

# TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

## Local Watershed Planning Effort to Begin in Geronimo and Alligator Creeks

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are partnering with local landowners and citizens within the Geronimo Creek watershed to protect and improve water quality through the development and implementation of a watershed protection plan. The development of a watershed protection plan in this area is designed to restore waters impacted by nonpoint source pollution. Geronimo Creek and its tributary Alligator Creek, flow through Comal and Guadalupe Counties, near the cities of New Braunfels and Seguin.

You are invited to participate in one of two project kick-off meetings and join the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership. The first of the two public meetings will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2009 in Seguin at the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority River Annex located at 905 Nolan Street. The second meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2009 in New Braunfels at the Landa Haus, located in the heart of Landa Park, at 360 Aquatic Circle. Sign-in and refreshments will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the presentations will start at 6:30 p.m. and run until 8:30 p.m.

The *2008 Texas Water Quality Inventory* has shown Geronimo Creek to be impaired by elevated bacteria concentrations and to have nutrient (nitrogen) enrichment concerns. The waterbody has been monitored by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority since 1996 as part of the Clean Rivers Program. These meetings will provide an overview of what is known about the water quality in Geronimo Creek and its tributary Alligator Creek, and how you can become involved in developing and implementing the watershed protection plan.

"The effectiveness and strength of this plan will be directly proportional to the amount of public interest and participation of affected citizens and landowners," said Debbie Magin, director of water quality services for the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.

As stewards of our soil and water resources, individual landowners are vital to the success of this

process. As area development and population growth continue and the amount of urban land use increases, the role of hydrology and the need for improved water quality will also increase, according to data by the cities of Seguin and New Braunfels and their respective water utilities.

Watershed protection plans are holistic frameworks for addressing nonpoint source pollution and implementing voluntary best management practices that assure the long-term health of a watershed. Local stakeholders help identify potential sources of water pollution, and design efforts to improve water quality. The ultimate outcome of this effort is to enhance and protect your water resources now, and into the future.

Key local partners supporting the process include the Comal-Guadalupe Soil and Water Conservation District, Comal and Guadalupe Counties, the Cities of Seguin and New Braunfels, New Braunfels Utilities, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board is providing funding to the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service for this watershed planning process through a Clean Water Act §319(h) grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Your active participation is essential to the success of this important project. Join us in developing and implementing a Watershed Protection Plan for Geronimo and Alligator Creeks. For more information please visit <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds#geronimocreek>.

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board is the lead agency for planning, implementing, and managing programs and practices for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint sources of water pollution. The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board also coordinates the programs of the state's 216 soil and water conservation districts and administers the state brush control program. For more information about Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board programs in the Geronimo Creek watershed, please contact Loren Henley at 254-773-2250 ext. 240 or [lhenley@tsswcb.state.tx.us](mailto:lhenley@tsswcb.state.tx.us).

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