



# NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY  
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## **TPWD Announces Public Meeting on Stocking Grass Carp**

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SEGUIN-The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will hold a public meeting on Thursday, May 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Seguin I.S.D. Board Room, 1221 East Kingsbury Street in Seguin.

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) has applied for permission to stock three sterile (triploid) grass carp in public waters in a pond area of upper Lake McQueeney, and a public meeting is required before TPWD can issue the permit.

According to Debbie Magin, GBRA director of water quality services, the pond size is approximately 0.1 (one-tenth) acre and is located in the spillway below Dunlap Dam. It is infested with two non-native aquatic plants -- hydrilla and Eurasian watermilfoil -- that could spread downstream and eventually establish themselves in other portions of Lake McQueeney.

"The carp eat aquatic vegetation and have been used successfully before in the GBRA hydro lakes to keep non-native aquatic plants under control," said Magin. "We hope these three sterile grass carp, used in combination with an application of aquatic herbicide, will be able to remove most of the nuisance vegetation and limit its regrowth."

Hydrilla is a non-native plant that grows rapidly and is difficult to control. It forms thick mats of surface vegetation, and a web of stems and roots underwater. Typical problems caused by hydrilla overgrowth include blocked canals and drainage ditches, excess silting and sedimentation of river and lake beds, and obstruction of boat docks, river channels and water access. Hydrilla can also foul outboard motor propellers, snag fishing lines and make swimming difficult.

Hydrilla is classed as a 'harmful' or 'potentially harmful' aquatic plant. It is a violation of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department rules to possess the plant or introduce it into public waters.