to the hydroelectric lakes. Welsch said a permit from GBRA has always been required to build these structures. "However, the results of the October 1998 flood indicate that establishing new standards for construction may protect property along the lakes and allow better management of the lake for water safety, aquatic weed control and inspections."

For projects previously permitted by GBRA, restoration or repair is defined as any work needed to return a structure to its previous location and condition. The repairs must remain in the original alignment and may not extend further into the water. To process a project, the owner should notify GBRA by phone at (830) 379-5822, or in person at 933 East Court Street, Seguin. All work must meet current GBRA construction guidelines, will be approved by a letter and may be subject to an inspection. Inspection fees will be waived for all permits issued through February 18, 1999.

New construction, repair or replacement of structures not previously permitted by GBRA will require approval and issuance of a new permit, plus an inspection. A normal permit and inspection fee will be charged.

Welsch said construction guidelines require GBRA approval for piers longer than 20 feet, and boat docks or structures must not be enclosed on the wall sides. All retaining walls and shoreline construction must be designed to withstand flood waters and lowering of the hydro lakes.

For more information, or to obtain a written copy of the guidelines, contact Allen Ognoskie, GBRA Manager of Hydro Operations at (830) 379-5822 or email aognoskie@gbra.org.