

**NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
AND NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING
FOR EIGHTEEN TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS**

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ or commission) has made available for public comment eighteen draft total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for bacteria in Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous and Tributaries (Segments 1013, 1013A, 1013C, 1014, 1014A, 1014B, 1014E, 1014H, 1014K, 1014L, 1014M, 1014N, 1014O, 1017, 1017A, 1017B, 1017D, and 1017E) of the San Jacinto River Basin, located in Waller, Harris, and Fort Bend Counties. The TCEQ will conduct a public meeting to receive comments on the draft TMDLs. This announcement also constitutes notice that the TMDLs will become part of the State Water Quality Management Plan upon approval by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Texas is required to develop TMDLs for impaired water bodies included in the State of Texas Clean Water Act, §303(d) list of impaired water bodies. A TMDL is a detailed water quality assessment that provides the scientific foundation to allocate pollutant loads in a certain body of water in order to restore and maintain designated uses.

The TCEQ will conduct a public meeting on the draft TMDLs for bacteria in Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous and Tributaries (Segments 1013, 1013A, 1013C, 1014, 1014A, 1014B, 1014E, 1014H, 1014K, 1014L, 1014M, 1014N, 1014O, 1017, 1017A, 1017B, 1017D, and 1017E). The purpose of the public meeting is to provide the public an opportunity to comment on the draft TMDLs. The commission requests comment on each of the major components of the TMDL: problem definition, endpoint identification, source analysis, seasonal variation, linkage between sources and receiving waters, margin of safety, pollutant loading allocation, public participation, and implementation and reasonable assurances. After the public comment period, TCEQ staff may revise the TMDLs, if appropriate. The final TMDLs will then be considered by the commission for adoption. Upon adoption of the TMDLs by

the commission, the final TMDLs and a response to all comments will be made available on the TCEQ Web site. The TMDLs will then be submitted to EPA Region 6 for approval. Upon approval, the TMDLs will be certified as an update to the State of Texas Water Quality Management Plan.

The public comment meeting will be held on **June 9, 2008, 4:00 p.m., at the Houston-Galveston Area Council, Conference Room A, 3555 Timmons, Houston, Texas, 77027.** At this meeting individuals have the opportunity to present oral statements when called upon in order of registration. An agency staff member will give a brief presentation at the start of the meeting and will be available to answer questions before and after all public comments have been received.

Written comments should be submitted to Ron Stein, Water Programs Division, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, MC 203, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas, 78711-3087 or faxed to (512) 239-1414.

All comments must be received by **5:00 p.m., July 5, 2008**, and should reference, ***Eighteen Total Maximum Daily Loads for Bacteria in Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous and Tributaries, For Segment Numbers 1013, 1013A, 1013C, 1014, 1014A, 1014B, 1014E, 1014H, 1014K, 1014L, 1014M, 1014N, 1014O, 1017, 1017A, 1017B, 1017D, and 1017E.*** For further information regarding the draft TMDLs, please contact Ron Stein, Water Programs Division, at (512) 239-4507 or rstein@tceq.state.tx.us. Copies of the draft TMDL document will be available and can be obtained via the commission's Web site at: <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/tmdlcalendar.html> or by calling Diana Washington at (512) 239-6682.

Persons with disabilities who have special communication or other accommodation needs who are planning to attend the meeting should contact Diana Washington at (512) 239-6682. Requests should be made as far in advance as possible.