



NEWS

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

GBRA reports on river logjam status and cleanup efforts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, April 28, 1999

Contact: Judy Gardner, [830] 379-5822 or email jgardner@gbra.org

SEGUIN-In addition to helping communities locate assistance and funding for debris removal from the October 1998 flood, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority general manager Bill West said his agency has also been hard at work removing logjams and monitoring the status of the lower river basin.

Beginning in December 1998, personnel from GBRA's Calhoun Canal Division began a month long project to clear five large surface log jams from River Mile 19 downstream to the Salt Water Barrier. The jams were broken up and stacked on the river bank near the Barrier to dry out before being burned.

West said GBRA personnel have continued to visually examine the river for additional logjam buildup. "As recently as March 16, we inspected the river by plane from the Guadalupe Bay to the Highway 87 bridge above Cuero. There are no logjams anywhere in this area. We saw some floating debris in the river below Victoria, but the area above Victoria is clear," said West.

While residential flood cleanup efforts have been underway for several months in the lower Guadalupe River Basin, West said the combination of saturated soil and slow-draining floodwaters have made it impossible to access the river to remove submerged trees as well as large debris from the river banks. "Now that access roads and riverside property have dried out enough to bring in heavy equipment, we are developing plans to remove as much of this material as possible."

According to West, GBRA will also try to remove log jams from the lower portion of the San Antonio River because the San Antonio River Authority has generally interpreted their jurisdiction as ending where that river leaves Goliad County and enters Victoria and Refugio Counties. "This is an area where legislative responsibility is unclear," said

(more)

West. "However, it cannot be ignored and GBRA intends to allocate a portion of any flood cleanup funds we receive to maintain river flow and access in this area."

GBRA has applied for \$400,000 from the Natural Resource Conservation Commission (NRCS) to remove large natural flood debris from the lower river basin, and will be responsible for matching 25 percent of whatever monies are granted. "We plan to allocate more than half of whatever we receive to removing logjams on the San Antonio River. Some funds will also be used to remove embedded logs that still exist near the 'horseshoe area' of the lower Guadalupe River," West said.

Once funding is approved, GBRA and NRCS must still determine plans and specifications for the scope of work, obtain bids and arrange for project management of the cleanup efforts, now that the river bottom has dried enough to get the heavy equipment in to do the work this summer.