



UTILITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

City of Dripping Springs

Council Chambers, 511 Mercer St, Dripping Springs, TX

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 4:00 PM

VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

This meeting will be held via videoconference and the public is encouraged and welcome to participate. Public comment may be given during the videoconference by joining the meeting using the information below. Public comment for this meeting may also be submitted to the City Secretary at acunningham@cityofdrippingsprings.com no later than 4:00 PM on the day the meeting will be held.

The Utility Commission respectfully requests that all microphones and webcams be disabled unless you are a member of the Commission. City staff, consultants and presenters, please enable your microphone and webcam when presenting to the Commission.

Agenda

MEETING SPECIFIC VIDEOCONFERENCE INFORMATION

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89856876737?pwd=T0RoUEVCM3dUd2lSYzNXS1N1cWlVQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 5687 6737

Passcode: 069699

Dial Toll Free:

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

877 853 5257 US Toll-free

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89856876737>

Join by Skype for Business: <https://us02web.zoom.us/skype/89856876737>

CALL TO ORDER

Commission Members

Jim Langford, Chair

Chuck Miller, Vice Chair

Meghan Lind

Roger Kew

Jeff Freeman

Staff, Consultants & Appointed/Elected Officials

Deputy City Administrator Ginger Faught

Public Works Coordinator Aaron Reed
Building Official/Utility Coordinator Sarah Cole

PRESENTATION OF CITIZENS

A member of the public who desires to address the Commission regarding any item on an agenda for an open meeting may do so at presentation of citizens before an item or at a public hearing for an item during the Commission's consideration of that item. Citizens wishing to discuss matters not contained within the current agenda may do so, but only during the time allotted for presentation of citizens. Speakers are allowed two (2) minutes to speak during presentation of citizens or during each public hearing. Speakers may not cede or pool time. Members of the public requiring the assistance of a translator will be given twice the amount of time as a member of the public who does not require the assistance of a translator to address the Commission. It is the request of the Commission that members of the public wishing to speak on item(s) on the agenda with a noticed Public Hearing hold their comments until the item(s) are presented for consideration. Speakers are encouraged to sign in. Anyone may request a copy of the City's policy on presentation of citizens from the city secretary. By law no action may be taken during Presentations of Citizens.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentations are for discussion only and no action shall be taken.

- 1. Save Barton Creek Association (SBCA) presentation on their October 2020 report, *Pristine to Polluted: Sewage Problems & Solutions in the Texas Hill Country*. Author: Brian Zabcik, SCBA Wastewater Campaign Organizer**

MINUTES

- 2. Discuss and consider approval of the December 9, 2020 Utility Commission regular meeting minutes.**

BUSINESS

- 3. Update and discussion regarding Water and Wastewater facility activities.**
- 4. City Council activities report.**
Commissioner Jeff Foreman

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Utility Commission for the City of Dripping Springs has the right to meet in executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any matter as authorized by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), and 551.086 (Economic Development). The Utility Commission for the City of Dripping Springs may act on any item listed in Executive Session in Open Session or move any item from Executive Session to Open Session for action.

- 5. Consultation with Attorney regarding legal issues related to Wastewater Discharge Permit, related permits, and current related litigation in *SOS v. TCEQ* in the 459th**

Judicial District Court of Travis County and related development, financial, and utility issues. Consultation with City Attorney, 551.071

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Utility Commission Meetings

February 10, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

March 10, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

April 14, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

City Council Meetings

January 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

February 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

February 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT PUBLIC NOTIFICATION & POSTING OF MEETING

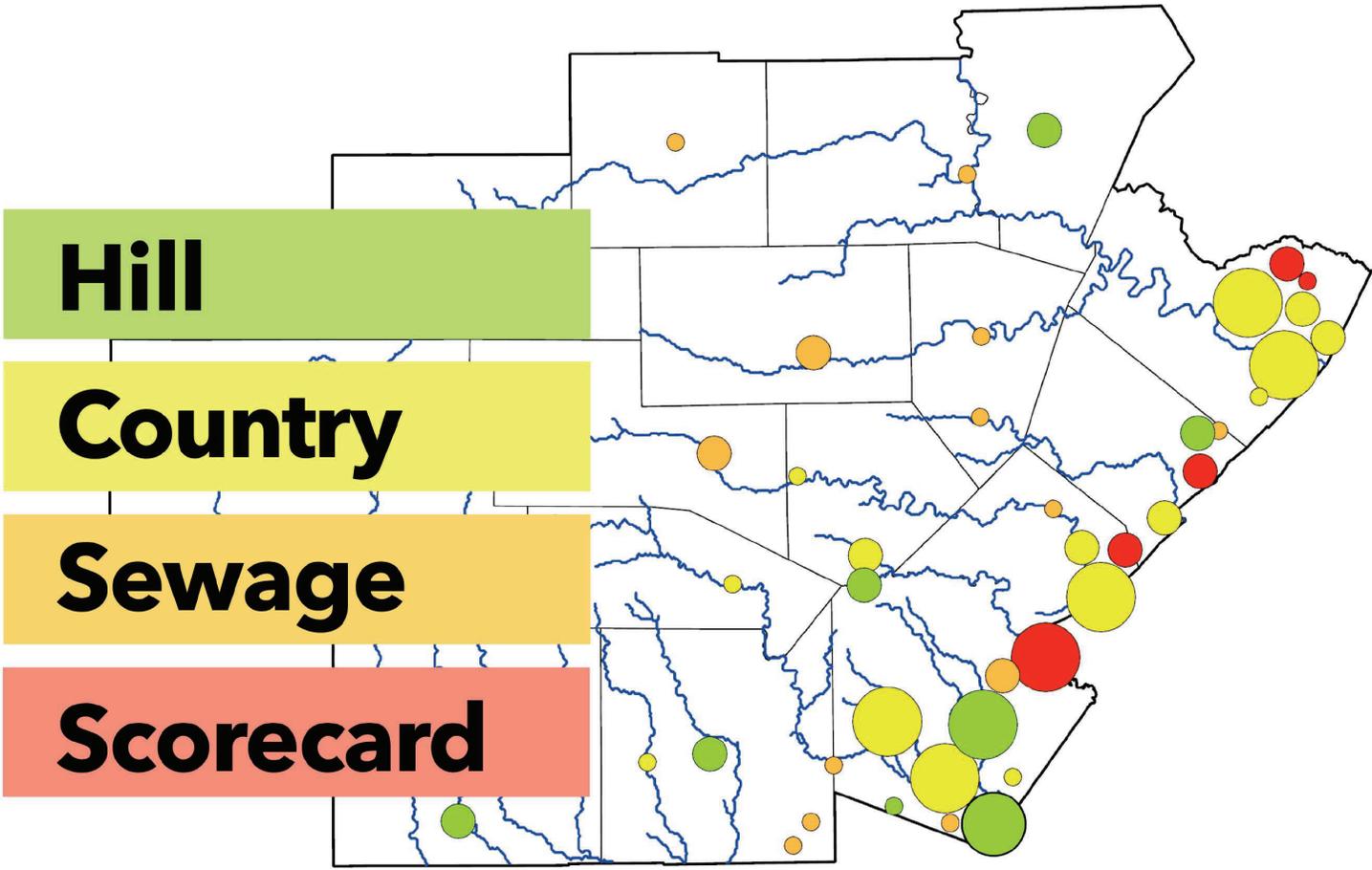
All agenda items listed above are eligible for discussion and action unless otherwise specifically noted. This notice of meeting is posted in accordance with Chapter 551, Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes. Annotated. In addition, the Commission may consider a vote to excuse the absence of any Commissioner for absence from this meeting.

Due to the Texas Governor Order, Hays County Order, City of Dripping Springs Disaster Declaration, and Center for Disease Control guidelines related to COVID-19, a quorum of this body could not be gathered in one place, and this meeting will be conducted through videoconferencing. Texas Government Code Sections 551.045; 551.125; and 551.127.

*I certify that this notice of meeting was posted at the City of Dripping Springs City Hall and website, www.cityofdrippingsprings.com, on **January 8, 2021 at 4:15 p.m.***

City Secretary

This facility is wheelchair accessible. Accessible parking spaces are available. Requests for auxiliary aids and services must be made 48 hours prior to this meeting by calling (512) 858-4725.



SAVE BARTON CREEK ASSOCIATION
BRIAN ZABCIK • JANUARY 2021




Save Barton Creek Association

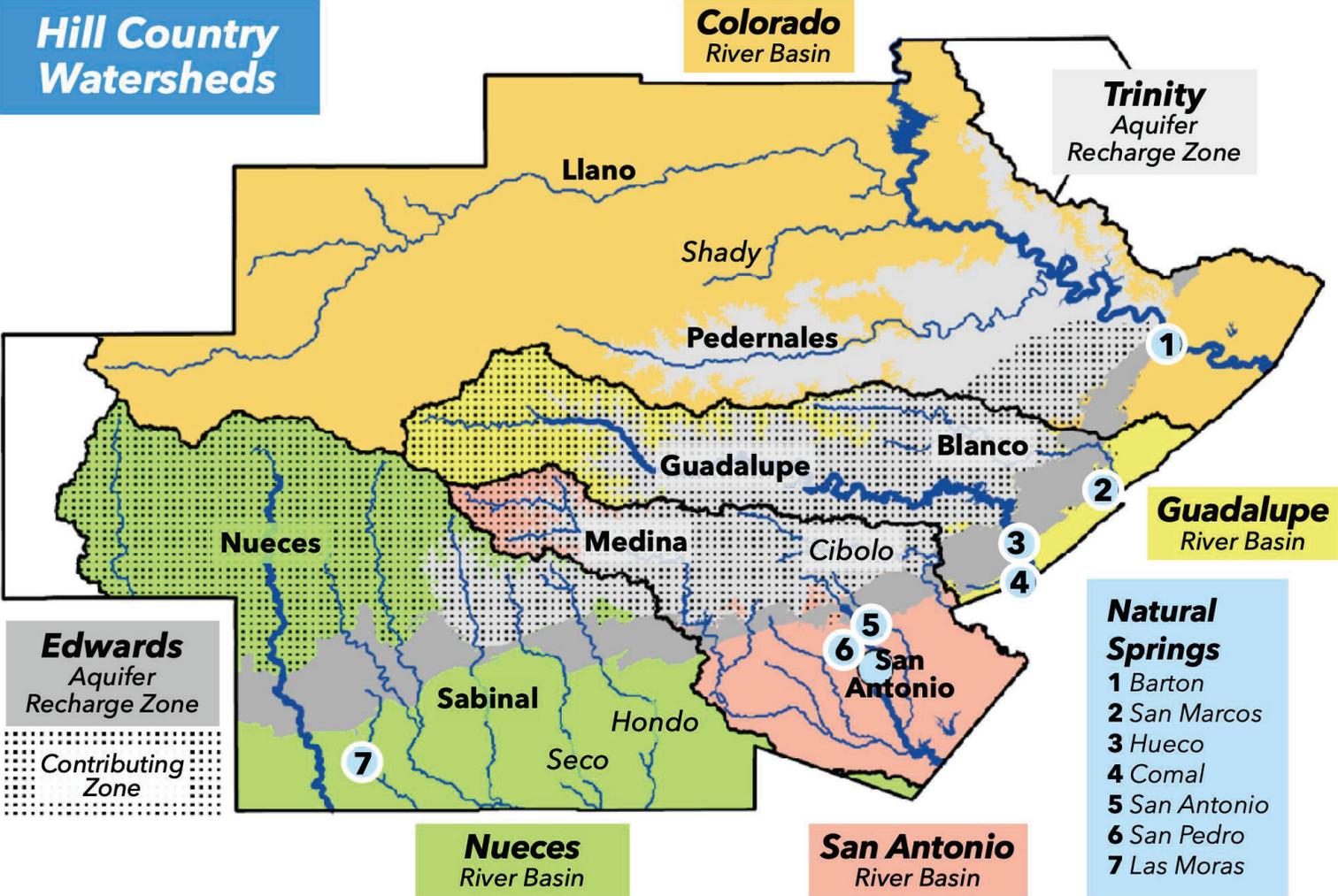
Hill
Country
Sewage
Scorecard

Bandera, Bexar, Blanco, Burnet, Comal,
Edwards, Gillespie, Hays, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble,
Llano, Mason, Medina, Real, Travis, Uvalde

January 2017-June 2020

- 48** municipal sewage discharge plants
- 81%** at least 1 permit exceedance
- 8.6** average number of exceedances
- 188** average number of days with exceedances

Hill Country Watersheds



Key terms

Sewage – wastewater

Treatment – removing pollutants

Effluent – treated wastewater

Dispersal – dumping effluent

Land dispersal – septic tanks, irrigation

Water dispersal – discharge

Discharge permits

- **Flow limit**
- **Pollutant limits**
- **Monitoring & reporting**

Sewage pollutants

Regulated – Oxygen levels (BOD)

– Solids (TSS)

– E. coli

Not regulated – Emerging contaminants

– Nutrients
(nitrogen, phosphorus)



Enforcement and Compliance History Online

[ECHO Gov Login](#) [Contact Us](#)

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Use EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online website to search for facilities in your community to assess their compliance with environmental regulations. You can use ECHO to:

- Search for Facilities
- Investigate Pollution Sources
- Search for EPA Enforcement Cases
- Examine and Create Enforcement-Related Maps
- Analyze Trends in Compliance & Enforcement Data



[Read the Quick Start Guide](#)



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You are here [Home](#) » [Trends](#) » [Water Pollutant Loading Tool](#) » [Reports](#) » Effluent Limit Exceedances Report

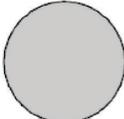
Effluent Limit Exceedances Report

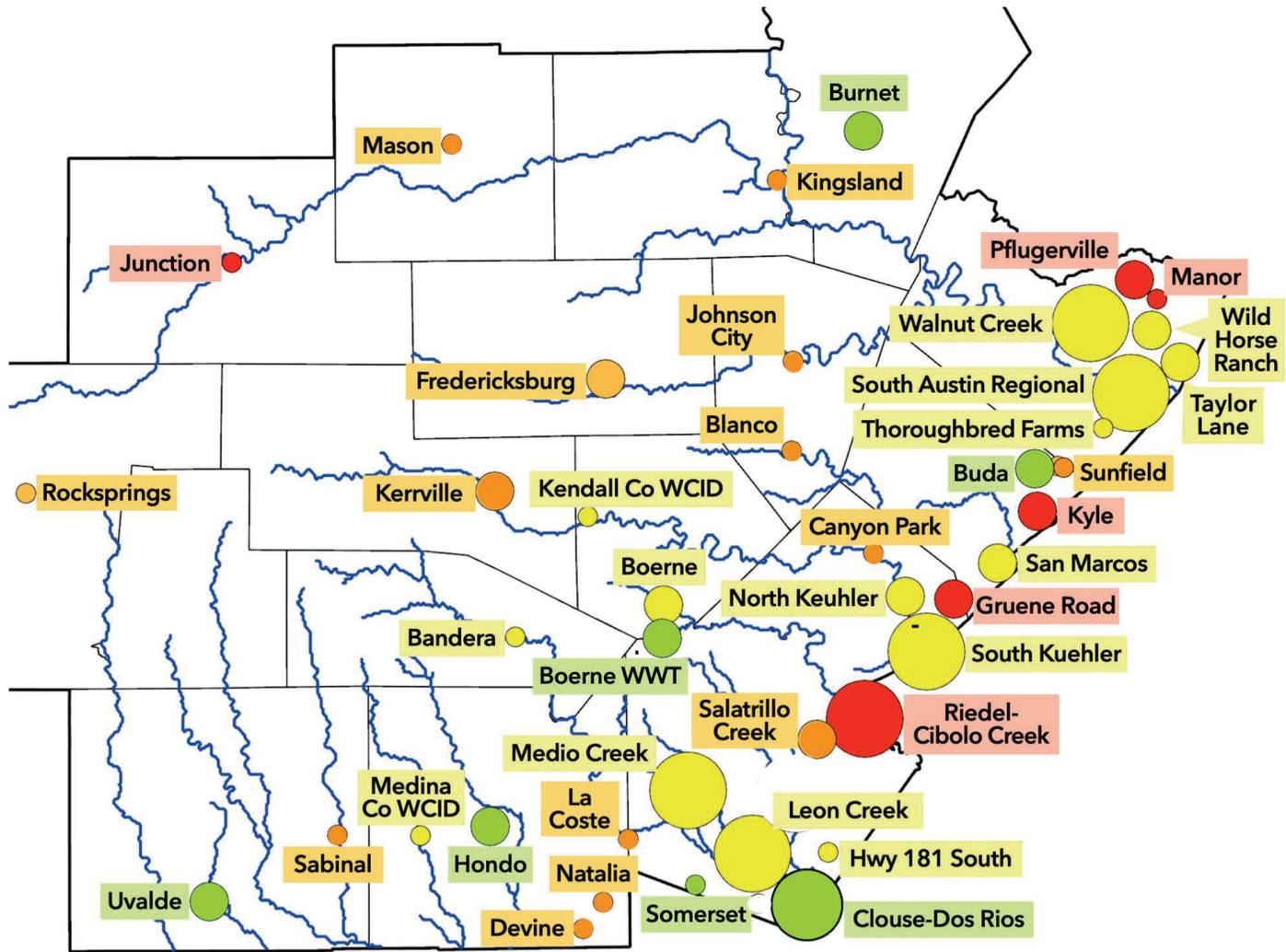
Print Help

LIBERTY HILL REGIONAL WWTP, LEANDER, TX, 78641

<p><u>Facility Information</u> NPDES ID: TX0126195 FRS ID: 110034063091 Other NPDES IDs associated with this FRS ID: None TRI ID(s): None Major/Non-Major Indicator: Major Facility Type: POTW Latitude: 30.616972 Longitude: -97.84675 4-Digit SIC Code: 4952 - SEWERAGE SYSTEMS 6-Digit NAICS Code: --</p> <p><u>Receiving Watershed Information</u> Water Body Name (from GNIS): South Fork San Gabriel River Watershed Name and Number (12-Digit HUC): Not found (120702050203) Listed for Impairment: No Impairment Class: Not provided.</p>	<p><u>Permit Information</u> Permit Status: Administratively Continued Permit Issuance: STATE OF TEXAS Original Issue Date: 12/16/2004 Last Issue Date: 09/22/2015 Permit Effective Date: 10/01/2015 Permit Expiration Date: 12/01/2018 DMR Signer: -- Approved Pretreatment Program: No Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Outfall: No</p> <p><u>Enforcement Information</u> Last Formal Enforcement Action: 06/16/2020 Civil Enforcement Case Number: TX-2018-1024-MLM-E DOJ/Court Docket Number: -- Court Docket Number: Type Description: State CWA Penalty AO</p>
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Grade & Size

Days with effluent exceedances	Maximum permitted discharge
 A 0 days	 >1 mgd
 B 1-50 days	 1-10 mgd
 C 51-500 days	 10< mgd
 F 500+ days	



FACILITY	GRADE	DAYS
BANDERA		
Bandera	B	28
BEXAR		
Martinez II	A	0
Martinez IV	A	0
Somerset	A	0
Clouse-Dos Rios	B	4
Hwy 181 S Elmendorf	B	33
Leon Creek	B	3
Medio Creek	B	4
Salatrillo Creek	C	71
Cibolo Valley	F	575
Riedel-Cibolo Creek	F	731
BLANCO		
Blanco	C	121
Johnson City	C	91

FACILITY	GRADE	DAYS
BURNET		
Burnet	A	0
COMAL		
North Kuehler	B	1
South Kuehler	B	1
Canyon Park Estates	C	91
Gruene Road	F	1,150
EDWARDS		
Rocksprings	C	122
GILLESPIE		
Fredericksburg	C	121
HAYS		
Buda	A	0
San Marcos	B	3
Sunfield MUD 4	C	60
Kyle	F	833

FACILITY	GRADE	DAYS
KENDALL		
Boerne WWT	A	0
Boerne	B	1
Kendall Co WCID 1	B	30
KERR		
Kerrville	C	93
KIMBLE		
Junction	F	1,119
LLANO		
Kingsland MUD	C	155
MASON		
Mason	C	303
MEDINA		
Hondo	A	0
Medina Co WCID 2	B	30
Devine	C	243

FACILITY	GRADE	DAYS
La Coste	C	120
Natalia	C	120
TRAVIS		
Pearce Lane	A	0
Dessau	B	29
S Austin Regional	B	2
Taylor Lane	B	30
Thoroughbred Farms	B	1
Walnut Creek	B	4
Wild Horse Ranch	B	32
Wilbarger Cr MUD 2	C	391
Manor	F	846
Pflugerville	F	1,372
UVALDE		
Uvalde	A	0
Sabinal	C	62

Enforcement

Number of plants receiving formal enforcement action & monetary penalty:

Number of plants receiving no formal enforcement action & no monetary penalty:



Plants with 500+ days of effluent exceedances



Plants with 50-500 days of effluent exceedances



Plants with 1-50 days of effluent exceedances

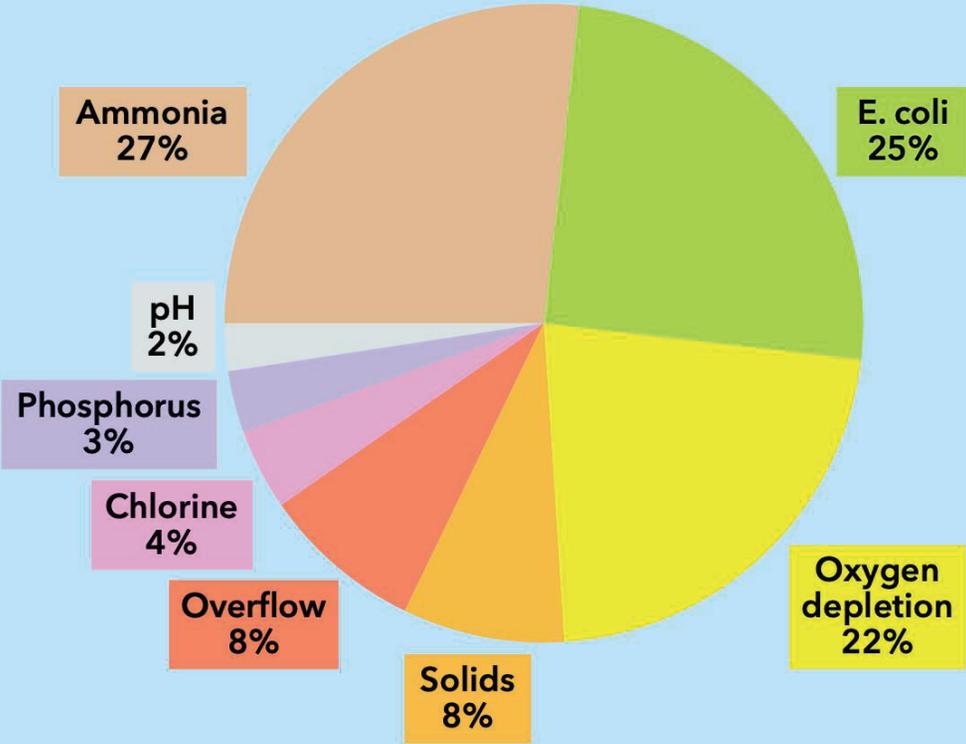


Plants with no effluent exceedances

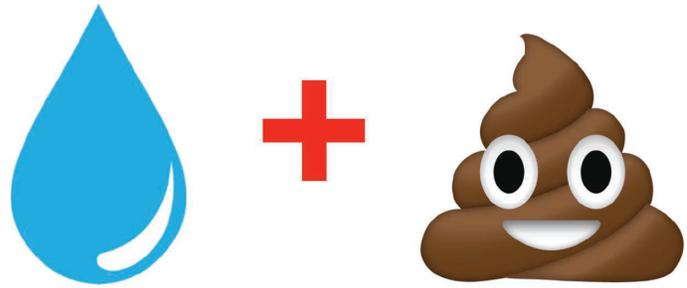
**One plant received a formal action but no penalty*

Pollutants

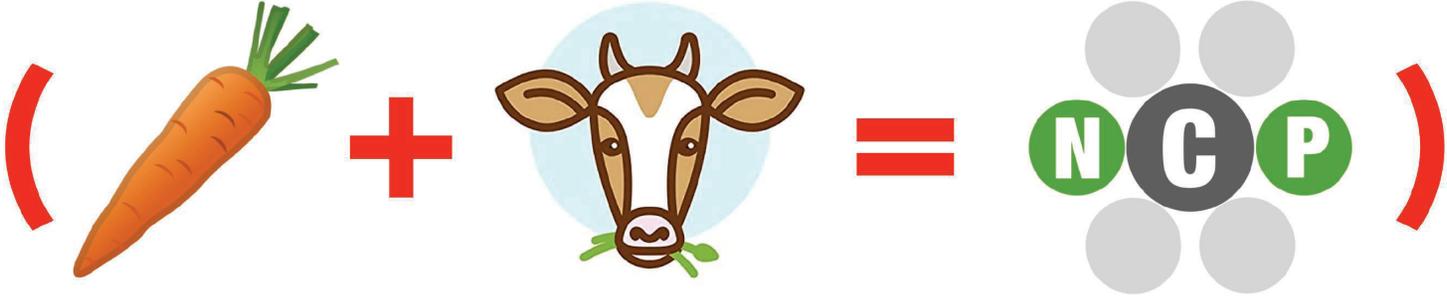
Percentage of all exceedances for each pollutant:



What's in sewage?



Water & poop (plants & animals = organic matter = carbon)



How do plants & animals decay?

EARTHTOPLANET.COM

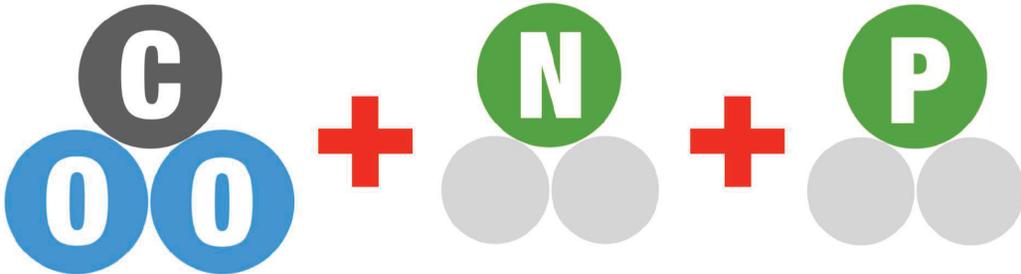


BACTERIAL BLUEGRASS

How organic matter decomposes



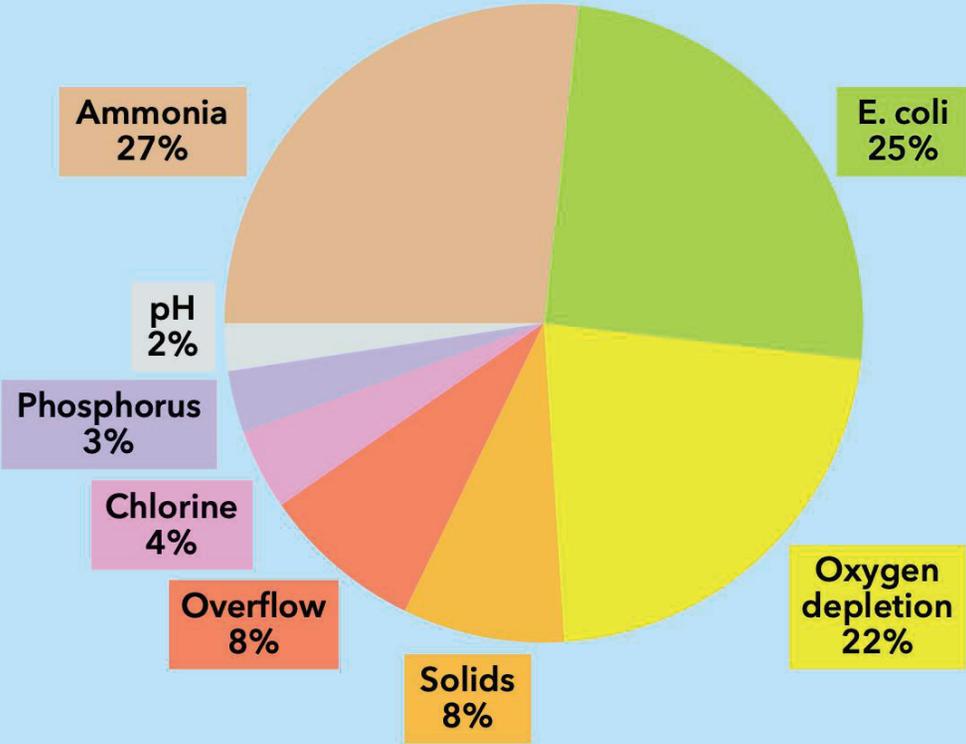
Aerobic bacteria + Carbon compounds + Oxygen =



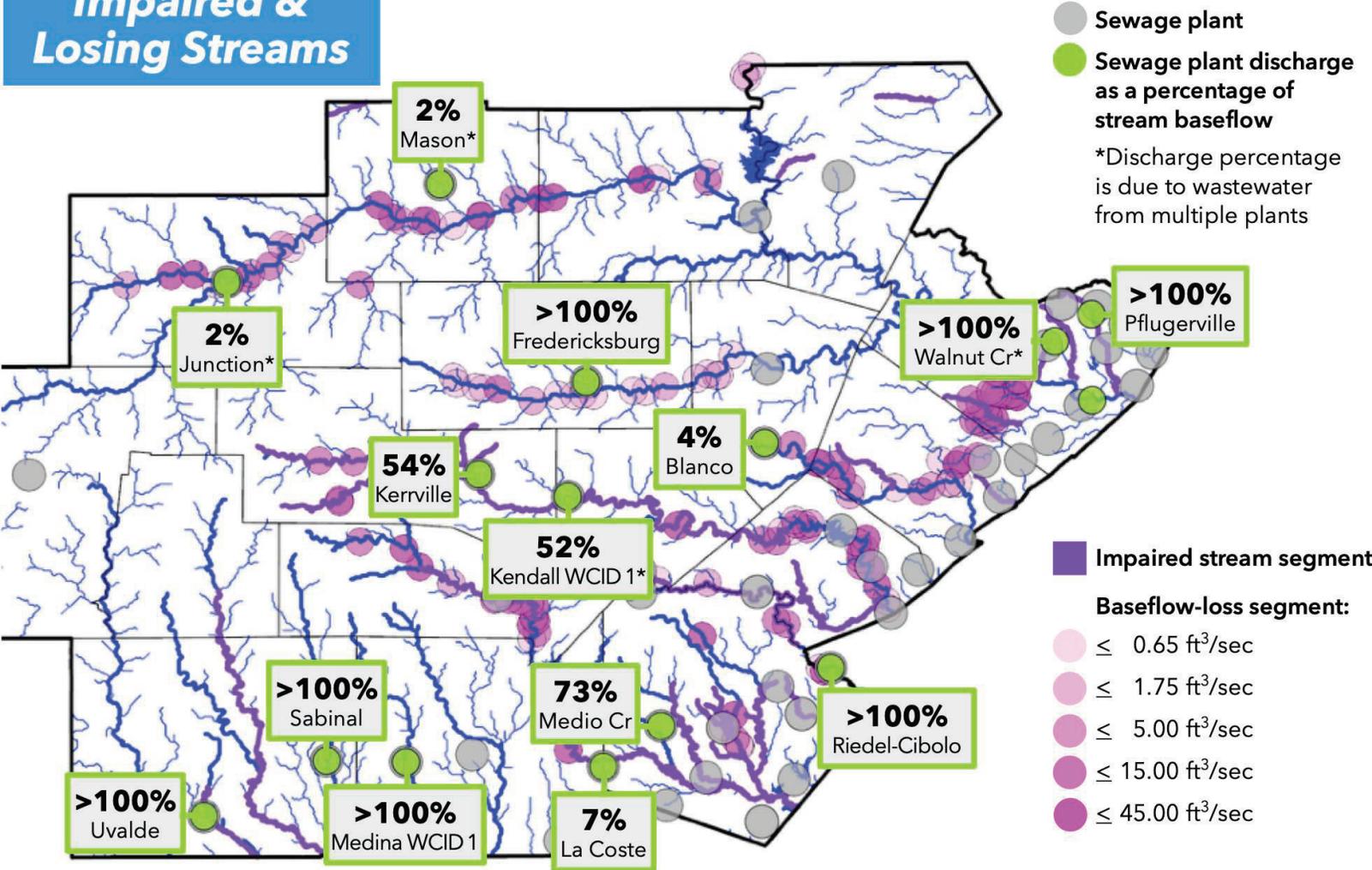
Carbon dioxide + Nitrogen + Phosphorus

Pollutants

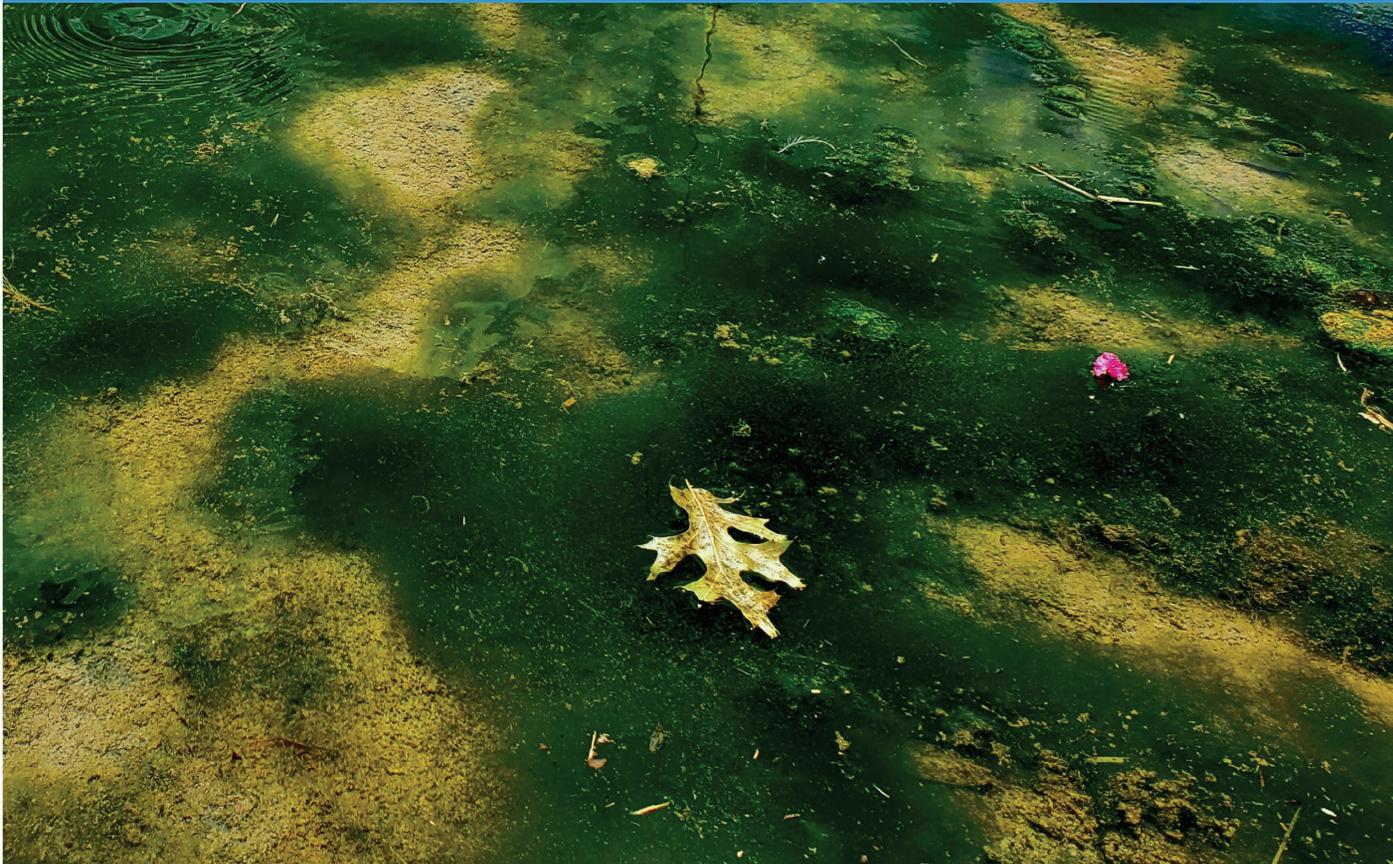
Percentage of all exceedances for each pollutant:



Impaired & Losing Streams



Algae pollution



Liberty Hill



Austin American-Statesman

Nonprofit plans suit over Liberty Hill wastewater plant



By Claire Osborn
@cosbo4
Posted Sep 11, 2020

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid has given the Liberty Hill mayor a 60-day notice of intent to file a federal lawsuit against the city claiming its wastewater treatment plant has violated the levels of nutrients it can release into the South San Gabriel River 3,108 times since 2015.



50 yards upstream of wastewater outfall

South San Gabriel River



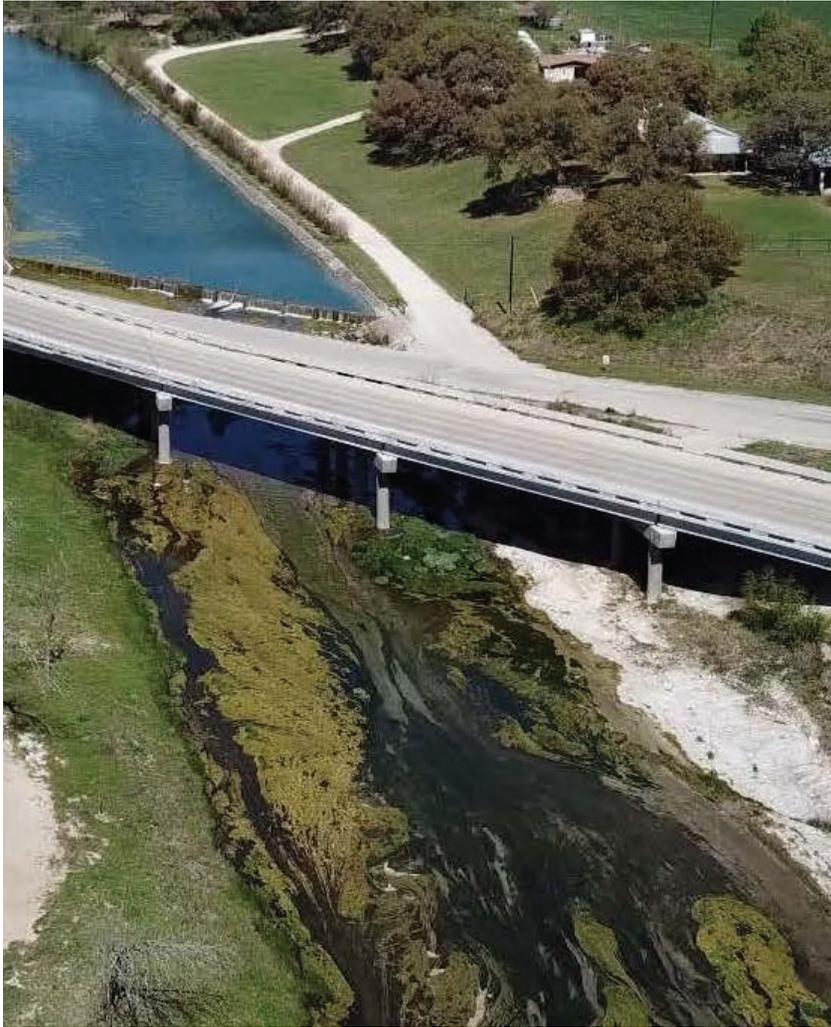
At the outfall, 1 mile East of Hwy 183

Aug 19 2019 - Liberty Hill Wastewater Treatment plant discharge point of "treated" wastewater effluent



1/4 mile downstream of wastewater outfall





Disperse on land, not water

- **On-site facilities (septic tanks)**
- **Irrigation (land application)**
- **Beneficial reuse of wastewater**

NO DUMPING SEWAGE



info@NoDumpingSewage.org


Save Barton Creek Association



UTILITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
City of Dripping Springs
Council Chambers, 511 Mercer St, Dripping Springs, TX
Wednesday, December 09, 2020 at 4:00 PM

MINUTES

MEETING SPECIFIC VIDEOCONFERENCE INFORMATION

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88187260933?pwd=cmVNZHBtSEhCakRORjdUdE0zdDhiZz09>

Meeting ID: 881 8726 0933

Passcode: 265086

Dial Toll Free:

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

877 853 5257 US Toll-free

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdepPi9zW>

Join by Skype for Business: <https://us02web.zoom.us/skype/88187260933>

CALL TO ORDER

Commission Members present were:

Jim Langford, Chair

Chuck Miller, Vice Chair

Meghan Lind

Roger Kew

Jeff Foreman

Staff, Consultants & Appointed/Elected Officials present were:

Deputy City Administrator Ginger Faught

Public Works Coordinator Aaron Reed

Building Official/Utilities Coordinator Sarah Cole

With a quorum of the Commission present, Chair Langford called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF CITIZENS

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Kelly Davis with Save Our Springs Alliance spoke encouraging the Commission to review the agreement regarding parameters of the Utility Commission duties and feels the Commission is underutilized. She also stated that she believes the Commission should be more involved in planning and development projects regarding wastewater and advised the Commission to collaborate with the Blanco Utility Commission.

MINUTES

1. Discuss and consider approval of the November 4, 2020 Utility Commission regular meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Miller to approve the November 4, 2020 Utility Commission regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Lind seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5 to 0.

BUSINESS

2. Update and discussion regarding Water and Wastewater facility activities.

Aaron Reed presented the staff report and reviewed the design plan for the West Interceptor. Lack of movement on expansion project is due to pending litigation. Aaron will forward the Commission the operations report to include a flow historical chart for the treatment plant.

Chair Langford requested an update on the Driftwood process, for which Aaron indicated that the development is in the easement acquisition phase for the effluent line and for the time being, the development will be on a pump and haul system. Additionally, Aaron provided updates on the infrastructure status for the Big Sky development.

Vice Chair Miller requested copies of the briefs and court documents for the current litigation regarding the TCEQ permit appeal.

3. City Council activities report.

Chair Jim Langford

Chair Lanford provided an update. Commissioner Foreman will attend City Council meetings in January and provide the Commission with the City Council activities report at the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Utility Commission for the City of Dripping Springs has the right to meet in executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any matter as authorized by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property),

551.073 (*Deliberations about Gifts and Donations*), 551.074 (*Personnel Matters*), 551.076 (*Deliberations about Security Devices*), and 551.086 (*Economic Development*). The Utility Commission for the City of Dripping Springs may act on any item listed in Executive Session in Open Session or move any item from Executive Session to Open Session for action.

The Commission did not meet in Executive Session.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Utility Commission Meetings

January 13, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

February 10, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

March 10, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

City Council Meetings

December 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

January 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

January 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Commissioner Foreman to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kew seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5 to 0.

This regular meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.