



BULLETIN

LAKE TRAVIS

THE PROTECT LAKE TRAVIS ASSOCIATION

WINTER 1987

OUR HIGHLAND LAKES are becoming more and more POLLUTED. Please read on. The two dirtiest lakes in the Highland Lake chain are Lakes Marble Falls and LBJ. Both are relatively small, constant level lakes with a flow-through time of 29 to 123 days for Lake LBJ and 2 to 7 days for Lake Marble Falls. This means that the discharged pollution is flushed out of these lakes rather quickly. Compare those flow-through times with that of Lake Travis which runs 200 to 597 days! Thus you can see that Lake Travis is the lake that acts as the holding tank (or one could say cesspool) for all the sewage discharges released into the lakes above it.

At this time, the City of Marble Falls releases approximately 560,000 gallons per day of partially treated sewage into its lake. The City's discharge permit is up for renewal. Marble Falls has asked that the City's permit be renewed --"grandfathered"-- citing that a financial hardship has befallen the City and that because of this, it should not only be allowed to discharge its 560,000 gallons per day but should be allowed to increase that to 1.5 million gallons per day. Ultimately this pollution is headed for the waters of Lake Travis. Can the citizens of Travis County really accept this? And if Marble Falls is allowed to be grandfathered under these terms, how can other cities be refused the same exemption.

Monday, February 9 9:00AM
Stephen F. Austin Building
1700 N. Congress
Room 118

On this date, the Texas Water Commission will be receiving input from the public before a hearings examiner for the purpose of establishing rules for which Lakes Marble Falls and LBJ will be required to follow for their permit renewals.

These proposed rules would allow the grandfathering of existing permits. The Protect Lake Travis Association wishes to have the rules modified so that there will be no effluent discharges in these two remaining lakes. Major discharges (over 10,000 gal/day) into our Lake are banned. Why should there be an exception? Irrigation is a proven technique that currently is being used or approved for use in many developments around Lake Travis.

The Protect Lake Travis Association would appreciate your attendance at this hearing and/or your speaking in our behalf. The organization truly needs your support. Your Texas Water Commission must be told how you feel regarding the polluting of our Highland Lakes. We hope to see you there.

Please remember, the goal is NO effluent discharges into the two Lakes. Should you have any questions, please feel free to phone any of the executive committee members listed below.

Cecil Laws 267-1918
Ann McCandless 266-1664
Taylor Ollmann 267-2635

John Strickland 258-9959
Sam Warrington 266-2573
Susan Young 266-2481