



Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
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San Marcos Water Treatment Plant Receives TOP OPS Award

For More Information

JULY 22, 2008

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SAN MARCOS -The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) staff presented the distinguished state TOP OPS Award to the City of San Marcos and the San Marcos Water Treatment Plant operators at the San Marcos Water Treatment Plant, Monday, July 21. Mayor of San Marcos, Susan Narvaiz; City Manager Rick Menchaca; Director of Water/Wastewater Utilities, Tom Taggart; and Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority General Manager, Bill West attended the presentation and press conference.

The TOP OPS Award was presented as part of a voluntary, non-regulatory program created to improve standards of existing surface water treatment plants without major capitol improvements. A comprehensive performance evaluation by the TCEQ technical review and oversight team determined that the water plant operators had successfully met all rigorous criteria for their TOP OPS goals involved with surface water treatment for a 12-month period.

"The GBRA San Marcos operations team is very excited to be recognized by the TCEQ for the second consecutive time in the TOP OPS program," said Jerry Sharp, GBRA's San Marcos Water Treatment Plant manager. "We look forward to operating under the TOP OPS guidelines for a long time to come, and truly appreciate the recognition for both GBRA and the City of San Marcos. It shows our customers how well this plant performs on a continuous basis."

Director of Water/Wastewater Utilities for the City of San Marcos, Thomas Taggart said "Significant operation awards, like the TOP OPS designation, show that our operators and city staff exercise care while performing this critical public service. This is an outstanding commendation for the facility and the GBRA operators. It is a milestone for the regional facility and validates our citizen's commitment and sacrifice to protect our aquifer and ensure our future area water supply through building the plant."

"While we appreciate the recognition by meeting the standards established by the TCEQ program, many of our constituents are aware that GBRA's expectations of itself have always been high and our employees work hard to ensure those expectations are met," GBRA General Manager Bill West said.

GBRA is the contract operator for the City of San Marcos' water treatment plant that began operation in January 2000. This facility uses surface water from Canyon Reservoir to reduce the city's pumping from the Edwards Aquifer by an average of 75 percent and existing city wells are used to supplement peak demand periods.

"The City's foresight in building such a facility and GBRA's commitment to excellence should assure our customers that they will be receiving the highest quality water possible in the future," said Sharp.

The GBRA was established by the Texas Legislature in 1933 as a water conservation and reclamation district. GBRA provides stewardship for the water resources in its 10-county statutory district, which begins near the headwaters of the Guadalupe and Blanco rivers, ends at San Antonio Bay, and includes Kendall, Comal, Hays, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Gonzales, DeWitt, Victoria, Calhoun, and Refugio counties.