



Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
933 E. Court Street, Seguin TX 78155
www.gbra.org

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March 11, 2011

Buda Wastewater Treatment Plant Named Plant of the Year

For more information

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The Buda Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), owned by the City of Buda and operated by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA), earned the Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Year Category 1 Award from the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT).

The Buda facility met all permit requirements of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). "We recognize the high standards of the Buda Plant and they serve as an example to other wastewater treatment plants in the same category," said WEAT Executive Director, Carol Batterton.

Utilizing their technical expertise, a safe working environment, and consistent facilities maintenance, the Buda wastewater operators manage the facility and systematically produce high quality effluent necessary to protect the sensitive waters of the Guadalupe River basin.

"The award from WEAT is confirmation that GBRA staff is not only competent, but highly skilled in their crafts and take great pride in their work," Bill West, GBRA general manager said. "The Buda plant is another in a line of consistently excellent GBRA operations that has been recognized by its peers in the industry," he added.

"The City of Buda is delighted to receive this award. This is another example of achieving the city's goal of providing excellent customer service to the citizens of Buda." Kenneth Williams, Buda city manager said. "We thank GBRA for their important role in making this honor possible."

GBRA Chief Operator, Ed Boettner, supervises all aspects of the Buda Plant, while licensed wastewater operators, Dennis Walker, Allan Smith, and Fred Hernandez operate and maintain the plant and perform process control monitoring. Boettner holds a "B" wastewater license and a class II collections systems license. Walker holds an "A" wastewater license, while Smith holds a "C" wastewater license, and Hernandez holds a "D" wastewater license. These operators also are responsible for three additional wastewater treatment systems, including the Wimberley Plant, Shadow Creek Collection System and Plant, and the Sunfield Plant.

"Our professional operators at the Buda Wastewater Treatment Plant are just that-professionals," Jim Murphy, GBRA deputy general manager said. "Each one of our operators takes pride in their daily operations, producing a great example of team work that has made the Buda Wastewater Treatment Plant what it is today," he added.

In order for a plant to consistently meet its permit requirements, operators not only have to be technically competent and work safely, but also have to incorporate facilities maintenance into daily operations. GBRA utilizes an aggressive preventive and predictive maintenance program to ensure the equipment operates at peak performance. The Buda staff uses a computerized maintenance management system (CMMS), which tracks preventive maintenance activities, generates work orders, and logs scheduled and non-scheduled tasks as they are completed. All major and critical equipment and related components are included in the CMMS. Predictive maintenance practices utilize advanced technology for anticipating and diagnosing equipment problems.

This year's wastewater treatment plant of the year award will be presented April 7 at the 2011 Texas Water Conference in Fort Worth, Texas.

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,



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Calhoun, and Refugio counties.