

Colorado River Below Lake J.B. Thomas (1412) Recreational Use-Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Colorado River Below Lake J.B. Thomas (1412) in the summer of 2016 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Colorado River Below Lake J.B. Thomas is a classified perennial water body in Scurry, Mitchell and Coke counties, TX, approximately 98 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 2008.

The RUAA identified that the presumed use of primary contact recreation 1 (PCR 1) for Colorado River Below Lake J.B. Thomas 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 any type of recreation occurring on the stream. Field staff conducted 61 interviews with landowners and stakeholders. Fourteen instances of personal use PCR were documented in interviews (i.e. swimming, wading children, tubing). PCR was reported as an observed use in six interviews and a heard of use in six interviews. Eighteen interviewees reported personal use of the stream for secondary contact recreation activities (e.g. fishing). Physical characteristics of the stream include an average thalweg of 0.44 meters (17.32 in), 15 pools greater than one meter deep, and no flow to high flow. The Palmer Drought Severity Index was extremely moist at the time of the surveys. Public access to Colorado River Below Lake J.B. Thomas is moderate. Access is available at six bridge crossings.

Based on evidence collected during the RUAA study, the TCEQ recommends that Colorado River Below Lake J.B. Thomas retain its primary contact recreation 1 use and corresponding *Enterococcus* geometric mean criteria of 33 colonies/100mL for the entire segment, from a point immediately upstream of the confluence of Little Silver Creek in Coke County to Colorado River Dam in Scurry County, in accordance with §307.4 (j) (1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.