

## Arroyo Colorado Above Tidal (2202) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Arroyo Colorado Above Tidal (2202) in the summer of 2011 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Arroyo Colorado Above Tidal is a classified perennial water body within Cameron and Hidalgo counties, approximately 64 miles in length. It was identified in the 2012 Texas Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies due to elevated bacteria levels. It was initially listed in 1996.

The RUAA identified that the presumed use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for Arroyo Colorado Above Tidal is appropriate. PCR 1 is defined in §307.3 (a) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards as activities that are presumed to involve a significant risk of ingestion of water (e.g. wading by children, swimming, water skiing, diving, tubing, surfing, and the following whitewater activities: kayaking, canoeing, and rafting).

During the surveys, field staff observed PCR and secondary contact recreation (SCR) occurring on the stream. A total of 11 children were seen wading at two different sites and six interviewees stated PCR occurs on the segment. Fishing was directly observed at 11 sites and evidence of SCR (fishing tackle) was found at many sites. Fourteen interviews confirmed SCR related to fishing or boating. Physical characteristics of the stream include an average thalweg depth of 1.14 meters (44.88 in) and an average flow of 147 cubic feet per second. The stream was publically accessible by fifteen public recreation areas on the segment, including five county parks, one state park, and two city parks. Field staff counted 19 bridge crossings and 12 foot paths on the Arroyo Colorado Above Tidal.

Based on evidence collected during the RUAA study, the TCEQ recommends that Arroyo Colorado Above Tidal retain its primary contact recreation use and corresponding *E. coli* geometric mean criteria of 126 colonies/100mL for the entire segment, the 64 mile stretch of Arroyo Colorado Above Tidal from FM 2062 in Hidalgo County to a point 100 m downstream of Cemetery Road south of Port of Harlingen in Cameron County, in accordance with §307.4 (j) (1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.