

PLTA NEWS

Protect Lake Travis Association

Summer 2002

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LAKE TRAVIS PARKS CLEAN UP - SEPT. 29th

8:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Volunteers are needed for this trash clean up, sponsored jointly by the Travis County Natural Resources and the LCRA. Those wishing to participate should meet at the Travis County Precinct 2 Satellite Offices, 4501 FM 620 North, next to Mansfield dam between 7:30 A.M. and 9:00 A.M. Trash bags and gloves will be distributed at that time. At noon the sponsors will provide lunch and T shirts at Carlos & Charlies.

Attention will be centered on the following parks:

Pace Bend

Comanche Trail

Sandy Creek

Arkansas Bend

McGregor (Hippie Hollow--no one under 18)

Mansfield Dam

Tom Hughes

If you have a favorite fun area or park you would like to pick up, please contact Charles Williams at (512)854-4496. PLTA has always supported this project and you are urged to get out there and help keep our lake beautiful !

PRIVATE BOAT DOCK STANDARDS

Responding to recent public input on standards for private boat docks on the Highland Lakes, the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) announced that it will step back and restudy the proposals over the next few months. LCRA drafted the standards to address concerns by lakeside residents that abandoned and broken-down private docks pose potential safety and water quality problems. LCRA has worked with advisory groups, including PLTA , over the past year in developing the standards.

An LCRA representative told PLTA that "We have made considerable progress in developing standards that will address safety concerns thanks to the public input received, but the information we received at the latest public meetings tell us that we still have a way to go to address the safety issue without burdening residents who own boat docks".

(more)

(Private Boat Dock Standards, Con't)

One specific provision for which LCRA will be seeking alternatives is the registration of private boat docks on the Highland Lakes. A number of lake residents voiced concerns that the registration process could be burdensome to the majority of dock owners when only a small minority of dock owners were creating the problems. Although the proposed standards did not include fees for registering docks, some lake residents were concerned that registration could lead to the imposition of fees to pay for the program.

PLTA will continue to work on this issue but members should make their own comments or get more information by contacting LCRA - Bill McCann at 1-800/776-5272 Ext. 4032.

WATER FOR WILLIAMSON COUNTY

During the 1999 session of the Texas legislature, a bill was passed (HB1437) that allowed the LCRA to sell water to Round Rock, Georgetown and other fast growing cities of Williamson County, even though Williamson County is outside the water service area of the LCRA and within the boundaries of the Brazos River Authority. The object, as stated in HB1437, was that the Colorado River basin should not be required to suffer a "net loss of water" as a result of this inter-basin transfer. Also, the bill allowed the LCRA to add to the price of the water a surcharge to be used for the development of new water sources within the Colorado basin. It was not and still is not clear if "no net loss" meant that the water was to be replaced immediately, a year later or even five years later.

The bill created an advisory group, made up of rice farmers, who were to advise the LCRA board of directors how to spend the mitigation fund and get the water back into the Colorado basin. Although the Highland lakes are a major stockholder in the program, they were not represented on this advisory group. So, Highland Lakes Political Action Committee proposed an amendment to HB1437 in 2001 designed to correct several of the perceived weaknesses in the bill. The amendment would have returned 1.33 gallons of water to the Colorado basin for each gallon transferred to Williamson County. Also, the amendment gave representation for the lakes on the advisory group and provided for accountability on the part of LCRA for the book-keeping involved in the water in, water out equation.

The bills were introduced in both Natural Resources committees but both bills died in committee.

(more)

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Address Correction Requested

Lake Travis is Fun --- Let's Keep It That Way !

In This Issue:

- Annual Lake Clean Up
- Private Boat Docks
- Water Transfer to Williamson County

Next Issue:

- Is Lago Reneging ?
- Plans for Annual Meeting
- Sharing with EarthShare
- And More

