



NEWS

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

TNRCC executive director gives final approval to GBRA Canyon Permit Amendment

**For more information, contact Judy Gardner, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority —
830/379-5822; or email jgardner@gbra.org**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 14, 2001

“It’s official – and we are absolutely delighted,” said Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) general manager W. E. “Bill” West, Jr. after receiving word that Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) executive director Jeff Saitas had officially approved GBRA’s Canyon Reservoir Permit Amendment. West was notified that the amendment was issued on August 9.

“The additional water from this amendment was an integral part of the last two State Water Plans prepared by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), and is a key element of the current Region L Water Plan and the new State Water Plan,” said West. “This permit is also important because it is the first project in the new State Water Plan to reach the permit stage of implementation.”

“The people and communities who need this water have been tremendously patient throughout this long process. We are deeply grateful for their support and encouragement,” said West. “GBRA can now proceed with several regional water supply projects that will bring them a firm supply of treated surface water.”

Some communities that currently rely on wells drilled into the limited groundwater supplies of the Trinity and Edwards Aquifers experience water quality and quantity problems during times of low rainfall or drought.

“The cities of Boerne, Fair Oaks Ranch and Bulverde have all contracted with GBRA to purchase water through the Western Canyon Water Supply Project,” said West. “With the permit amendment approved, we hope to begin construction on the drinking water treatment plant and pipeline that will deliver water to these cities, as well as other entities in western Comal and Kendall Counties.”

Bulverde residents have been observing strict water conservation since last summer. During May, June and July 2001, a continuous convoy of tanker trucks from the Bexar Metropolitan Water District (BMWD) have hauled in the several million gallons needed to supply nearly one-half the water

-more-more-more

required by Bulverde Hills. Other subdivisions, including Oak Village North and Oaks North have also required outside water to supplement their daily needs. "Hopefully, this will be the last year Bulverde will need to truck in drinking water for its citizens," said West.

West said another beneficiary is the Canyon Lake Water Supply Corporation (CLWSC), which needed the permit amendment approval in order to expand its existing drinking water treatment plant. CLWSC will now be able to provide water to more people in its service area.

CLWSC will also treat Canyon Lake water that will be used as a backup supply by the City of Blanco during extended dry periods. Currently, Blanco must rely on the Blanco River and has no supplemental, emergency supply to meet the needs of its citizens.

The approved permit amendment was also eagerly anticipated by several Hays County communities, including San Marcos, Kyle and Buda. "San Marcos currently buys Canyon Lake water which is treated at the city's new drinking water plant and delivered to area residents. They will now be able to purchase additional water and expand their treatment plant to meet future growth needs. In addition, some of this new capacity can supply the communities of Kyle and Buda that currently pump from the Edwards Aquifer. Reducing the use of Edwards Aquifer wells also results in greater springflow at New Braunfels and San Marcos," said West.

GBRA is also committing staff and funding for two additional projects that will directly benefit the Canyon Lake area. An economic benefit study will begin this month with preparation of the Request for Qualifications and Scope of Work.

Once a study contract is awarded, the overall work should be completed within one year at a cost of approximately \$100,000. Study issues include flood control and water supply reliability, operating scenarios, upstream and downstream recreation, public safety, public access at ramps and marinas, economic issues and comparison to other Texas water supply lakes. According to West, "the study will quantify the many aspects of Canyon Lake to the entire river basin."

A second project costing about \$130,000 will fund a water quality study of the Canyon Lake area. The study will include investigating the impacts of the growth and development in the surrounding area and would support efforts to analyze land uses, land development and population densities, and identify areas currently served by wastewater plants and septic tanks. The study will also investigate opportunities for regional wastewater treatment facilities to serve the area.

The study is being co-sponsored by the TWDB and Comal County. TWDB is providing a \$65,000 Regional Facility Planning Grant that will be matched by GBRA with funds and in-kind services totaling \$60,000. Comal County will provide in-kind services of \$5,000.