

Leona River (2109) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Leona River (2109) in the summer of 2012 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Leona River is a classified perennial water body within Frio, Zavala, and Uvalde counties, approximately 91 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 2006.

The RUAA identified that the presumed use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for Leona River 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 recreational activities were observed by field staff during the surveys. Although the Leona River has been mostly dry in recent years, instances of PCR as personal use and witnessed use were provided through interviews. There were many accounts of personal use of PCR that included swimming (19) and children wading (12). Fifteen sites were publically accessible through road crossings, a park within the city of Uvalde, Fort Inge Historical Park, and the community of Batesville. There were a total of five recreational areas along the river but the majority of the river is on private property. Average thalweg depth on Leona River was 0.09 m (3.54 in) and there was one pool deeper than 1.5 m.

Based on evidence collected during the RUAA study, the TCEQ recommends that Leona River retain its primary contact recreation use and corresponding *E. coli* geometric mean criteria of 126 colonies/100mL for the entire segment, the 91 mile stretch of Leona River from the confluence with the Frio River in Frio County to US 83 in Uvalde County, in accordance with §307.4 (j) (1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.