Derrett Creek (0809D) within the Trinity River Basin Recreational Use-Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Derrett Creek (0809D) in the summer of 2024 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Derrett Creek is an unclassified perennial stream in Wise County, TX, approximately 9 miles in length. It is currently listed on the 2024 Texas Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies due to elevated bacteria levels. It was initially listed in 2020.

The RUAA identified the presumed use of primary contact recreation 1 (PCR1) for Derrett Creek should be revised to primary contact recreation 2 (PCR2). PCR2 applies where site-specific information demonstrates that water recreational activities such as swimming or wading by children can occur, but it occurs less frequently than PCR1 due to physical characteristics of the water body or limited public access.

During the field surveys, field staff did not observe any type of recreational activity on the stream, but trout lines were observed at the most downstream survey site near Eagle Mountain Lake. Field staff conducted four interviews with stakeholders or landowners. All four interviewees stated they had not personally used, observed others using, or heard of others using Derrett Creek for any form of primary contact recreation. Three interviewees reported no known recreation use, while one interviewee had witnessed people fishing at the furthest downstream site where field staff observed trout lines.

Derrett Creek's public access is limited to only alternate public access sites such as public road crossings. It had an average stream thalweg of 0.67 meters (26.4 inches) during the first survey and 0.21 meters (8.3 inches) during the second survey. Derrett Creek had no substantial pools. Stream flow was considered normal at the sample site during both surveys. The Palmer Drought Severity Index was moderately moist during the first survey and mid-range during the second survey. Stream bank access between road crossings ranged from easy to moderately difficult due to steep banks and dense vegetation, with easy access but moderate traffic danger at Rogers Road at the most downstream survey site.

Since no evidence of primary contact recreational activities were found, public access is limited to public road crossings, and the stream had an average thalweg <0.5 m during one of the surveys, this study supports a reclassification to PCR2. In accordance with §307.4(j)(3)(C) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, TCEQ recommends a reclassification from PCR1 to PCR2 with the corresponding geometric mean of 206 colonies *E. coli*/100mL for all of Derrett Creek, from the confluence of Derrett Creek Cove in Eagle Mountain Lake upstream approximately a tenth of a mile where the waterbody meets an intermittent stream in Wise County. This reclassification is appropriate as "low flow conditions or water levels prevent the attainment of the use" in accordance with reasons specified in 40 CFR §131.10(g)(2).

Prior to changing the currently assigned recreational use of Derrett Creek in the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, TCEQ will provide additional public notice

and opportunity for public comment. In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will review this proposed change under the provisions of the federal Clean Water Act.