



Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority  
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## Algae Bloom Adds Taste and Odor to Water

### GBRA Officials Introduce Chlorine Treatment- Water Is Safe

#### For More Information

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SEGUIN - Algae bloom at the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority's Western Canyon Water Treatment Plant (WCWTP) last week brought about an odd taste and odor to treated water, but posed no health threat.

According to GBRA Division Manager Mike Urrutia, WCWTP personnel detected an atypical taste and odor in the treated water at the plant on Thursday, July 8, 2010. Plant operators began testing to determine the origin of the problem and identified an algae bloom in the back wash basin area of the water treatment plant.

Immediately, WCWTP operators began a chlorination treatment to mitigate the problem. The chlorination treatment killed the algae. Algae do not pose a health threat. The water is safe and customers may continue to use it.

"On Friday, July 9, 2010, plant operators monitoring the situation indicated the taste and odor had improved substantially, however, a slight taste and odor was still detectable," Urrutia said. "Operators continued the chlorination treatment."

The chlorination treatments continued on Saturday and Sunday, July 10 and 11, 2010. The plant operators traveled to all delivery points to test the water Sunday and at that time no taste or odor issues were detected at the delivery points.

As a precaution, on Monday, July 12, 2010, Western Canyon personnel continued to perform the chlorination treatment in the back wash basin. Urrutia said that plant staff would continue monitoring at the Western Canyon and all the delivery points for the next several days.

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.