

Llano River Watershed Alliance information on Waterstone permit request to TCEQ to build a dam on the South Llano River

The Llano River Watershed Alliance has compiled information to help land owners find information and submit public comments to TCEQ by June 11, 2022.

www.llanoriver.org/waterstone

Things you can do:

Make a public comment to TCEQ and request a public meeting.

Consider contacting Andy Murr your State Representative of Texas <https://www.andrewmurr.com>

Call The TCEQ Chief Clerk @ 512-239-3300

Kimble County commissioners <https://www.co.kimble.tx.us>

City of Junction <http://www.cityofjunction.com>

Talk to your neighbors.

Facts we know:

The proposed site is owned by Waterstone Creek, LLC, out of Houston and is located above 700 Springs and below Llano Springs Ranch.

The dam site application is only for a 49 acre tract on the South Llano River. The company owns adjoining tracts, which appear to total over 300 acres.

The proposed dam would impound just over 12 acre feet, so depending on the topography, the dam could be a couple of feet up to 6 feet tall.

Public notice was published in the THE TEXAS MOHAIR WEEKLY May 12.

Once the notice comes out in the paper (note doesn't say what paper) TCEQ allows 30 days to submit public comment and request a public hearing.

TCEQ will accept written public comments and requests for a public meeting until June 11, which is 30 days after the aforementioned public notice appeared in the newspaper.

TCEQ may also grant a contested case hearing if a written request is received by the June 11.

The City Council of Junction is holding a called meeting to discuss and possible action May 23 - 5:30pm city meeting room.

If you wish to make comments to TCEQ, here's some talking points to consider:

State your interest in the Llano Rivers, how your family uses it (irrigation, fishing, swimming,).

Mention if you have a business that depends on river tourism.

Maintaining Kimble County's image as the "Land of Living Waters" is important.

Has a sand and gravel permit has been issued by TPWD?

Has a permit been issued by the CORPS of Engineers?

Is that stretch of river considered navigable or public?

Such a dam would either restrict or stop the ecological benefits of the water flowing from the existing pool through the gravel bar below it, as well as the flow itself.

The dam stopping the natural flow through the gravel bar would increase the thermal affect, leading to increased evaporation and water loss.

How will endangered species in the river be affected.

A permit from TPWD is required to stock non-native fish. Considering the isolated location of the proposed dam, what's to stop the owner from stocking non-native fish to the S. Llano, such as small mouth bass, a direct threat to the genetics of the Guadalupe Bass. Such fish could move up or down stream, especially during flood events.

Since the proposed dam is for recreation purposes, there is the possibility that someone could bring in a small motorized or non-motorized water craft from another Texas lake or river, increasing the possibility of introducing zebra mussels or invasive aquatic plants, all of which could then move up or down stream.

According to the application for permit, when the seasonal flow of the river drops below a certain level at the USGS gauging station at Llano, TX., the impoundment or discharge of the proposed dam will be restricted or regulated accordingly. How would this be regulated and what mechanism would be used for such impoundment and discharge at the proposed dam?

Is it true the owner bought 16 acre feet of Senior water rights from LCRA?

Quote from landowner on the Llano River

I realize that some may say, “well, what’s the problem with doing this because once the 3 million gallons private lake is filled up, the water will spill over the dam and the river will run anyway. No harm done, right?”. I am not a hydrologist, but my 25+ year experience with owning 2 miles of San Saba River frontage with a great deal of irrigation upstream has taught me that the rainfall is normally not constant and is often filled with droughts and occasional floods. The problem is that when droughts occur, the impoundments shrink or sometimes dry up. For the river to run again, it’s like a bathtub and ALL the bathtubs upstream must COMPLETELY fill up before a drop will spill over to go downstream. It can put a huge amount on the stress on the river’s flow to have these types of impoundments. If the goal is to have a healthy river, in my opinion this type of application should be denied.