



Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
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GBRA will Treat Gonzales-Area Lakes to Control Waterhyacinth

For More Information

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SEGUIN- Beginning the week of March 9, 2009, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA), in partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), will initiate the 2009 vegetation management program to control waterhyacinth in Lake Gonzales (H-4) and Lake Wood (H-5). The program is a continuation of the program initiated in 2008 to control or remove excessive vegetation and improve navigation on these lakes. The treatment should be completed within the week. Portions of each lake may be restricted for a brief period during the treatments.

The lakes will be treated with aquatic herbicide. "Weedar 64, whose active ingredient is 2,4-D, is approved for aquatic use by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency," said GBRA Director of Water Quality Services, Debbie Magin. "It will be used on waterhyacinth infesting both Lake Gonzales and Lake Wood. The Gonzales County Water Supply Corporation that is located near the dam will be down for repairs, allowing the use of 2,4-D on Lake Wood. The Gonzales County WSC will not be pumping from the lake during the time of the herbicide treatment."

Site-specific use restrictions will be posted in the treatment areas on the lakes and at public boat ramps on each lake.

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," Magin said. The treatment proposals have been submitted to the 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 any nuisance vegetation can be removed from their property or waterfront. "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.

Additional information about the Gonzales area treatments and the Statewide Vegetation Management Plans are available at the GBRA General Office, 933 East Court Street in Seguin. For specific information about the project or the aquatic herbicides, contact Magin at (830)379-5822.

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.

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