



NEWS

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

GBRA will treat Lake Wood (H-5) to control water hyacinth

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, July 24, 2001

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

SEGUIN- On Tuesday, July 31, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority will apply the aquatic herbicide "Clearigate" to 1-2 acres of water hyacinth in the area around the boat ramp at the Lake Wood Recreational Facility (H-5) in Gonzales County to help improve access to the lake.

Clearigate, whose active ingredient is copper, is approved for aquatic use by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, said GBRA director of water quality services Debbie Magin.

According to Magin, Clearigate can be used directly in water supply reservoirs. The Gonzales County Water Supply Corporation treats water from the lake for distribution in Gonzales County. The use of Clearigate will not disrupt their operations or cause any contamination of the water supply. Also, there will be no restrictions placed on recreational or agricultural uses.

The application of this herbicide complies with policy guidelines adopted by GBRA's Board of Directors governing the treatment of nuisance aquatic vegetation in lakes and reservoirs operated by GBRA. "The policy creates the general framework necessary to manage nuisance aquatic vegetation to protect water access, quality, and public health and safety while balancing the needs of a healthy aquatic ecosystem," said Magin. The treatment proposal has been submitted to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and approved, in compliance with the new Statewide Vegetation Management Plan.

According to Magin, the new TPWD Statewide Vegetation Management Plan requires anyone, including individual homeowners, to submit a treatment proposal to GBRA and TPWD before they can remove any nuisance vegetation from their property or waterfront. This includes removal by hand as well as use of herbicides. "We want the public to understand the requirements of this new Plan so that they will follow the proper procedures to stay within the law," said Magin.

The GBRA vegetation management policy also provides for review by a public advisory committee. The treatment plan for Lake Wood was developed with the assistance of a committee of residents from area lakes, representatives from area water supply corporations, lake user groups and organizations who met to review the current treatment plan.

Additional information about the Lake Wood treatment and the Statewide Vegetation Management Plan is available at the GBRA General Office, 933 East Court Street in Seguin. For specific information about the project or the aquatic herbicides, contact Magin at 830/379-5822.