

Llano River Watershed Alliance WATERSHED WEEK IN REVIEW

February 6, 2016



Update on Sewage Leak from
Junction Eagle

City acts to stop sewage leak

James Murr
The Junction Eagle

The city acted on January 28 to stop leakage from a privately owned sewer line: see City of Junction's "Local Disaster Declaration and Order" published in this newspaper. This "Order" will continue for a period of seven days from the date of the declaration unless continued or renewed by the City Council.

After receiving a report about sewage leaking onto county land below the Econo Lodge (previously known as the Days Inn) at 111 Martinez Street, the city investigated and found that there was leakage from the motel's sewer line. Sewage was pooling on the ground surface and a segment of the bank of the Llano River was also saturated with the leakage. It is not known how long the sewage has been leaking.

Pursuant to the aforementioned disaster declaration, the mayor terminated water service to the Econo Lodge so that the owners could have

repairs made.

The leakage is from a lift station on the motel sewer line that grinds and pumps sewage into the city's main pressurized sewer line. Mayor Russell Hammonds advises that the cost for the repairs is the responsibility of the motel owner.

Hammonds advised that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) inspected the spillage site on February 1. Whether or not a penalty will be imposed on the motel owner is a determination to be made by TCEQ.

A temporary repair has been made to the leaking motel equipment, with a permanent repair expected shortly. The City Council held a called meeting on February 1 to extend the mayor's authority until March 1 to continue the termination of water service to the motel should it become necessary to do so. Hammond and all the aldermen were present for the meeting: Keaton Blackburn, Steve Couey, Larry Maddux, Michael Miller and Olan Raley.

Two New Access Points in the Llano



Getting on the Llano and South Llano River just got easier, thanks to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Leased Public Access Program.

The program was initiated in 2012 and is funded through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and US Department of Agriculture's Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program.

TPWD recently completed lease agreements with landowners near the [Kingsland Slab](#) and near [County Road 150 south of Junction](#). Parking problems have existed at both of these sites for several years and the lease-access program is designed to alleviate these problems.

Anglers and paddlers who wish to utilize these new facilities are required to make reservations by calling the landowners beforehand. Contact information and other Special Conditions are available on the selected website page.

If you are a riverside landowner and interested in participating in this program contact [Jessica East](#) at TPWD.

Another Landowner Program that may be of interest

Applications are due February 19th for landowners wishing to participate in the [Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program](#).

The mission of the program is to conserve natural resources by protecting working lands from fragmentation and development through Agricultural Conservation Easements. This program, which was authorized by the Legislature in 2005, was recently transferred from the General Land Office to TPWD.

Urban v Rural Water Issues Air at Capitol

Anticipating a continuing tug of water over water increasingly scarce in mostly dry, fast-growing Texas – a state House committee is examining the prospect of a statewide water grid.

A proposal to at least study the issue was killed in the last legislative session, the victim of a struggle that generally pits rural lawmakers against their urban counterparts. For years the state has been riven by disputes between the water haves and have-nots, with an alphabet soup of river authorities, groundwater districts and state agencies grappling with how to meet the needs of growing cities.

But rural communities, teaming up with environmental groups, have tried to stave off what they perceive as raids on their most precious resource.



“Any effort toward creating a massive state water grid will undermine these more reasonable and effective ways of meeting water needs and threaten state goals for environmental protection, property rights protection and the health of rural communities,” --Ken Kramer, Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club. [Read more](#)