

## Response to Public Comments

### Six Total Maximum Daily Loads for Indicator Bacteria in the Armand Bayou Watershed

Tracking Number	Date Received	Affiliation of Commenter	Summary of Request or Comment	Summary of TCEQ Action, or Explanation
001	2/12/2015	City of Houston – Ellington Airport	<p>(a) The commenter notes that the only two water quality monitoring stations with bacteria data for Horsepen Bayou Tidal (1113B_01) are located in the lower part of the segment, which is dominated by single unit residential development. The upstream (northwestern) part of this stream segment (where Ellington Field is located) has no monitoring stations and is dominated by mixed use commercial and industrial property as well as undeveloped land. The commenter suggests that the segment should be split into two segments, or that an additional monitoring site should be placed farther upstream to give a more accurate picture of the bacteria loading from that portion of the Horsepen Bayou Tidal subwatershed.</p>	<p>(a) The TCEQ recognizes that regular sampling at an additional upstream station, whether within the existing segment delineation or in a newly described segment, could provide information about the magnitude of bacteria loading from the portion of the subwatershed not dominated by residential development. The TCEQ encourages participating in the coordinated monitoring process, through which many decisions are made regarding the location and frequency of water quality monitoring in Texas <a href="http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/monitoring/coop_monitoring.html">http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/monitoring/coop_monitoring.html</a>. Additionally, there may be opportunities during implementation to secure funding for targeted monitoring projects, as described in the existing Implementation Plan that this group is joining. No changes have been made to the TMDL document based on this comment.</p>

Tracking Number	Date Received	Affiliation of Commenter	Summary of Request or Comment	Summary of TCEQ Action, or Explanation
001 (continued)	2/12/2015 (continued)	City of Houston – Ellington Airport (continued)	(b) The commenter noted that the TMDL has very limited information on wildlife in the Armand Bayou watershed, and the potential contribution of bacteria by wildlife. The commenter suggested that wildlife population estimates from the airport, NASA, University of Houston-Clear Lake, and volunteer/ environmental groups were available, and could have been used to better characterize bacterial loadings from this source.	(b) The TCEQ agrees that a better understanding of the wildlife population numbers and distribution within the Armand Bayou watershed would be helpful in targeting efforts to reduce bacteria. Wildlife is recognized in the TMDL document as a source of bacteria, but it is not assigned a discrete load value, and is discussed in a manner consistent with other TMDLs developed in this area. This is something that should be further refined during implementation. While wildlife is mentioned in the existing Implementation Plan being joined by the Armand Bayou project, the stakeholders for Armand Bayou recognized that wildlife may pose a larger role in contributing bacteria in this watershed compared to other areas within the existing Implementation Plan. The existing plan was created with the knowledge that it would have to be adaptive to have the flexibility to address specific problems in newly added watersheds. No changes have been made to the TMDL document based on this comment.

Tracking Number	Date Received	Affiliation of Commenter	Summary of Request or Comment	Summary of TCEQ Action, or Explanation
002	2/17/2015	Concerned Citizen	<p>The commenter indicated she frequently spends time on Armand Bayou while paddleboarding and voiced her support for activities that would improve water quality for wildlife and for people who enjoy recreation on and around the bayou. She expressed concern about the amount of trash and debris she saw floating in the water and on shore, and by large areas dominated by invasive plant species that completely blocked some areas of the bayou. She called on TCEQ to help remediate these problems.</p>	<p>The TCEQ appreciates the commenter's interest in Armand Bayou. While the focus of the TMDL was the presence of high levels of bacteria in the water, the TCEQ recognizes that the presence of large amounts of trash and invasive plant species are undesirable for any of our water bodies. Citizens are encouraged to take part in voluntary efforts to address these problems, such as the annual "Rivers, Lakes, Bays n' Bayous Trash Bash" &lt;<a href="http://www.trashbash.org/">http://www.trashbash.org/</a>&gt;. No changes have been made to the TMDL document based on this comment.</p>