

# Wastewater is the last thing we need in our last few pristine streams!

## Clean, clear pristine rivers and streams in Texas support vibrant tourism and recreation-based economies known value to the lands that surround them,

The map above highlights 22 stream segments and 1,373 miles of native, natural, pristine waterways. These are some of Texas' most beloved places—the aqua blue Devils, many cypress-lined Hill Country rivers like the Blanco, Frio and Nueces, two upper forks of the San Gabriel, and Barton, Hondo and Onion Creeks, among others.

These stream segments deserve special protection because they naturally carry very low levels of phosphorus. The addition of even highly treated domestic wastewater effluent carries levels of phosphorous and other nutrients that far exceed the natural levels found in these Texas streams. And sadly, experience has taught us that discharge of wastewater into pristine streams will degrade the water quality and turn it ugly.

These 22 stream segments contain an amount of Total Phosphorous below detectable levels (.06 mg/l) found in 90 percent of all samples taken in the last ten years of monitoring by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). This data is certified, stored and publicly available in the agency's official Surface Water Quality Monitoring (SWQM) database.

Today, we are asking TCEQ to promulgate a new rule that prohibits wastewater discharge into 22 stream segments where the addition of phosphorus will degrade water quality. This rule will provide much needed clarity for development, will save time and great expense for those who must organize to contest each individual domestic wastewater permit application, and will protect water quality in these unique and fragile, favorite places.

With a new rule in place to protect the specified stream segments, applicants who once may have sought a wastewater discharge permit will be directed to apply for a Texas Land Application

Permit (TLAP) 210 Reuse and beneficial uses.

The attached Pristine Streams Petition, requesting the new rule, was filed with TCEQ on January 31, 2022. It is supported by landowners, community groups, conservationists and local governments who recognize the value of clean, clear streams for the well-being of all Texans.

The rule is a fair, balanced and necessary action to protect the last pristine streams in Texas.

### Won't you join us?

#### Make your voice be heard!

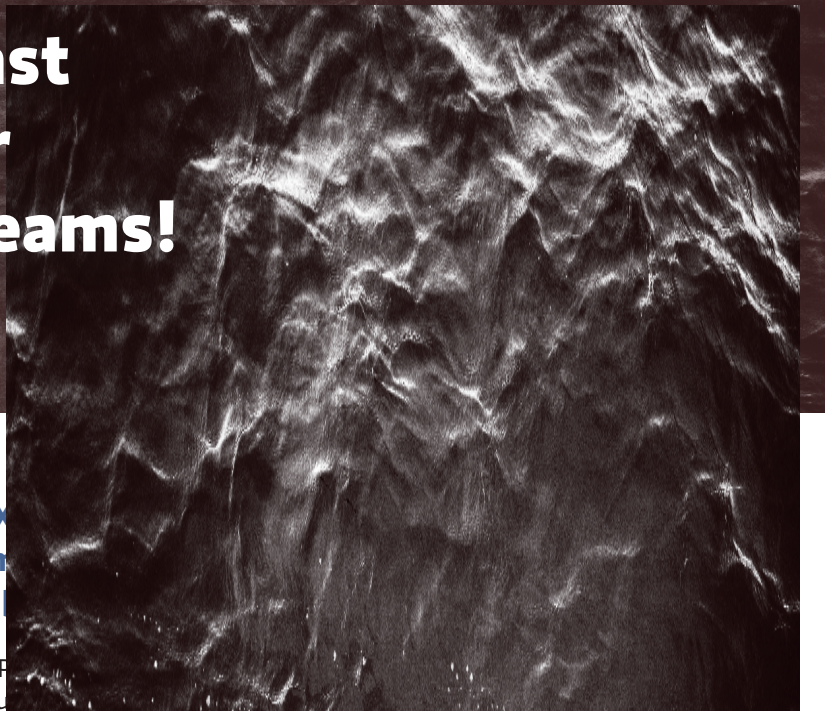
##### Online

[www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/Index.cfm?fuseaction=main.welcome](http://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/Index.cfm?fuseaction=main.welcome)

ENTER	Permit number: 2022-014-PET-NR
HIT	'Next' button
ACCEPT	Privacy Policy (click button)
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TYPE	Comments in the box and/or upload an attachment
SUBMIT	to TCEQ

##### Mail

TCEQ chief clerk, Mail Code 105,  
P. O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087



- Covered Stream Segments**
- Stream Segments Not Covered**

Source: TCEQ Surface Water Quality Monitoring Data, Selected segments (Exhibit B). Map by Robin Gary, WVWA, 2/10/2022.

- North Fork Red River*
- South Fork San Gabriel River*
- North Fork San Gabriel River*
- Llano River*
- Middle Concho/South Concho River*
- Onion Creek*
- Barton Creek*
- Lower Blanco River*
- Upper Blanco River*
- Cypress Creek*
- Johnson Creek*
- North Fork Guadalupe River*
- South Fork Guadalupe River*
- Medina River above Medina Lake*
- Upper Sabinal River*
- Upper Nueces River*
- Upper Frio River*
- Hondo Creek*
- Seco Creek*
- Devils River*
- Lower Pecos River*
- San Felipe Creek*