

Protect Lake Travis Association



PLTA eNEWS

October 24, 2009 - Issue 3

Lake Travis - it's worth protecting

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PLTA Board

Lonnie Moore, President
Ken Fossler, Vice President
Gloria Eckstrom, Secretary
Richard Eason, Treasurer
Janet Caylor
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John Strickland

Quoted from the LCRA FAQ:

What is the discharge ban for the Highland Lakes?

The ban prohibits the discharge of pollutants, including treated wastewater effluent, into the Highland Lakes. In the late 1980s, the Texas Water Commission (the predecessor of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, or TCEQ) adopted the rules to protect the water quality of the Highland Lakes. These rules, known officially as the Watershed Protection Rules, are described in [Chapter 311 of the Texas Administrative Code, subchapters A, B, E and F.](#)

Source: [LCRA FAQ on Highland Lakes Discharge Ban](#)

Dear Reader;

[Protect Lake Travis Association](#) has been busy since the last issue of the [PLTA eNews](#).

We continue to work with groups and government entities to actively oppose the attempt by Leander and Granite Shoals to lift the protective Highland Lakes Discharge Ban (see sidebar). Resolutions have now been passed by many of them and more resolutions are coming. Other entities are preparing more detailed and technical responses in opposition to the removal of these essential protections. We continue to ask all those concerned to contact their [elected representatives](#) to encourage them to voice their opposition to the TCEQ for this misguided proposal.

We also suggest you write to the TCEQ directly to voice your opposition (see sidebar).

In the middle of this effort, we learned that the City of Burnet has applied to TCEQ to increase the amount of treated wastewater effluent they are allowed to discharge into Hamilton Creek, a tributary of Lake Travis, by an additional 1,000,000 gallons per day.

We will continue working and reporting on these attacks on our lakes, but need your involvement and [membership](#). If you care about Lake Travis and the Highland Lakes, please take action to help protect these precious resources.

Lonnie Moore, President

New Brochure by LCRA Explains Highland Lakes Discharge Ban

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Explains History and Benefits

We give credit where credit is due. LCRA has prepared a new document that answers many of the questions that have been asked about why the discharge ban is so important to the Highland Lakes and Lake Travis in particular.

We did not find the document on the LCRA website yet, so we have uploaded to ours where you can read and/or download it to your computer. We strongly encourage you to take a look at it. The link is:

www.protectlaketravis.org/documents/LCRA_Discharge-Ban-FAQ.pdf

How Can I Tell TCEQ That I Oppose Leander's Proposal To Remove the Highland Lakes Discharge Ban?

- 1) See [this page](#) on the TCEQ website for instructions on how to submit your letter of opposition - You can submit by mail, fax or online;
- 2) The Docket Number is **2009-1586-RUL**;
- 3) If submitting online, write your letter of opposition in Microsoft Word or similar and follow the instructions to submit the file. It will show 'Anderson County'. (The requested rule change is for the entire state, so "A" counties are first.) Filing Title is Wastewater.
- 4) Filing deadline is October 30th, so do it now!
- 5) Here is a [sample letter](#) (received from Connie Ripley)

City of Burnet Seeks Right To Discharge Up To 1.7M GPD

Application for Amendment of Permit Being Considered by TCEQ

AMENDMENT PERMIT NO. WQ0010793002

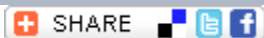
The City of Burnet, P.O. Box 1369, Burnet, Texas 78611-1369, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a **major amendment** to TPDES Permit No. WQ0010793002 to **authorize an increase in the discharge of treated domestic wastewater** from a daily average flow not to exceed 726,000 gallons per day **to an annual average flow not to exceed 1,700,000 gallons per day and to remove authorization for beneficial reuse of treated wastewater via irrigation.**

See the full public notice [HERE](#)

Note that this Hamilton Creek is in Burnet County and flows through the City of Burnet then approximately 14 miles to Lake Travis. This amount of treated wastewater effluent, no matter what treatment level is used, will undoubtedly have a significant negative impact on the water quality of this beautiful and historic creek, and ultimately on Lake Travis.

For an explanation of how Hill Country streams (and lakes) are damaged by wastewater discharges, go to the [Publications](#) section of our site and click on [Threats To Water Quality from Wastewater Discharges](#).

PLTA continues to encourage beneficial reuse of recycled wastewater by landscape irrigation. Land based irrigation with treated effluent, done correctly, reduces the amount of irrigation water needed to be drawn from the Highland Lakes. This reuse of the water supply is the best way to have a positive effect on lake levels and is more environment-friendly than direct discharge into our streams and lakes.



[Forward email](#)

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