Navasota River Below Lake Limestone (1209) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on the Navasota River Below Lake Limestone (Segment 1209) in the summer of 2010 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. The Navasota River Below Lake Limestone is a classified perennial water body in east central Texas, approximately 120 miles in length. It is currently listed on the 2010 Texas Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies due to elevated bacteria levels, and was initially listed in 2002.

The RUAA identified evidence indicating the designated use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for the Navasota River Below Lake Limestone is appropriate. PCR is defined in §307.3 (a) (47) 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 contractors observed six individuals wading and swimming in the river. Interviews of residents in the watershed identified 17 personal instances of people engaging in PCR activities, with swimming being the most abundant. In addition, interviewed individuals had personally witnessed 15 instances of PCR activities in the stream, and had heard about 14 instances of PCR activities. Physical characteristics of the stream include an average thalweg greater than 1.5 meters (> 59 in) and an average flow of 42.7 cubic feet per second. General public access was described as moderate, with public access limited to bridge crossings located along the segment.

Due to evidence collected during the RUAA determining that primary contact recreation is an existing use, the TCEQ recommends the Navasota River Below Lake Limestone retain its primary contact recreation use and corresponding *E. coli* geometric mean criteria of 126 colonies/100mL for the entire segment, from the confluence with the Brazos River in Grimes County to Sterling C. Robertson Dam in Leon/Robertson County in accordance with §307.4 (j) (1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.