



NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
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Statement by Bill West, General Manager Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

Lower Guadalupe Water Supply Project to be Reconfigured: Environmental Studies to Proceed; Groundwater to be Dropped

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SEGUIN..... The Board of Directors of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority today unanimously instructed staff to pursue completion of the environmental studies that are already underway and were a part of the Lower Guadalupe Water Supply Project (LGWSP), and to develop options for a reconfigured project that meets the long-term needs of GBRA's 10-county statutory district in conjunction with the Region L Water Plan.

Key adjustments will include the removal of the Gulf Coast Aquifer groundwater component and direction to seek another partner or partners.

The environmental studies include research on whooping cranes, being conducted by Texas A&M University, and on instream flow and bays and estuaries, being conducted by the University of Texas at Austin.

GBRA's prime responsibilities are to protect the Guadalupe River for all those who depend on it and to provide a reliable water supply for the people, communities and businesses up and down the river.

Spring flow from the Comal and San Marcos springs is the lifeblood of the Guadalupe River, and we will use every means at our disposal to prevent over-pumping of the Edwards Aquifer from harming that spring flow.

Even as we continue our role as protector of the river, a reconfigured and smaller project will enable GBRA to supply water from the lower Guadalupe River to the rapidly growing counties in the upper end of the Guadalupe Basin: Kendall, Comal, Hays and Guadalupe, as well as Kerr. This will help meet the future water needs of these counties – and the cities of Boerne, New Braunfels, San Marcos, Seguin, Buda, Kyle and Kerrville.

Such a project could be capable of serving communities in the lower Guadalupe Basin, including Victoria.

The most controversial aspect of the LGWSP was groundwater, which would have involved wells in the Victoria area.

GBRA believes that a reconfigured project should remain a vital component of the Region L Water Plan, helping stabilize water supplies throughout the GBRA statutory district. With a strong, reliable supply for this project available out of GBRA's existing water rights in the lower Guadalupe River, we believe other entities will step forward to join us in completing such a project.