



NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
933 EAST COURT STREET, SEGUIN, TEXAS 78155

GBRA Statement in response to SAWS Letter to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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SEGUIN-

- The Lower Guadalupe Water Supply Project (LGWSP), as part of the state-approved Region L Water Plan, is important to the entire Guadalupe River Basin and to the San Antonio region.
- The alternative water supplied by the Project can protect spring flows from the Comal and San Marcos Springs, as well as the bay and estuary system that depends on that base flow from the Guadalupe River system, with effective Edwards Aquifer management.
- As a cornerstone of the Region L Plan, the LGWSP would be a source of supply that would give San Antonio a foundation for developing other permanent water supplies.
- However, GBRA cannot tolerate any set of circumstances – whether they be activities that effectively modify the terms of the LGWSP agreement between GBRA, the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) and the San Antonio River Authority (SARA); rule changes; or legislation – that have the potential to threaten the spring flow to the Guadalupe and San Marcos Rivers.
- The Comal and San Marcos springs are the lifeblood of the Guadalupe River.
- The recent unilateral action by SAWS requesting U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to review and potentially decrease the current minimum spring flow requirements set by them -- with the potential to further increase pumping from the Edwards Aquifer -- raises a red flag about the impact on Guadalupe River spring flow.
- Such action may well constitute a breach of the May 10, 2002 agreement for the LGWSP.
- GBRA's first job is to be a good steward of the Guadalupe River.
- We must make sure the river's integrity is not harmed – for the sake of the hundreds of thousands of people in the Guadalupe Basin who depend on the Guadalupe for their municipal, industrial and agricultural water supplies; their livelihood; their recreation; and to preserve the environment, wildlife and natural beauty of the river and the estuary and bays it feeds.
- Therefore, GBRA must now carefully re-evaluate the situation and project. It is important that we receive assurances that the spring flows into the Guadalupe River will continue to be protected and that all of the sponsors of the LGWSP are committed to the fundamental purposes of the Project.
- We have been in conversations with SAWS and SARA, and will be scheduling a meeting to address this situation.