

Response to Public Comment:

Four Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Indicator Bacteria in Neches River Tidal

Tracking Number	Date Received	Affiliation of Commenter	Summary of Request or Comment	Summary of TCEQ Action, or Explanation
001	1/18/23	Terry Stelly, President of Southeast Texas Clean Air and Water, Inc. (CAW)	<p>The commenter, on behalf of CAW, expressed support for continued monitoring efforts in the TMDL watershed, any best management practices to reduce point and nonpoint sources of bacteria, and repeated evaluations of the effectiveness of implementation efforts. The commenter stated that the TMDL should not be raised to meet goals for any flow condition and asked if there would be sufficient funding to reach the desired goals for nonpoint sources.</p>	<p>TCEQ appreciates support from CAW for this TMDL and associated implementation efforts.</p> <p>The goal of the implementation of the TMDL will be to decrease the concentration of indicator bacteria (Enterococci) in Neches River Tidal, as the most recent assessment indicates all four assessment units exceed the criterion used to evaluate attainment of the primary contact recreation 1 use in saltwater (35 colony forming units of Enterococci per 100 milliliters).</p> <p>While additional flow from new dischargers or amended, higher flows from existing dischargers could result in an increase to the final TMDL allocation for one or more assessment units, the new allocation would still be set to meet the applicable water quality standard for the primary contact recreation 1 use.</p> <p>The draft implementation plan that covers the Neches River Tidal and Hillebrandt Bayou watersheds discusses potential funding sources for all proposed management measures and control actions.</p> <p>No changes were made to the TMDL document based on this comment.</p>

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002	1/18/23	Andrew Bruno, Lower Neches Valley Authority	The commenter asked if the implementation of the TMDL would result in lower permit limits for bacteria for existing wastewater outfalls or if additional data collection could lead to a lower bacteria criterion for Segment 0601.	<p>The draft implementation plan that covers the Neches River Tidal and Hillebrandt Bayou watersheds does not include control actions that would affect current or future bacteria limits for wastewater dischargers.</p> <p>Segment 0601 is assessed with the standard criterion used to evaluate attainment of the primary contact recreation 1 use in saltwater (35 colony forming units of Enterococci per 100 milliliters) in Texas. Additional data collection will not lead to a reduced criterion for the segment.</p> <p>No changes were made to the TMDL document based on this comment.</p>