

Attoyac Bayou (0612) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Attoyac Bayou (0612) in the summer of 2012 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Attoyac Bayou is a classified perennial water body in San Augustine, Rusk, Shelby, and Nacogdoches counties, approximately 82 miles in length. It is currently listed on the 2014 Texas Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies due to elevated bacteria levels. It was initially listed in 2004.

The RUAA identified evidence indicating the designated use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for Attoyac Bayou 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 field surveys, field staff did not observe any type of recreation occurring on the stream. Five instances of primary contact recreation were documented in field interviews and historical research (i.e. swimming, noodling). PCR was reported as a personal use in one interview, observed use in one interview, and a heard of use in three interviews. Three of the instances came from Shelby and Nacogdoches County Game Wardens who stated that they had observed swimming (1), and heard of swimming (1) and noodling (1) in Attoyac Bayou. A third Game Warden stated that swimming may occasionally take place in the water body (not counted). Physical characteristics of the stream include an average thalweg of 0.53 meters (20.86 in), and substantial pools at 9 of 18 sites. At the time of the surveys flow ranged from no flow to normal. During the second survey 3 of the sites were dry and 9 had no flow. At the time of the surveys Attoyac Bayou was experiencing moderate to severe drought, according to the Palmer Drought Severity Index. Public access to Attoyac Bayou is moderately easy to difficult. Woody debris and logjams were common channel obstructions. There are no public parks or recreation areas on the water body.

Due to evidence collected during the RUAA determining that primary contact recreation is an existing use, the TCEQ recommends Attoyac Bayou retain its primary contact recreation use and corresponding geometric mean criteria of 126 colonies *E. coli*/100mL for the entire segment, from a point 3.9 km (2.4) miles downstream of Curry Creek in Nacogdoches/San Augustine County to FM 95 in Rusk County in accordance with §307.4 (j)(1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.