

Lower Cibolo Creek (1902) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Lower Cibolo Creek (Segment 1902) in the summer of 2010 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Lower Cibolo Creek is a classified perennial water body in south central Texas, approximately 79 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 2004.

The RUAA identified that the designated use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for Lower Cibolo Creek 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 12 individuals swimming and two instances of wading by children. Interviews of residents in the watershed identified nine instances of PCR that were described as personal uses with an additional seven reports of witnessing PCR. A public meeting was held to obtain landowner access for the surveys and to receive additional information on recreation in the stream. From the meeting, 90 individuals filled out interviews describing PCR as a personal use on the stream. Comments received from the public comment period reiterated that the community uses the stream for primary contact recreation and would not support changing the standard from primary contact. Physical characteristics of the stream include an average thalweg of 0.8 meters (31.50 in), presence of pools greater than one meter deep and an average flow of 33 cubic feet per second. General public access is described as moderate with 20 bridge crossings and five unimproved parking lots located along the 79 mile segment.

Due to evidence collected during the RUAA determining that primary contact recreation is an existing use, the TCEQ recommends that Lower Cibolo Creek retain its primary contact recreation use and a corresponding *E. coli* geometric mean of 126 colonies/100mL for the entire segment, from the confluence with the San Antonio River in Karnes County to a point 100 meters (110 yards) downstream of IH 10 in Bexar/Guadalupe County in accordance with §307.4 (j) (1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.