

Arenosa Creek (2453C) Recreational Use-Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Arenosa Creek (2453C) in the summer of 2015 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Arenosa Creek is an unclassified intermittent with perennial pools water body in Victoria County, TX, approximately 33 miles in length. It is currently listed on the 2018 Texas Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies due to elevated bacteria levels. It was initially listed in 2010.

The RUAA identified that the presumed use of primary contact recreation 1 (PCR 1) for Arenosa 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, handfishing, and the following whitewater activities: kayaking, canoeing, and rafting).

During the field surveys, field staff did not observe primary or secondary contact recreation activities in the creek. Field staff conducted 61 interviews with stakeholders and landowners. Evidence of PCR activity observed by the field crew included an inner tube. Eighteen instances of personal use PCR were documented in interviews (i.e. swimming, wading by children, and tubing). Interviewees also gave two reports of witnessed PCR activities (swimming and wading children). Physical characteristics of the stream include an average thalweg of 0.66 meters (25.98 in), 21 pools greater than one meter deep and normal flow. At the time of the surveys, Arenosa Creek had a moderately moist Palmer Drought Severity Index. General public access to the creek was moderate. There are five bridge crossings and downstream of the confluence with Garcitas Creek there are two boat ramps.

Based on evidence collected during the RUAA study, the TCEQ recommends that Arenosa Creek retain its primary contact recreation 1 use and corresponding *E. coli* geometric mean criterion of 126 colonies/100mL for the entire segment, from the confluence with Garcitas Creek upstream to J-2 Ranch Road, in accordance with §307.4 (j) (1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.