

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Public Invited for Input on Water Quality Issues in Orange County

(Orange, Texas) Citizens of the Orange County area are being asked for their input on the draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report for Adams Bayou and Cow Bayou. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is holding a public meeting to receive comments on the draft TMDL on Thursday, March 22, 2007. The draft report, which can be downloaded from TCEQ's website at:

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/37-orangecounty.html> , is the result of several years of study to determine the measures necessary to improve water quality in the project watersheds. The public meeting will be held:

Date: Thursday, March 22, 2007
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: City of Orange Recreation Department
4103 Meeks Drive
Orange, Texas 77630

The TMDL project for Orange County was initiated by TCEQ in 2002 to determine the measures necessary to restore and maintain water quality in Adams and Cow Bayou. These bayous were placed on an impaired list by the State of Texas because they do not meet the standard conditions suitable for swimming, wading, fishing and a healthy aquatic environment. The TMDL draft report, developed with input from a local stakeholder advisory group (SAG), provides the foundation for establishing an implementation plan to restore and maintain beneficial uses of these bayous.

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Local stakeholder participation will continue to be essential in the overall success of the TMDL project. At the meeting, individuals may register to provide oral statements about the draft report. No open discussion will occur during the meeting. TCEQ representatives will be available before and after the meeting to answer questions about the project. The public will also have an opportunity to participate in the implementation plan.

Persons with special communication or other accommodation needs who are planning to attend the meeting should contact the TCEQ at (512) 239-4900. Please make these special requests as far in advance as possible.

Comments not submitted at the public meeting can be provided in writing and mailed to TCEQ at the following address:

Edward Ling
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Chief Engineer's Office, Water Programs
MC 203
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

or faxed to TCEQ at: (512) 239-1414.

All comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on **April 9, 2007**, and reference "Seventeen Total Maximum Daily Loads for Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen, and pH in the Orange County Area." To find out more about the upcoming public meeting or the draft TMDL report for Adams Bayou and Cow Bayou contact Miles Hall, Environmental Services Division Manager for Sabine River Authority of Texas at (409) 746-3284 or mhall@sratx.org.

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