

Response to Public Comments:

Two Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Indicator Bacteria in Big Creek

Tracking Number	Date Received	Affiliation of Commenter	Summary of Request or Comment	Summary of TCEQ Action, or Explanation
001	3/08/2024 Online Comment	J. Cuellar, Brazos Lakes resident	(1) Online Comment: The commenter requests for additional monitoring stations for bacteria in Big Creek. The commenter suggests installing a monitoring station by 2218 Highway 762 near an Austin Point development. The commenter recommends adding monitoring stations downstream of the development and expressed concern that the current location of the monitoring station will not capture the drainage of pollutants from the development into Big Creek.	TCEQ acknowledges the comment related to the request and need for an additional monitoring station. Suggestions for additional data collection may be discussed at future TMDL Implementation Plan (I-Plan) meetings for potential inclusion in the I-Plan. No changes have been made to the TMDL document based on this comment.

	02/26/2024 In-person Comments		<p>(2) In-person Comment: The commenter expressed concern of an Austin Point development, by The Signorelli Co., discharging their treated sewage water into Big Creek. The commenter believes that is the purpose of the public comment meeting, as Signorelli Co. is listed in the TMDL. They noted Signorelli has one of the highest permitted waste load allocations. The commenter expresses that he has his reservations about the meeting. The commenter states that he hopes that the bacteria loads stay low, and the standard does not change to appease a developer.</p>	<p>The Signorelli Co. mentioned in this comment is discussed in the TMDL document. The Signorelli Co. is a TPDES-permitted facility and would be subject to TCEQ enforcement action in the event it fails to meet its permit limits.</p> <p>The purpose of this meeting is to receive public comment on two total maximum daily loads (TMDLS) for indicator bacteria in Big Creek. Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires all states to identify waters that do not meet or are not expected to meet, applicable water quality standards. States must develop a TMDL for each pollutant that contributes to the impairment of a water body included on a state's 303(d) list of impaired waters.</p> <p>Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (TSWQS) bacteria levels are set for certain recreational uses. "Primary contact recreation 1 is presumed to apply to intermittent streams, intermittent streams with perennial pools, nontidal wetlands, and perennial freshwater streams and rivers,..." This is the highest protective recreational use (bacteria level) a water body can attain per the TSWQS. If there is a belief that primary contact recreational activities ("e.g., wading by children, swimming, water skiing, diving, tubing, surfing, handfishing as defined by Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, §66.115, and the following whitewater activities: kayaking, canoeing, and rafting") may not occur on a given bacteria impaired water body, then further research is required to determine the appropriate level of recreational use. Changes to individual water body bacteria levels are only based upon determined attainable recreational uses. Big Creek (1202J) currently has no projects forecasted at this time to</p>
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				<p>determine if a change to the recreational use (bacteria level) is needed.</p> <p>No changes have been made to the TMDL document based on this comment.</p>
			<p>(3) In-person Comment: The commenter asked what were the underlying factors that they were not seeing.</p>	<p>The purpose of the meeting was to receive public comment on Two Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Indicator Bacteria in Big Creek. The TMDL document provides all the necessary information on what the TMDL is composed of. A copy of the executed TMDL will be published on the TCEQ website.</p> <p>No changes have been made to the TMDL document based on this comment.</p>

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			(4) In-person Comment: The commenter asked if the meeting was held because an entity is trying to clean Big Creek or if a number is being determined that is relative to the numbers shown during the presentation.	<p>The meeting was held to receive public comment on Two Total Maximum Daily Loads for Indicator Bacteria in Big Creek where concentrations of indicator bacteria exceed the criteria used to evaluate attainment of the primary contact recreation 1 use. Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires all states to identify waters that do not meet or are not expected to meet, applicable water quality standards. States must develop a TMDL for each pollutant that contributes to the impairment of a water body included on a state's 303(d) list of impaired waters. Restoration efforts within the watershed are to be included in the Big Creek Implementation Plan (I-Plan). Suggestions for additional restoration measures may be discussed at TMDL I-Plan meetings for potential inclusion in the I-Plan.</p> <p>No changes have been made to the TMDL document based on this comment.</p>
			(5) In-person Comment: The commenter asked what the purpose of the meeting was.	<p>The meeting was held to receive public on Two Total Maximum Daily Loads for Indicator Bacteria in Big Creek where concentrations of indicator bacteria exceed the criteria used to evaluate attainment of the primary contact recreation 1 use. Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires all states to identify waters that do not meet or are not expected to meet, applicable water quality standards. States must develop a TMDL for each pollutant that contributes to the impairment of a water body included on a state's 303(d) list of impaired waters.</p> <p>No changes have been made to the TMDL document based on this comment.</p>

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			<p>(6) In-person Comment: The commenter asked how water quality data will be viewed or seen by the public once Big Creek is removed from the 303d list.</p>	<p>Once a TMDL is developed, a water body is no longer on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list. When a TMDL is developed, wastewater treatment facilities discharging to the TMDL segments are assigned a waste load allocation based on their full permitted flow and their effluent limit. The effluent limit is the water quality standard. The individual allocations for each WWTF in the watershed are specified in the TMDL document. Permittees are required to meet the water quality standard and submit a discharge monitoring report to TCEQ. Discharge monitoring reports for specific facilities can be obtained and viewed through EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online tool.</p> <p>The public can view and download surface water quality monitoring data on the Surface Water Quality Monitoring Information System.</p> <p>No changes have been made to the TMDL document based on this comment.</p>

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002	03/06/2024 Online Comment	Anne Franson, Big Creek resident	(1) Online Comment: The commenter requested that an additional monitoring station for bacteria be added to Big Creek. They expressed concern of waste from a landfill and Austin Point development on FM 1994 draining into Big Creek. They are concerned of the proximity of the development to Big Creek and want to maintain the integrity of the natural area. They requested the monitoring station be added on the southern border of Big Creek.	TCEQ acknowledges the comment related to the request for an additional monitoring station. Suggestions for additional data collection may be discussed at TMDL I-Plan meetings for potential inclusion in the I-Plan. No changes have been made to the TMDL document based on this comment.
	02/26/2024 In-person Comment		(2) In-person comment: The commenter expressed concern about the proximity of a new development, Austin Point, to Big Creek. They are concerned about the drainage from the toll roads and the commercial space concrete. The commenter states they met with the developer and were told that all the development's drainage would flow into Big Creek. This concerns the commenter as they want to maintain the integrity of the natural areas.	A TMDL determines the amount of a pollutant the body of water can receive and still meet water quality standards for its designated use. Implementation Plans put the TMDL into action by outlining the steps necessary to reduce pollutant loads. Suggestions for best management practices may be discussed at TMDL I-Plan meetings for potential inclusion in the I-Plan. No changes have been made to the TMDL document based on this comment.

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003	3/02/2024	R. Cuellar, Brazos Lakes resident	The commenter requests for additional monitoring stations for bacteria in Big Creek. They suggest installing a monitoring station by 2218 Highway 762 near an Austin Point development. They recommend adding monitoring stations downstream of the development and expressed concern that the current location of the monitoring station will not capture the drainage of pollutants from the development into Big Creek.	TCEQ acknowledges the comment related to the request for an additional monitoring station. Suggestions for additional data collection may be discussed at TMDL I-Plan meetings for potential inclusion in the I-Plan. No changes have been made to the TMDL document based on this comment.
004	3/08/2024	P. McManus	The commenter requested a bacteria monitoring station be installed at FM 1994 and Big Creek.	TCEQ acknowledges the comment related to the request for an additional monitoring station. Suggestions for additional data collection may be discussed at TMDL I-Plan meetings for potential inclusion in the I-Plan. No changes have been made to the TMDL document based on this comment.
005	3/08/2024	H. de Vega, N/A	The commenter requested a bacteria monitoring station be installed at FM 1994 and Big Creek.	TCEQ acknowledges the comment related to the request for an additional monitoring station. Suggestions for additional data collection may be discussed at TMDL I-Plan meetings for potential inclusion in the I-Plan. No changes have been made to the TMDL document based on this comment.
006	3/08/2024	J. Rotolo, Brazos Lakes resident	The commenter requested a bacteria monitoring station be installed at FM 1994 and Big Creek.	TCEQ acknowledges the comment related to the request for an additional monitoring station. Suggestions for additional data collection may be discussed at TMDL I-Plan meetings for potential inclusion in the I-Plan. No changes have been made to the TMDL document based on this comment.

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007	3/08/2024	A. Rotolo, Brazos Lakes resident	The commenter requested a bacteria monitoring station be installed at FM 1994 and Big Creek.	TCEQ acknowledges the comment related to the request for an additional monitoring station. Suggestions for additional data collection may be discussed at TMDL I-Plan meetings for potential inclusion in the I-Plan. No changes have been made to the TMDL document based on this comment.
007	3/08/2024	D. Anonymous, N/A	The commenter requested a bacteria monitoring station be installed at FM 1994 and Big Creek.	TCEQ acknowledges the comment related to the request for an additional monitoring station. Suggestions for additional data collection may be discussed at TMDL I-Plan meetings for potential inclusion in the I-Plan. No changes have been made to the TMDL document based on this comment.
008	3/08/2024	B. Tann, N/A	The commenter requested a bacteria monitoring station be installed at FM 1994 and Big Creek.	TCEQ acknowledges the comment related to the request for an additional monitoring station. Suggestions for additional data collection may be discussed at TMDL I-Plan meetings for potential inclusion in the I-Plan. No changes have been made to the TMDL document based on this comment.
009	N/A	Cathy Beard, N/A	The commenter requested a bacteria monitoring station be installed at FM 1994 and Big Creek.	TCEQ acknowledges the comment related to the request for an additional monitoring station. Suggestions for additional data collection may be discussed at TMDL I-Plan meetings for potential inclusion in the I-Plan. No changes have been made to the TMDL document based on this comment.