Middle Yegua Creek (1212A) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Middle Yegua Creek (1212A) in the summer of 2012 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Middle Yegua Creek is an unclassified perennial water body with pools in Lee and Williamson Counties, approximately 50 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 identified as impaired in 2010.

The RUAA identified evidence indicating the designated use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for Middle Yegua Creek 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).

No primary contact recreation activities were observed by technicians during the field surveys. Twenty-four percent of interviewees reported instances of personal PCR (e.g. wading children, swimming) and several interviewees have observed PCR (e.g. swimming, wading by children). Field staff observed two rope swings and one ladder for climbing out of the stream. One public recreation area was found on Middle Yegua Creek. General public access was estimated to be moderate. Physical characteristics include an average thalweg of 0.46 meters (18.1 inches), 17 substantial pools deeper than one meter, and low flow.

Due to evidence collected during the RUAA determining that PCR is an existing use, the TCEQ recommends Middle Yegua Creek retain its PCR use and corresponding geometric mean criteria of 126 colonies *E. coli*/100mL for the entire segment, from the confluence with East Yegua and Yegua Creeks in Lee County to the Lee County/Williamson County line. This recommendation is in accordance with §307.4 (j)(1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.