



GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY  
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## **GBRA PUTS PARTICIPATION IN HAYS COUNTY WATER PROJECT ON HOLD**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEGUIN, TX – August 16, 1999. The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) announced today that it is suspending work on a project it had undertaken in cooperation with the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) to provide water services to the Dripping Springs area of northern Hays County. GBRA general manager Bill West said his agency's participation in this project is being put on hold after the threat of litigation by Austin's Save Our Springs (SOS) Alliance.

"We were notified by SOS that they intend to bring suit under the Endangered Species Act as it relates to the agreement between GBRA and LCRA," said West. "Based on advice from our legal counsel, we have stopped work on this water supply project."

The joint project was based on a Memorandum of Understanding between GBRA and LCRA and would have provided a variety of water services, including treated drinking water from an LCRA plant in Travis County, to residents and businesses in certain areas of northern Hays County, which is part of GBRA's statutory district. SOS protested the project, alleging that the proposed water line would spawn increased development over the environmentally sensitive Barton Springs watershed.

"We are as concerned about protecting the area's pristine water resources as every other citizen of this area," said West. "GBRA understands the issues related to the balance between surface and groundwater."

West said that GBRA is suspending activity on the project, not abandoning it. "We will participate in conducting environmental studies of the area and, hopefully, develop a regional plan with additional water supply options that will be more acceptable to all parties," said West.

"We owe it to the people of Hays County to ensure the environmental integrity of the area and to provide them with clean, reliable water at a reasonable cost," said West. "We will continue to strive toward that goal."