



# NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY  
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## **GBRA DEVELOPING MIDDLE SCHOOL WATER CURRICULUM**

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SEGUIN. . . . Middle school students and teachers in the Guadalupe River Basin will soon have access to a new water education curriculum created by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.

Our goal is to help young people gain a better understanding of the issues that affect water resource planning and management," said Judy Gardner, GBRA manager of communications and education. "In a few years, they will be the adults who create and implement our water policies. We want them to have the information necessary to make well-informed decisions that will protect water for themselves and future generations."

The project began several years ago when GBRA conducted a basin-wide survey to find out what teachers and students wanted to know about water. "They asked for current information about a wide range of water issues, lesson plans, classroom and lab activities and lots of enrichment options. We spent the last two years exploring different ways to present this material," said Gardner.

To ensure that the final product would be actually used and 'not just sit on a shelf', GBRA engaged education consultant Cinde Thomas-Jimenez, who was responsible for creating community and school education programs while working for the Edwards Underground Water District (now the Edwards Aquifer Authority).

"We also assembled a steering committee with at least one middle school science or social studies teacher from each county in GBRA's statutory district. They met this fall to select the overall structure and main lesson topics and are currently reviewing the first draft developed by Thomas-Jimenez. Each teacher will also write a lesson unique to his or her county or area. This is truly a 'grass roots' effort that will result in a curriculum that reflects the needs and interests of the basin's students and teachers," said Gardner.

Committee members and their school districts are Sandy Abernathy, Boerne; Beth Doege, San Marcos; Robin Wright, New Braunfels; Susan Curtis, Comal; Candy Bagley and Jane Reed, Seguin; Melba Sexton, Luling; Nancy Conley, Gonzales; Nathan Brown, Cuero; Leslie Blackmon, Woodsboro; Renee Basinger and Virginia Adian, Victoria; and Sherrie Krause, Calhoun.

The curriculum will emphasize science and social studies but will also involve multidisciplinary activities. The state-mandated TEKS and TAAS elements will be correlated to the curriculum. Lessons under development include the history and geography of the Guadalupe River Basin and its watersheds, surface and groundwater, mapping activities, water use, distribution and management issues, conservation, aquatic life, and water quality and treatment. Other options include maps, photos of the river and basin, and interactive materials.

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The program will be distributed free this fall to all sixth, seventh and eighth grade classrooms in GBRA's statutory district that covers Kendall, Hays, Comal, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Gonzales, DeWitt, Victoria, Calhoun and Refugio counties.

Gardner said the project is part of a sequenced curriculum that begins in the fourth grade with GBRA's "Journey Through the Guadalupe River Basin" program. Since 1989, more than 74,000 fourth grade students have studied this introductory unit to basic water education. "Eventually, we plan to complete a high school curriculum that will be the third, and final, phase of GBRA's water education program," said Gardner.

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CUTLINE FOR PHOTO:

Teachers serving on GBRA's Middle School Curriculum Steering Committee are helping to develop a new education program that will give their students a better understanding of the issues that affect water resource planning and management. The program will be distributed free this fall to all sixth, seventh and eighth grade classrooms in GBRA's statutory district. Committee members and the school districts they represent are: (front) Candy Bagley, Seguin; Susan Curtis, Comal; Beth Doege, San Marcos; Sandy Abernathy, Boerne; (middle) Cinde Thomas-Jimenez, education consultant; Melba Sexton, Luling; Nancy Conley, Gonzales; Jane Reed, Seguin; (back) Sherrie Krause, Calhoun; Nathan Brown, Cuero; Virginia Adian, Victoria; Leslie Blackmon, Woodsboro. Not pictured are Renee Basinger, Victoria and Robin Wright, New Braunfels.