

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., P.E., *Chairman*  
Toby Baker, *Commissioner*  
Jon Niermann, *Commissioner*  
Stephanie Bergeron Perdue, *Interim Executive Director*



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

*Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution*

August 16, 2018

Mr. Russell Thomas  
Via Email

Re: Response to Priority Call by Mr. Russell Thomas in the San Saba Watershed of the Colorado River Basin

Dear Mr. Thomas:

On August 10, 2018, you submitted a priority call based on your superior domestic and livestock use to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) San Angelo Regional Office. In your priority call, you expressed a need of 5,400 gallons for watering cattle. In response, the San Angelo Region staff conducted investigations of your priority call on August 10, 2018, August 13, 2018, and August 14, 2018. Based on those investigations and as discussed below, sufficient water was observed as available for beneficial use at your location. Therefore, suspension of diversion or impoundment of state surface water by junior water rights is not appropriate at this time.

On August 10, 2018, TCEQ field investigations were conducted at your location and at two sites upstream of your property in the San Saba River watershed. Photographs were taken at the time of the investigation. No flow was observed in the locations upstream of your property; however, pools were observed in both locations. At your property, pools of water were present.

Between August 10, 2018 and August 13, 2018, the Lower Colorado River Authority's Hydromet recorded approximately 6.76 inches of rainfall at the Menard, Texas site. As a result, the TCEQ's San Angelo Regional Office conducted subsequent investigations at your location and at three sites upstream of your property on August 13, 2018 and August 14, 2018. On August 13, 2018, flow was observed at two of the sites upstream of your location. On August 14, 2018, flow was observed at the third upstream site and at your property.

Despite recent rainfall, this area of the state is experiencing drought conditions. Consequently, the TCEQ's San Angelo Regional Office has been conducting routine monitoring in the San Saba River Basin. The TCEQ will continue monitoring for as long as these conditions persist.

If the river condition changes on your property and you believe a new priority call is warranted, please contact Mr. Christopher Mayben at TCEQ's San Angelo Regional Office via email at [Christopher.Mayben@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Christopher.Mayben@tceq.texas.gov) or by phone at (325) 655-9479. Contacting Mr. Mayben to discuss the river conditions and to coordinate arrangements for access will greatly assist the Regional Office in investigating your priority call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Bergeron Perdue".

Stephanie Bergeron Perdue  
Interim Executive Director