Response to Public Comment:

Implementation Plan for Five Total Maximum Daily Loads for Indicator Bacteria in Hillebrandt Bayou and Neches River Tidal

Tracking Number	Date Received	Affiliation of Commenter	Summary of Request or Comment	Summary of TCEQ Action, or Explanation
001	02/28/23	Mr. James Eller, City of Beaumont mayoral candidate	(1) The commenter inquired about how TCEQ responds to the reporting of sewage overflow events. Further, the commenter inquired about how TCEQ holds entities like the City of Beaumont accountable for these events.	TCEQ appreciates your comment. TCEQ's Office of Compliance and Enforcement is responsible for handling and enforcing reported sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). Any SSOs should be reported to the TCEQ regional office that the SSO occurs in. In this case, the local regional office would be the Region 10 office in Beaumont. However, the Implementation Plan (I-Plan) does address the reduction of SSOs and any other unauthorized discharges. The management measure was chosen by the I-Plan's Coordination Committee as an area that can be improved upon that may result in the reduction of fecal bacteria in Hillebrandt Bayou and Neches River Tidal.
			(2) The commenter expressed concern regarding fines given by TCEQ regarding sewage overflow events as well as where the money for paying these fines comes from as a taxpayer in the City of Beaumont.	Issuance of fines regarding SSO events are the responsibility of TCEQ's Office of Compliance and Enforcement. TCEQ's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program works with communities to help improve water quality throughout the state, however the program does not issue any fines or violations. This I-Plan seeks to reduce the amount of SSOs

				and unauthorized discharges within the TMDL watersheds, however the plan does not have regulatory authority and functions only as a roadmap for watershed stakeholders to help reduce fecal bacteria in their waterways through voluntary actions as selected by the stakeholders themselves.
			(3) The commenter inquired about a 24-hour call service provided by TCEQ that can be used to report and respond to events such as sewage overflows outside of normal business hours and if that service is answered by a local TCEQ office in the county for which the event occurred.	Any SSOs or other unauthorized discharges identified in a watershed should be directed to the local TCEQ regional office, which is Region 10 in Beaumont. SSOs and other unauthorized discharges must be reported as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours after the event is identified even if it is outside of normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 8am – 5pm). To report an SSO or other unauthorized discharge, TCEQ provides a toll-free 24-hour phone line at (888) 777-3186 where an environmental complaint may be filed. Residents may also contact the TCEQ Region 10 office in Beaumont at (409) 892-2119.
002	02/28/23	Dale Parrish, representative for the Lower Sabine Neches Soil and Water Conservation District #446 in Orange County	(1) The commenter suggested that the TCEQ works with the Texas General Land Office and with Lamar University to enable Texas Stream Team members that are collecting water samples to bring those samples to the university to be tested for coliform on a more routine basis.	The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University manages the Texas Stream Team monitoring and analysis methods through their Quality Assurance Project Plan. TCEQ may discuss water quality monitoring, including the selection of additional monitoring station locations and their frequency, with watershed stakeholders as part of the

				implementation process for the I-Plan. Participation in this process is highly encouraged.
003	02/28/23	Terry Roy, Beaumont City Council at-large candidate	(1) The commenter inquired about the end goal of this project and if it will help eventually. They expressed their concern about citizens having feces in the water at their homes.	TCEQ's Office of Compliance and Enforcement is responsible for handling citizen concerns regarding drinking water or public supply systems. Any concerns regarding fecal bacteria in drinking water should be reported to the TCEQ regional office. In this case, the local regional office would be the Region 10 office in Beaumont. For other information regarding drinking water outside of drinking water compliance, the TCEQ's Water Supply Division may be contacted. The end goal of this project is to reduce the amount of fecal bacteria in the surface waters of Hillebrandt Bayou and Neches River Tidal to at or below the water quality standard which is 126 colony forming units (cfu) per 100 milliliters (mL) in freshwater and 35 cfu/100mL in saltwater. To help accomplish this goal, this I-Plan was developed to identify voluntary actions that can be completed by watershed stakeholders. These voluntary actions, or management measures, were selected by the plan's Coordination Committee that was made up of a diverse group of watershed stakeholders. This plan may be improved upon as time goes on and participation in this process is highly encouraged by local stakeholders in order to help

				address evolving stakeholder concerns through voluntary actions.