

## The Lower Guadalupe Water Supply Project



GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY

**Guadalupe-Blanco  
River Authority**  
933 East Court Street  
Seguin, Texas 78155  
830-379-5822  
1-800-413-5822  
FAX 830-379-9718  
www.gbra.org



**SAN ANTONIO  
RIVER AUTHORITY**  
Water Brings Us Together

**San Antonio  
River Authority**  
100 E. Guenchar Street  
P.O. Box 839980  
San Antonio, Texas 78283  
210-227-1373  
1-866-345-7272  
FAX 210-227-4323  
www.sara-tx.org



**San Antonio  
Water System**  
1001 E. Market Street  
P.O. Box 2449  
San Antonio, Texas 78298  
210-704-7297  
FAX 210-704-7374  
www.saws.org

## NEWS RELEASE

For more information contact Judy Gardner, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority — 830-379-5822; Suzanne Scott, San Antonio River Authority — 210-302-3613; or John Boggess, San Antonio Water System— 210-704-7297.

January 15, 2003

### **GBRA, SARA and SAWS APPROVE A NON-BINDING LETTER OF INTENT WITH REFUGIO COUNTY PROPERTY OWNER**

*Agreement requires assessment of the sustainability of the  
Gulf Coast Aquifer*

Today, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority and the San Antonio River Authority boards approved a letter of intent with J.F. Welder Heirs, Ltd. for the purpose of developing a sustainable supply of groundwater from the Gulf Coast Aquifer from property owned by the Welder family in Refugio County. The groundwater will be utilized in connection with the Lower Guadalupe Water Supply Project (LGWSP), and is part of the SB1 regional water plan. The San Antonio Water System board – the other partner in this project – approved the letter of intent at their meeting yesterday.

“Groundwater and surface water resources are both important to the success of this project,” said Steve Raabe, program manager for the project. “The goal of the project is to provide a supplemental supply of water for San Antonio and for the people along the Guadalupe and San Antonio rivers south of San Antonio while ensuring adequate in flow for the bays and estuary. Groundwater resources help us ensure we can do that.”

GBRA, SARA and SAWS are conducting preliminary studies to review the viability and sustainability of this groundwater resource for the project. The letter of intent allows the project partners access to the property and the groundwater for the purpose of conducting tests, studies, test drilling and other related activities including the evaluation of the quality and quantity of the groundwater. The letter of intent provides that scientific methodology established by the partners will be used to confirm that withdrawal of groundwater from the property does not compromise the sustainability of the Gulf Coast Aquifer. Based upon the outcome of these studies, the partners may move toward a final agreement with Welder Heirs later this year.

## The Lower Guadalupe Water Supply Project

January 15, 2003  
Page 2 of 2

The terms of the non-binding letter of intent for the groundwater from the property could potentially produce at least 20,000 acre-feet/year, subject to the permits issued by the Refugio County Groundwater Conservation District.

“The partners for this project and the landowner are committed to studying and implementing this project without negative impact on the region’s groundwater supply or the environment,” said Raabe. “We believe this is an important step toward resolving the region’s water needs in a responsible manner.”

According to James Dodson, water resource manager for J.F. Welder Heirs, Ltd., “We’ve been studying the hydrology of this resource for about five years and have determined that the groundwater system is capable of sustaining these levels of use and will make a significant contribution to the success of the LGWSP. We have been a part of this community for many, many years, and are committed to doing what we believe is right for this area.”

The Lower Guadalupe Water Supply Project is a joint project of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, the San Antonio River Authority and the San Antonio Water System. The project is included in the approved State of Texas Water Plan . The water delivered by the project will supply water to the South Central Texas Region including Bexar County, portions of the GBRA’s ten-county statutory district and the SARA’s four-county statutory district beginning in 2011. The project partners are committed to conducting in-depth environmental, hydrologic and engineering studies to analyze the possible environmental effects of this project before it is implemented. The project partners are committed to providing ample opportunity for public involvement as the project moves forward.