



NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
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GBRA to close Lake Wood for water hyacinth control

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SEGUIN- The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) will apply a second treatment of the aquatic herbicide, Weedar 64 to water hyacinth in Lake Wood (H-5) on Thursday, May 30 to help improve access to these lakes.

“The lake will be closed to the public until laboratory analysis are completed. GBRA then hopes to reopen the lake before the weekend,” said Debbie Magin, GBRA director of water quality services.

“Weedar 64, whose active ingredient is 2,4-D, is approved for aquatic use by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency,” said Magin. “It will be used on water hyacinth infesting Lake Wood. The Gonzales County WSC will suspend pumping from the lake for up to 30 hours and use its alternative water sources”.

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 Statewide Vegetation Management Plan.

According to Magin, the 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 the statewide 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 that met to review the current treatment plan.

Additional information about the Gonzales area treatments 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 Debbie Magin at 830/379-5822.