



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

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Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority negotiating with Walton International with goal of bringing More Water to the I-35/TX-130 Corridors

For more information

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SEGUIN, TEXAS – Officials with the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) and Walton International (Walton) have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) today to negotiate toward a plan to bring new water to the fast-developing region of Hays, Caldwell, Comal, Guadalupe and Gonzales counties and, together with other stakeholders, positioning it for responsible and sustainable growth.

“With this LOI, we have made substantial progress in making GBRA’s Mid-Basin Water Supply Project viable,” Bill West, GBRA general manager said. “If negotiations prove successful, Walton will become an anchor partner, taking a substantial amount of the 25,000 acre-feet of water delivered by the project,” he added.

The action brings GBRA’s Mid-Basin Project, which is a recommended strategy in the 2011 South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group’s projects in the State Water Plan, closer to fruition. While there is much work to do over the next several months, Walton and GBRA hope to work together on necessary governmental, environmental and regulatory permits, on construction, and on funding the project through available public and private financing options. In December, the Texas Water Development Board awarded GBRA a \$4.4 million loan from its Water Infrastructure Fund to finance development costs of GBRA’s Mid-Basin Project, which comprises the use of both surface and groundwater.

“The letter of intent we’ve signed with GBRA is the first step in a process we hope will bring a new, reliable supply of water to this growing region. Walton works with every community where it does business to advance economic development, intended to benefit everyone – the community, its residents, its businesses, and Walton as a stakeholder” said Alexa Knight, of Walton. “Once signed, the LOI initiates a 90-day process of negotiation with the GBRA. We look forward to working with all stakeholders in the I-35 and Texas 130 corridors to ensure this course of action delivers a public-private partnership that leads to the development of vibrant communities where people can live, work and play.”

U.S. Census Bureau data indicated a 61 percent increase in the Hays County population from 2000 to 2010 and nearly a 40 percent change in Comal County, West explained, noting, “There is no reason to believe that trend will reverse anytime soon. A critical need has developed within our statutory district and we are working diligently to help address it.”

Walton also participates in the Greater San Marcos Partnership, which is working to bring new economic development and jobs to these key corridors in Central Texas.

About Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

GBRA was established by the Texas Legislature in 1933 and provides stewardship for the water resources in its ten-county statutory district, which begins near the headwaters of the Guadalupe and Blanco Rivers, and ends at San Antonio Bay. GBRA’s planning and resource development efforts are carefully coordinated within the broader consideration of regional and statewide water needs in order to fulfill GBRA’s mission of protecting, conserving, reclaiming and stewarding the resources of its 10-county district to ensure and promote quality of life for the constituents it serves.

About Walton

In business for more than 30 years, the Walton Group currently manages approximately

\$3.1 billion USD of pre-development and development real estate assets, including nearly 65,000 acres of land in Alberta,



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Ontario, Arizona, Texas, Georgia, Virginia, Maryland, and North and South Carolina on behalf of investors around the world, including primarily North America, Europe and Asia, and for the Walton Group. Headquartered in Calgary, the Walton Group also has offices in Toronto, Hong Kong, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Scottsdale (Arizona, USA) and Hamburg (Germany).

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