

SAVE CANYON LAKE!

Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) Request for Increased Diversion of Water from Canyon Lake Reservoir

(Certificate of Adjudication No. 18-2074E)

GBRA has submitted a request to the TNRCC to increase the diversion and sale of water from Canyon Lake reservoir, from an average of 50,000 acre feet/year (measured over a five year period) to an average 90,000 af/yr. If approved, this amendment could have a devastating impact on the lake.

In addition to this request, GBRA has separately signed a 50-year deal to pipe 22.8 billion gallons of raw Guadalupe River water annually to Bexar County, beginning five to 10 years from now.

In submitting the request, GBRA did not consider the potentially devastating impact this amendment would have on:

- Recreational activities
- Boat ramp accessibility
- Boats kept in marinas as well as the ability to fuel boats from dockside gas pumps
- Economic hardship on local businesses
- Property values
- Public safety
- Environmental issues including fish, wildlife and wetlands areas
- Water quality and health issues
- Structural integrity of the dam
- Comal County revenues and tax base

Numerous civic groups strongly oppose the approval of this request, and appeared before the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC) on May 9, 2001. The Commission, however, refused to hear from attendees other than Guadalupe River Trout

Unlimited (GRTU). Approval of the GBRA request was tabled until June 20, 2001.

It's not too late for you to help!

Approval of the GBRA request will result in damaging reductions in the level of Canyon Lake that materially affect businesses, property values, recreational use and safety. Also unknown at this time, is the impact to the flow of water from the lake into the Guadalupe River below the dam.

Friends of Canyon Lake are requesting a contested hearing before the TNRCC so these important issues can be addressed.

Your Right to Recreate

Since Canyon Lake was constructed, it, and the Guadalupe River have become one of Texas' most beautiful and utilized recreational areas, attracting tens of thousands of boaters, swimmers and campers who regularly use the lake. The Federal government has "put recreation on an equal footing with other water uses like power generation and irrigation" with the National Recreation Lakes Act of 2001 to bolster recreational use of federal manmade lakes in the US.

GBRA has indicated that it "will attempt to maintain the normal conservation pool level during drought" if its request is granted. This is unrealistic since Guadalupe River inflow is typically reduced to zero during drought. It is at that time - during summer months when the recreational use of the lake and river is greatest - that GBRA proposes to nearly double its current sale of water from the lake.

Significant lowering of the elevation below the normal conservation pool level increases risks to swimmers, skiers, and boaters due to underwater hazards. Many of the beautiful coves on the lake's shoreline will be eliminated. Parks and camping facilities may be inconvenient to the new shoreline, and boat launch ramps unusable. This transitional

reduction in lake level, in turn, raises potential concerns for water quality, mosquito infestation and health due to stagnant pooling.

Five marinas (with hundreds of slips and moorings) are on the lake, and simply cannot accommodate a serious reduction in lake level below the 909' (mean sea level) normal conservation pool level of the lake. Boats and docks will be on the bottom of the lake.

Your Right to Quality of Life

GBRA has not fully addressed the impact to the economic and quality of life issues within the region for which it is accountable under its mission statement as a state agency.

Canyon Lake and the Guadalupe River have become significant economic resources for central Texas through tourism and increased community growth in the area. A serious reduction in the lake level as proposed by GBRA would adversely affect property values on the lake and river, which in turn affects the area's overall tax base. Reduced lake and river recreation revenues for businesses reduce revenues to surrounding communities.

***Too many serious questions remain unanswered!
TNRCC must delay a decision on the GBRA request, until there has been a full and fair examination of the overall impact.***

Legal remedies are being pursued, but overwhelming public support is vital to obtain a contested hearing.

Take Action Now!!!!

For more specific information on the issues and background go to www.FriendsOfCanyonLake.com

What You Can Do To Help

1. *Join* Friends of Canyon Lake. Please send \$10 and other voluntary contributions with your name, address, phone number and email to

Friends of Canyon Lake
P.O. Box 1392
Canyon Lake, TX 78130

2. *Volunteer* time and effort to help us in our public support campaign to prevent the amendment from being approved.
3. *Contact* public officials requesting the TNRCC to deny GBRA's request or delay until they have all the facts.

TNRCC

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Your State Senator can be addressed at:

Texas Senate,
PO Box 12068 – Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711

Your State Representative can be addressed:

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PO Box 2910
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Impact of GBRA Request

In its 40 year history, the lowest level that Canyon Lake has ever been is 899. According to GBRA data, the lake will be at the 903 level 30% of the time, at or below 900, 20% of the time, and at or below 892, 10% of the time.

What happens if TNRCC approves GBRA's amendment?

- At 904', some boat ramps close and the lake becomes treacherous to boats and boaters due to trees below the surface and low areas of the lake.
- At 900' all of the boat ramps on the lake will be closed.
- Many of the people who come to the great parks for camping and recreation will find other places as a beautiful swimming and recreation paradise becomes a dried rocky shoreline.
- At 895' and below, many of the boats in the marinas will be dry docked.
- A fluctuating lake level exceeding current standards will be devastating to property values.
- People who moved to the lake to enjoy its beauty and quality of life, will move away, further lowering property values and eroding the tax base.
- Local businesses that rely on tourism will find it difficult to survive. Many will fail.
- Comal County depends on tourism at Canyon Lake and the Guadalupe River for revenue. Declining property values and sales tax revenues will likely result in a tax increase.
- Residents in New Braunfels and Bulverde may pay proportionately more tax because of the shrinking tax base on the lake and river.
- Armed forces personnel who currently use Randolph and Fort Sam Houston facilities may find their marina and recreational areas rendered useless for water recreation activities.

Canyon Lake Crisis



Canyon Lake at 909



Canyon Lake at 904 (May 14, 2000)

Can you imagine what the lake will be like when reduced to a level of 890 or lower?

Friends of Canyon Lake

P.O. Box 1392
Canyon Lake, TX 78130

www.FriendsofCanyonLake.Com