

Mr. Ron Stein, Program Lead  
Total Maximum Daily Load Program  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
MC-203  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Subject: Letter of Support from the Jarbo Bayou TMDL Plan Coordination Committee for the Inclusion of the Jarbo Bayou Watershed within the BIG Project Area

Dear Mr. Stein:

The Jarbo Bayou Implementation Plan Coordination Committee (Coordination Committee) requests that TCEQ consider allowing the committee to join the Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) and begin implementing the BIG implementation plan. In merging with the BIG, the Coordination Committee would satisfy the requirement to develop an implementation plan to achieve bacteria reductions in the Jarbo Bayou watershed. This plan is the effort developed by local and regional stakeholders to achieve the water quality standard for contact recreation in the region's bayous and tributaries.

The Jarbo Bayou plan process was initiated in December 2013 with a public meeting. A coordination committee representing the region's cities, counties and political subdivisions, and private sector agriculture/business, non-profits, and residents was formed March 6, 2014. The committee designated four technical work groups that met to review excerpts of TCEQ-approved implementation plans and to consider the question of whether to join the BIG in implementing its plan, or to develop a standalone implementation plan for their watersheds. The Coordination Committee deliberated the recommendations of the technical work groups and voted eight to one to join with the BIG. In an effort to encourage implementation and familiarize watershed stakeholders with the plan, the Coordination Committee approached other local entities, and their letters of support are attached to this letter.

Coordination Committee members found that common stakeholders, similar concerns, cost efficiencies, and the desire to initiate implementation were reasons among others to support joining the BIG. The Jarbo watershed lies adjacent to the BIG Project Area. There are several organizations on the Coordination Committee affected by the BIG as a portion of the jurisdiction that is included in the BIG Project Area. Additionally, the Coordination Committee found that they share many common bacteria sources with the BIG, from wastewater treatment facilities and on-site sewage facilities, to stormwater management and residents, which were adequately addressed in the BIG's plan. The Coordination Committee found that joining the BIG presents an opportunity to conserve costs while allowing for a shorter timeframe from which to begin implementation.

The Coordination Committee noted during this planning process that the Jarbo Bayou watershed is unique in some ways when compared to the BIG Project Area. Specifically, the Jarbo watershed will bring to the BIG features found in coastal areas such as boaters and marinas, which are a potential source of bacteria. To address these differences, the

Coordination Committee will recommend in its petition to join the BIG, that the BIG consider the following modifications to the plan or implementation planning process:

- 1) Address a lack of representation on the BIG from coastal communities;
- 2) Continue to allow the Jarbo Coordination Committee to meet;
- 3) Encourage a broader more unified region-wide educational and environmental awareness campaign concerning bacteria and the BIG; and
- 4) Consider addressing the topic of boaters and marinas within the BIG implementation plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to work together on improving water quality in the region.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

The Jarbo Bayou Implementation Plan Coordination Committee

Implementation Plan for One TMDL for Bacteria in Gilleland Creek

TRANSPORTATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
JOSEPH P. GIESELMAN, EXECUTIVE MANAGER  
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



411 West 13th Street  
Executive Office Building  
PO Box 1748  
Austin, Texas 78767  
(512) 854-9383  
FAX (512) 854-4697

September 21, 2010

Dear Ms. Ross:

The purpose of this letter is to express support and pledge our participation in the Gilleland Creek Implementation Plan. Travis County is committed to the reduction of bacteria concentrations in the Gilleland Creek watershed through the approach outlined in the Gilleland Creek Implementation Plan.

Travis County understands the Gilleland Creek Implementation Plan document is a planning tool that contains feasible proposals for bacteria reduction in the Gilleland Creek watershed, that participation in the plan is strictly voluntary, and that, if funding cannot be secured for any of the measures contained in the plan, there is not a legal obligation to comply with the provisions of the plan. Travis County also understands that under 30 TAC §309.2(b), the TCEQ has the legal authority to set effluent criteria stringent enough to protect contact recreation in Gilleland Creek if voluntary measures do not result in the achievement of Water Quality Standards in Gilleland Creek.

As a formal measure of the support of Travis County, please accept the enclosed resolution, passed unanimously (4 – 0) on this date by the Commissioners Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas W. Weber".

Thomas W. Weber  
Environmental Quality Program Manager  
Transportation & Natural Resources Department  
[Thomas.Weber@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:Thomas.Weber@co.travis.tx.us)

Enclosure

Travis County Commissioners Court



# Resolution

WHEREAS, Gilleland Creek is a significant, 31-mile long water course in Eastern Travis County with a drainage area of 76 square miles;

WHEREAS, in 2004, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined that Gilleland Creek no longer met standards of water quality deemed safe for contact recreation such as swimming, due to elevated levels of coliform bacteria;

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2009, the EPA approved a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) that establishes pollutant loads of bacteria which can be assimilated into Gilleland Creek while still meeting water quality standards;

WHEREAS, the established TMDL will require reductions to existing pollutant loads into Gilleland Creek to meet water quality standards;

WHEREAS, Travis County staff has worked with the TCEQ and local stakeholders to develop a TMDL Implementation Plan (I-Plan) that includes strategies for eliminating or reducing pollutant sources;

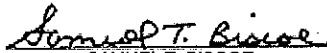
WHEREAS, Travis County staff is committed to prioritizing inspections of on-site sewerage facilities (OSSFs) in the Gilleland Creek watershed where the County is the Authorized Agent, and enforcing compliance with regulations when malfunctioning OSSFs are detected;

WHEREAS, Travis County staff is developing revisions to the Travis County Code that, if approved, would harmonize development requirements of the overlapping jurisdictions in the Gilleland Creek watershed and would implement restrictions that would include development setbacks and further storm water treatment; and

WHEREAS, on August 27, 2010, the TCEQ published the proposed Gilleland Creek TMDL I-Plan seeking public input, before considering formal adoption of the I-Plan.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, THAT the Court supports the August 27, 2010, Gilleland Creek Implementation Plan and pledges its participation to implement the strategies identified in the I-Plan.

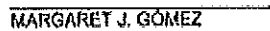
SIGNED AND ENTERED THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2010.

  
SAMUEL T. BISCOE  
COUNTY JUDGE

  
RON DAVIS  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

  
SARAH ECKHARDT  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

  
KAREN L. HUBER  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

  
MARGARET J. GÓMEZ  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

Implementation Plan for One TMDL for Bacteria in Gilleland Creek



September 23, 2010

Mr. Ron Stein  
TMDL Project Manager  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, MC-203  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Re: Gilleland Creek Implementation Plan

Dear Mr. Stein:

As a steward of the lower Colorado River and its tributaries, the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) extends our support and pledges participation in the proposed Gilleland Creek Implementation Plan to reduce bacteria concentrations identified by the Gilleland Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process. LCRA actively participated in the development of the TMDL for Gilleland Creek, and is committed to assisting with the proposed recommendations of the Implementation Plan to restore water quality in this tributary to the Colorado River.

LCRA understands that implementation of proposed measures in the plan is dependent upon available funding and LCRA is under no legal or financial obligation to comply with the provisions therein. However, LCRA appreciates the efforts and planning that have been put forth thus far and recognizes the importance of restoring water quality in Gilleland Creek. LCRA welcomes the opportunity to participate and utilize any of our existing Water Quality programs that may be of use to the implementation process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan Cook". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bryan Cook, Supervisor  
Water Quality



## City of Austin

Austin Water Utility & Watershed Protection Department  
P.O. Box 1088, Austin, Texas 78767

September 24, 2010

Mr. Ron Stein, Program Lead  
Total Maximum Daily Load Program  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
MC-203  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Subject: Letter of Support for the Gilleland Creek TMDL Implementation Plan

Dear Mr. Stein:

On behalf of the City of Austin, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to show our support for the Gilleland Creek TMDL Implementation Plan. As you know, protection of our water resources is a high priority for the City of Austin and its citizens.

The plan contains six management measures that when put into action may help lower the amount of bacteria in Gilleland Creek. Through this letter, we want to express our commitment to help implement those measures. We recognize that the measures are voluntary and not legally binding on the City, especially where insufficient funding or resources would prohibit their implementation. We also recognize – should the voluntary measures alone fall short of lowering bacteria, that 30 TAC §309.2(b) authorizes the TCEQ to establish effluent criteria to supplement the measures and help to achieve the contact recreation standard for Gilleland Creek.

Thank you again for the opportunity to show our support for the Gilleland Creek TMDL Implementation Plan.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Greg Meszaros.

Greg Meszaros, Director  
Austin Water Utility

Handwritten signature of Victoria Li.

Victoria Li, Director  
Watershed Protection Department

*The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request.*