



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270

July 16, 2020

Earl Lott, Deputy Director
Office of Water (MC-158)
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Dear Mr. Lott:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or the Agency) has completed its review of several new and revised provisions in the 2018 Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (TSWQS). These standards were adopted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) on February 7, 2018, and received by the EPA for review under section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) on March 29, 2018.

This is the fourth EPA action concerning our CWA review of the 2018 standards and includes action on new and revised provisions in Appendix C and Appendix D of the TSWQS, as specified in the enclosure. Pursuant to CWA section 303(c) and the implementing regulation at 40 CFR part 131, the EPA is approving these provisions. Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act requires that all federal agencies engage in consultation to ensure their actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species or result in adverse modification of designated critical habitat. EPA has determined that approval of the provisions identified in the enclosure, will have no effect on federally listed threatened and endangered species or on critical habitat.

The EPA will take subsequent action on the remaining new and revised provisions in the 2018 TSWQS. The EPA is also reviewing the remaining provisions in the 2010 and 2014 TSWQS submittals. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (214) 665-7101, or have your staff contact Diane Evans at (214) 665-6677.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles W. Maguire".

Charles W. Maguire
Director
Water Division

Enclosure

cc: Lori Hamilton, Director
TCEQ - Water Quality Planning Division (MC-203)

EPA Review of Texas' 2018 Submittal of Revisions to *Texas Surface Water Quality Standards* under Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act (July 2020)

On March 29, 2018, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) submitted to the EPA for review under section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) revisions to the *Texas Surface Water Quality Standards* (TSWQS) adopted by TCEQ on February 7, 2018. The EPA has taken previous actions on portions of the 2018 TSWQS, by letters dated November 2, 2018; May 24, 2019; and, January 6, 2020.

Appendix C – Segment Boundary Descriptions

EPA approves the following descriptions for the revised segment boundaries for the Sabine River:

- 0501 Sabine River Tidal - from the confluence with Sabine Lake in Orange County to Morgans Bluff in Orange County
- 0502 Sabine River Above Tidal - from Morgans Bluff in Orange County to the confluence with Caney Creek in Newton County

Appendix D – Site-specific Uses and Criteria for Unclassified Water Bodies

EPA approves the revised aquatic life use and DO criteria, as described in the following table:

Segment	Water Body	County	Aquatic Life Use	DO criteria (average, minimum)	Description
0804	Catfish Creek	Anderson, Henderson	High (no revision)	4.0 mg/L; 3.0 mg/L (October - April) 3.0 mg/L; 2.0 mg/L (May -September)	Perennial stream from the confluence with Trinity River upstream to the confluence with Wolf Creek
2437	Hurricane Levee Canal	Galveston	Intermediate	3.0 mg/L, 2.0 mg/L	Man-made tidal ditch from the confluence with the south shore of the Texas City Ship Channel upstream to the Texas City Hurricane Levee pump station 0.23 km upstream of Loop 197 South
2453	Garcitas Creek	Jackson, Victoria	High (no revision)	4.0 mg/L, 3.0 mg/L (October – May, no revision) 3.0 mg/L, 2.0 mg/L (June – September)	Perennial tidal stream from the confluence with Lavaca Bay in Jackson/Victoria County upstream to the confluence with Mercado Creek in Victoria County