

Media Advisory/Public Notice

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Texas Cooperative Extension

Public Invited to Comment on Draft Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan

Citizens of the Plum Creek Watershed (portions of Hays, Caldwell, and Travis Counties) are being asked and encouraged to provide input and comment on the Draft Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan, which is aimed at improving water quality in the stream and its tributaries in the watershed. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has assessed that Plum Creek has water quality impairment for bacteria or E. coli for contact recreation and concerns for elevated nutrient levels.

The Texas Cooperative Extension is facilitating the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership's (PCWP) development of the Watershed Protection Plan, which is entirely voluntary. Funding for plan development is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) through the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. The PCWP includes a steering committee consisting of local stakeholders; a technical advisory group consisting of local, state and federal agencies; and five topical work groups composed of steering committee members, agency personnel and other interested citizens. The PCWP has evaluated the water quality issues in the watershed, determined needed pollutant load reductions, and completed the development of the Draft WPP.

Public comments for the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan can be submitted by phone, mail or fax through January 11, 2008. Draft copies of the plan are available at <http://pcwp.tamu.edu/>. For paper copies of the plan or to provide comment contact Nikki Dictson at 979-458-3478 or n-dictson@tamu.edu. Comments may be e-mailed, faxed (979-845-0604) or mailed to Nikki Dictson, Texas Cooperative Extension, 2474 TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843-2474.

In addition, three public comment meetings will be held in the watershed at which project representatives will be available to receive comments personally and answer any questions. The public is urged to obtain and read a copy of the document before attending. After the public comment period ends, all comments will be evaluated by the PCWP and incorporated into the final draft, as appropriate. The plan will then be approved by the PCWP and forwarded to the US EPA in February 2008. For more information on the project go to <http://pcwp.tamu.edu/>.

Public Comment Meetings:

January 7, 2008, 10 am – 3 pm at the Luling City Hall

January 10, 2008, 10 am – 3 pm at the Kyle City Hall in Kyle, 100 W. Center Street

January 11, 2008, 10 am – 3 pm at the Lockhart Courthouse Annex, 1403B Blackjack St.