



## COUNTY JUDGE

Fort Bend County, Texas

Robert E. Hebert  
County Judge

(281) 341-8608  
Fax (281) 341-8609

August 9, 2011

Mr. Ron Stein  
TMDL Project Manager  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, MC-203  
PO Box 13087  
Austin Texas 78711-3087

C/O Rachel Powers  
Senior Environmental Planner  
Community & Environmental Planning  
Houston – Galveston Area Council  
3555 Timmons, Suite 120  
Houston, Texas 77227

Subject: Letter of Support for the Bacteria Implementation Group Plan for Total  
Maximum Daily Loads for Bacteria in the Houston-Galveston Region

On behalf of Fort Bend County, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to show our support for the TMDL Implementation Plans for Buffalo Bayou; Keegans Bayou and Clear Creek. As you know, protection of our water resources is a high priority for Fort Bend County and its citizens.

This letter and the enclosed resolution are sent to express our commitment to help implement measures that may help lower the amount of bacteria to these waterways. We recognize that the measures are voluntary and not legally binding to the County, especially where insufficient funding or resources would prohibit implementation. We also recognize – should the voluntary measures alone fall short of lowering bacteria, that 30 TAC §309.2(b) authorizes the TCEQ to establish effluent criteria to supplement the measures and help to achieve the contact recreation standard for the TMDL implementation Plans.

Thank you again for the opportunity to show our support for the TMDL Implementation Plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Hebert", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert E. Hebert  
County Judge

/Enclosure



## **FORT BEND COUNTY ENGINEERING**

Fort Bend County, Texas

**D. Jesse Hegemier**  
County Engineer

Robert E. Hebert - County Judge  
Richard Morrison - Commissioner Pct. 1  
Grady Prestage - Commissioner Pct. 2  
W. A. "Andy" Meyers - Commissioner Pct. 3  
James Patterson - Commissioner Pct. 4

August 3, 2011

**RE: Letter of Support for the Bacteria Implementation Group Plan for Total Maximum Daily Loads for Bacteria in the Houston-Galveston Region**

Dear Commissioners Court:

Attached is information from Ms. Rachel Powers of Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) requesting our support and pledge for participation to reduce bacteria concentrations in our waterways listed in the Implementation Plan (I-Plan). The Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) lists three waterways in the I-Plan that go through Fort Bend County: Buffalo Bayou, Keegans Bayou, and Clear Creek. Adam Wright (Drainage District), Troy Scalco (Environmental Health) and I have worked with H-GAC staff on this plan and will work with other entities in the region to help reduce bacteria levels in our waterways. Fort Bend County is working to help make our waterways cleaner through several existing programs that the County has in place and will work with H-GAC with available resources.

Thank you for reviewing this information, and feel free to contact me at telephone number 281-633-7509 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ronald Drachenberg, P.E., R.P.L.S.  
Assistant County Engineer

Cc: Roy L. Cordes, Jr. - County Attorney  
Mark Vogler, P.E. - Drainage District Manager/Chief Engineer  
D. Jesse Hegemier, P.E. - County Engineer  
Troy Scalco - Health and Human Services  
Robert Ed Sturdivant - County Auditor  
Pam Gubbels - Budget  
Gilbert Jalomo - Purchasing  
Don Brady - Facilities/Planning  
Ray Webb - Information and Technology  
Dianne Wilson - County Clerk



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**Houston-Galveston Area Council**

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June 27, 2011

Mr. Ron Drachenberg, P.E., RPLS  
Fort Bend County Engineering Department  
1124 Blume Rd.  
Rosenberg, TX 77471

RE: Support for the *Implementation Plan for Total Maximum Daily Loads for Bacteria in the Houston-Galveston Region*

Dear Mr. Drachenberg:

I am writing to ask that Fort Bend County consider a resolution to support the *Implementation Plan for Total Maximum Daily Loads for Bacteria in the Houston-Galveston Region*.

The State of Texas sets standards to establish whether waterways are safe for recreational activities, such as swimming or wading. Most rivers, bayous, creeks, and streams in the Houston-Galveston region have bacteria levels that are higher than the state-accepted level for recreational use. The *Implementation Plan* is a common-sense approach for reducing bacteria levels in our waterways and providing better services to citizens. The recommendations in the *Implementation Plan* represent the work of the Bacteria Implementation Group and many additional stakeholders who actively participated in workgroups, public meetings, and conversations.

The support of Fort Bend County is important because it indicates the value the community places on working towards making our waterways cleaner. Fort Bend County's voluntary participation in activities recommended in the *Implementation Plan* will help make the waterways in the region safer for swimming and wading. The voluntary support of and participation in the *Implementation Plan* will help ensure that the determination of the plan and implementation of activities will continue to be directed by local stakeholders.

For review by Fort Bend County, I have enclosed several copies of an overview document which shows a map of the project area, briefly summarizes the activities contained within the plan, and describes what your support could mean. I have also enclosed a copy of the

Click here to enter Recipient Name.

June 27, 2011

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plan and sample language for use in a resolution. Please let me know if you would like additional printed copies of the plan or the overview document. The documents, as well as additional information, are available on the website for the Bacteria Implementation Group: [www.h-gac.com/BIG](http://www.h-gac.com/BIG). I am also willing to provide a briefing or presentation for county representatives.

Please contact me at any time if you have questions or need additional information.  
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Rachel Powers  
Senior Environmental Planner  
Community & Environmental Planning

Enclosures



# Big Ideas for Cleaner Water

A Plan to Reduce Bacteria in the Houston-Galveston Region

# A Plan to Reduce Bacteria

## We have bacteria in our waterways

The State of Texas sets standards to establish whether waterways are safe for recreational activities, such as swimming or wading. Most rivers, bayous, creeks and streams in the Houston-Galveston region have bacteria levels that are higher than the state-accepted level.

## Bacteria comes from many sources

Bacteria comes from many sources, including, but not limited to, improper maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities and sanitary sewer systems, failing septic systems, runoff pollution, illegal dumping and animal wastes.

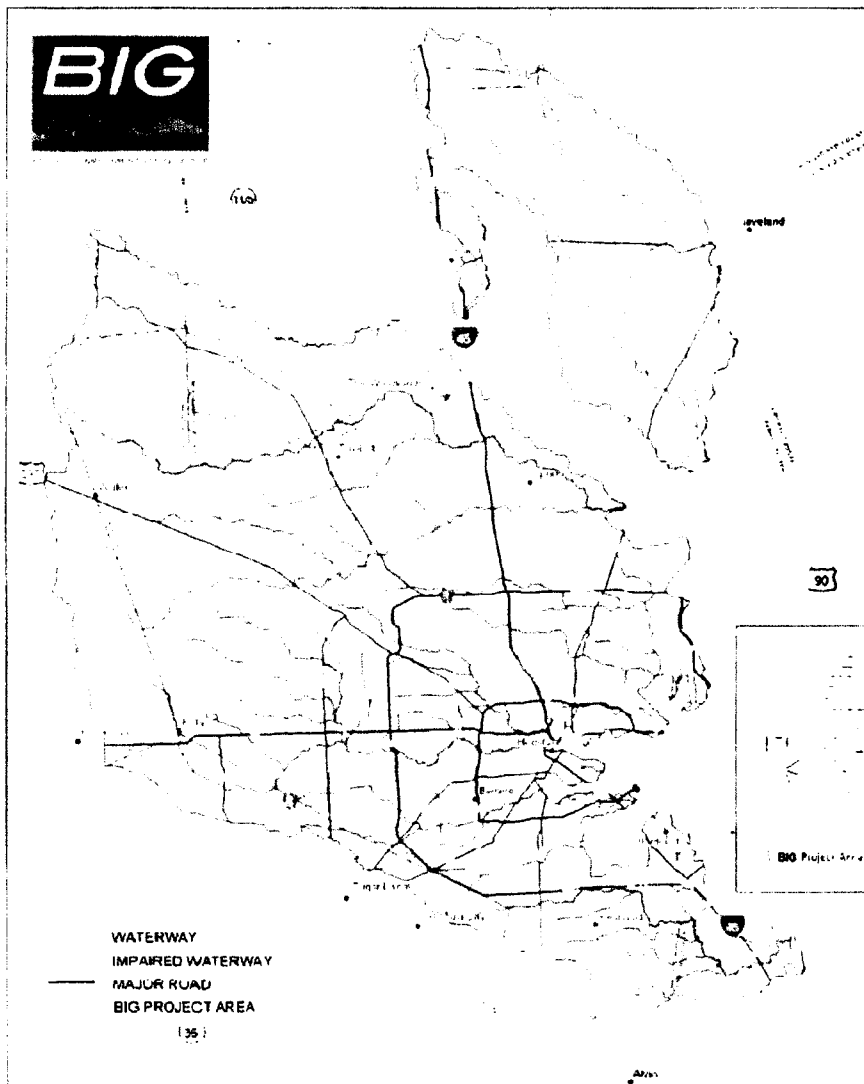
## Everyone is affected by bacteria

More than 4 million people live in the affected areas, which includes waterways in parts of 10 counties: Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker and Waller.

## The Bacteria Implementation Group

In 2008, a group of government, business, and community leaders was formed with a common goal of developing a plan for reducing bacteria in area waterways. A full roster of this Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is available at [www.h-gac.com/BIG](http://www.h-gac.com/BIG).

## Project Area and Impaired Waterways

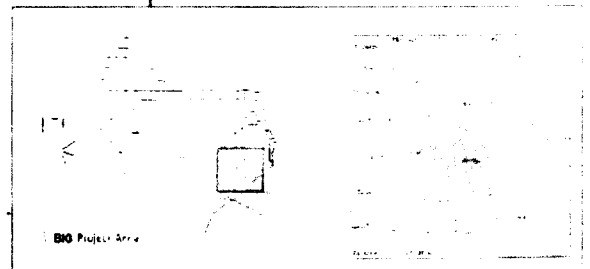


## We have a plan

To reduce bacteria in waterways, the BIG developed an Implementation Plan, or I-Plan, offering a menu of water protection activities to be completed by municipalities, industries, land owners and residents. The draft I-Plan is available online at [www.h-gac.com/BIG](http://www.h-gac.com/BIG).

## The Houston-Galveston Area Council

The Houston-Galveston Area Council is a voluntary association of cities, counties and special districts in the Greater Houston area of Southeast Texas. H-GAC provides staff support for the BIG and development of the I-Plan.



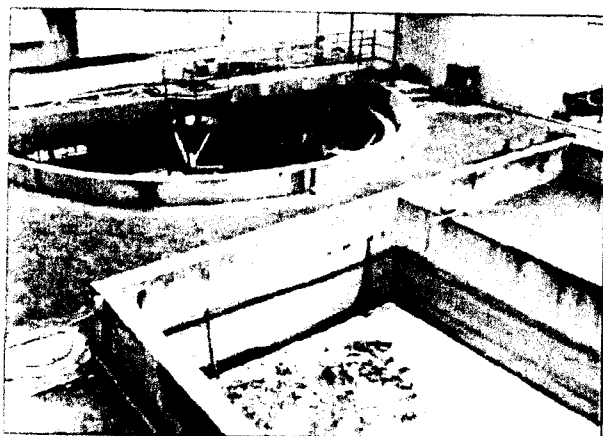


## I-Plan Activities

The following short list of I-Plan bacteria-reduction activities is organized by bacteria source.

### Wastewater Treatment Facilities

- Strengthen monitoring requirements
- Retrofit facilities not meeting current performance standards
- Improve design and operation criteria for new plants
- Encourage regionalization for out-of-compliance facilities
- Allow unannounced inspections to increase enforcement



### Sanitary Sewer Systems

- Require all systems develop and implement a proactive management program
- Protect against power outages at lift stations with backup power supplies, quick connects and mobile generators
- Report systems failures

### On-Site Sewage Facilities

- Identify failing and old systems
- Require maintenance or repair on malfunctioning systems

### Storm Water and Land Development

- Expand storm water quality programs
- Design a recognition program for voluntary bacteria reduction measures incorporated in new developments
- Petition the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to reimburse the costs of bacteria reduction measures completed by MUDs and other special-purpose districts

### Residential Sources

- Provide public education on proper disposal of fats, oils, grease and pet wastes



### Illicit Discharges and Dumping Sources

- Better control of waste hauler activities
- Monitor channels to detect, map and eliminate illicit discharges

### Agriculture and Animal Sources

- Expand existing programs, such as erosion control, nutrient reduction and livestock management



# Show Your Support

## Resolve to Make a Difference

The I-Plan is a common-sense approach for reducing bacteria levels in our waterways and providing better services to citizens. However, for the plan to work, we need your help. Please consider adopting a formal resolution of support for this bacteria reduction plan. The resolution will show your commitment to voluntarily participating in bacteria reduction activities that are appropriate for your community.



### Your support indicates that you:

- Value clean water in our rivers, bayous, creeks, and streams.
- Understand that many of our waterways are designated as inappropriate for recreational activities because of the presence of elevated levels of bacteria.
- Acknowledge that the plan is a consensus document developed through a stakeholder-led process.
- Support participation in implementation activities as appropriate for your entity, including voluntary activities and progress reports.
- Urge other entities in the region to work together to reduce bacteria contributions to our bayous, rivers, and streams.

The I-Plan is available online at [www.h-gac.com/BIG](http://www.h-gac.com/BIG) e-mail [rachel.power@h-gac.com](mailto:rachel.power@h-gac.com) or call 713-993-4559 to receive a copy. Sign up at [www.h-gac.com/BIG](http://www.h-gac.com/BIG) to learn more about upcoming meetings, workshops and water quality activities in your neighborhood.

The work doesn't stop when the I-Plan is approved. You'll have opportunities to help make adjustments to the plan as we continue to work for reduced bacteria.



The Bacteria Reduction  
Implementation Plan  
[www.h-gac.com/BIG](http://www.h-gac.com/BIG)  
713-993-4559



Texas Commission on  
Environmental  
Quality Region 12  
[www.tceq.state.tx.us](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us)  
713-767-3500



Houston-Galveston  
Area Council  
[www.h-gac.com](http://www.h-gac.com)  
713-627-3200