



NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
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GBRA Inflates Salt Water Barrier; Issues Boating Caution

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SEGUIN- The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority is taking steps to protect local water supplies from salt water contamination, as drought conditions trigger declining river flows and levels.

“The Guadalupe River Basin is experiencing severe drought,” said Herb Wittliff, manager for GBRA’s Calhoun County Operations. Today’s Canyon Reservoir elevation is 905.08 feet mean sea level (msl), almost four feet below its conservation pool level of 909 feet msl, and reservoir inflows are trickling in at 12 cubic feet per second (cfs). The Guadalupe River flow as measured at Victoria is only 30 percent of normal.

“Since the river stage at the Lower Guadalupe Diversion Dam and Salt Water Barrier near Tivoli is just 1.7 feet above mean sea level, GBRA will activate the barrier this Thursday by inflating both the inboard and outboard fabridam bags at the structure,” said Wittliff. “This will prevent salt water from migrating upstream past the barrier, as flows continue to decline, and entering GBRA’s diversion system that delivers raw water from the Guadalupe River to municipal, industrial and agricultural users in Calhoun County.”

Because a 2 to 4 foot drop in water level is possible from the upstream to the downstream side of the Salt Water Barrier when activated, GBRA has issued a boating caution for anyone who uses the lower Guadalupe River near Tivoli for water recreation or commercial fishing. Warning signs will be posted and lights illuminated for night time conditions.

Attempting to pass through the structure in a boat while the barrier is in operation could result in serious injury, or possible loss of life. Boaters on the upstream side should stay a safe distance away from the structure to avoid being carried downstream by a strong current.

The Lower Guadalupe Diversion Dam and Salt Water Barrier was built in 1965 by GBRA and is located near Tivoli, about 10 miles upstream of the mouth of the Guadalupe River. The barrier is designed to allow river flows to pass through at all times. When the barrier is activated, upstream water pools to the top of the bags and then continues its normal flow over the bags and downstream. When not in operation, the fabridam bags are deflated and lie flat on the river bottom.

The barrier will remain in operation until river conditions improve. While GBRA is aware of the inconvenience to the boating public, operation of this structure is essential to safeguard water supplies for agricultural, industrial and municipal drinking water use. For more information, contact the GBRA Port Lavaca Water Treatment Plant at (361) 552-9751.