



Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
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www.gbra.org

Regional Water/Wastewater Study Available

Public Meeting To Be Held

For More Information

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The Guadalupe Blanco River Authority (GBRA) is pleased to announce the availability of the Draft Final Report of the Kendall County and the City of Fair Oaks Ranch Regional Water and Wastewater Planning Study on the GBRA website at www.gbra.org/Library/KendallCountyPlanningStudy.aspx. The public is encouraged to review the documents and comment to the GBRA on this study which was partially funded by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).

The final public meeting for this study will be held on September 14, 2010 at 5.30 pm at the Boerne Community Center. GBRA invites you to attend this final meeting and provide your comments and inputs. You can also email Debbie Magin, the GBRA Project Manager for the project, at dmagin@gbra.org with questions or comments.

Bill West, General Manager for the GBRA, spoke at the first public meeting in Boerne to discuss this technical study. He said that Kendall County, including all of the City of Fair Oaks Ranch, continues to grow in population and associated commercial development; therefore, it is important to properly plan and manage the future water supply and wastewater facilities in the County and the City and to protect water quality in the region. In his introductory remarks at the project's kickoff meeting earlier this year, Michael Scholz, a Kendall County resident who serves on the GBRA Board of Directors, also stressed the need of water resources and wastewater planning in Kendall County as the County continues to grow and develop.

The GBRA's Kendall County study evaluated facilities needed to meet future demands in Kendall County and the City of Fair Oaks Ranch through a thirty year planning period from 2010 to 2040 and looked at measures needed to protect the surface water quality and groundwater supplies of the region. The study investigated potential regional management facilities for water and wastewater associated with development through this planning period.

At the request of GBRA and the TWDB, a local advisory committee was organized to provide input to the study team. The Advisory Committee included various stakeholders and interest groups in the region to enhance local participation and inclusion of local knowledge throughout the study.

Kendall County's population is expected to grow from 35,720 in 2010 to 78,690 in 2040. Over the thirty year planning period, small amounts of water shortages are projected to occur in most of the study area except for northern Kendall County. The study planners indicate that the northern Kendall County population can continue to grow using groundwater wells, while those areas south of the Guadalupe River will generally require a mix of surface and groundwater for their future water supply needs. Conservation measures, drought management practices, rainwater harvesting, wastewater reuse, and brush management are all recommended as some of the effective measures that can be taken to address the water shortages in the study area during the planning period. John Kight, a Board Member of the Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District and member of the study Advisory Committee, strongly supports rainwater harvesting in this region. However, for longer term needs of the region as a whole, it is important to investigate and develop other surface water supply sources.

For wastewater needs in the County, various regional wastewater treatment plant options were evaluated for the county. Northern Kendall County is expected to continue to depend on on-site sewage facilities for wastewater needs while the rest of the county is expected to require a mix of regional and local wastewater treatment facilities and on-site sewage facilities. Appropriate training and education on maintenance for individual homeowners with on-site sewage facilities is encouraged to allow proper maintenance of the systems and reduce accidental discharges to the area's streams. The GBRA has specific programs to provide eight hours of

training for individual wastewater treatment system owners and offers this service throughout Kendall County.

Water quality in the streams and rivers of Kendall County is generally good. The Guadalupe River provides a high quality recreational asset to the citizens of Kendall County and for the entire region. The water quality study efforts conducted for this study demonstrated that requiring a high standard of wastewater treatment can maintain the quality of water in the river; however, the increased level of pollutants from increased growth and urbanization in this area must also be addressed. Maintaining high quality of water in Kendall County was identified by Debbie Magin, Water Quality Director at GBRA and project manager on this study, as of high priority.

Generalized water quality modeling was done for the Guadalupe River and Cibolo Creek as a part of this study. Results showed that maintaining high standards for wastewater treatment facility discharges is important, but in the case of some parameters, storm water discharges from urbanized areas, called non-point source pollutant loadings, have a much larger impact. Non-point source pollutant loadings are identified as one of the key contributors of possible future water pollution in Kendall County. For the Cibolo Creek watersheds, high fecal coliform concentrations in storm water runoff are expected to remain a concern if proper preventative measures are not implemented in the future.

Implementation of preventative measures and best management practices are recommended to reduce non-point source pollution in the region. The Upper Cibolo Creek Watershed Partnership (UCCWP) is a proactive step in protecting and restoring water quality within Upper Cibolo Creek. The UCCWP is responsible for developing a non-regulatory Watershed Protection Plan to promote awareness and initiate action in reducing nonpoint source pollution within the watershed.

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.