# SRA Activities



Sabine River Authority of Texas

Volume 30 Summer, 1995

## SRA Expanding Its Services on the Internet

The Sabine River Authority recently received approval from the Board of Directors to provide services on the Internet. This 'network of computer networks' allows efficient distribution and sharing of information world-wide. Not long ago the Internet was the realm of frazzled computer wizards, but recent technological advances have made 'cybersurfing' much easier. The *World Wide Web* (WWW) provides 'hyperlinks' among documents on the Internet. The WWW began at the European Particle Physics Laboratory (CERN), Switzerland, in 1991, as a means to allow physicists to share data and other information across computer networks. The ease of providing and accessing information on the Internet provided by the WWW and a graphical WWW browsing tool called *Mosaic* have resulted in a literally exponential growth of the Net.

Many federal, state, and local governmental agencies are expanding their services provided to the public and other agencies by utilizing the WWW. For example, the U.S. Geological Survey provides access to water quality and flow datasets, John Sharp set up the Comptroller's Office with a direct communications link to computer users via the Internet in January 1995, and the Texas Natural Resources Information System provides access to many geographic information system (GIS) datasets. SRA provides a wide range of services throughout the Sabine River Basin that generates valuable information. These services include reservoir projects, customer affairs, water quality monitoring and testing, and cooperative projects such as the Texas Clean Rivers Program. Providing these services on the Internet using the WWW will facilitate SRA accomplishing its responsibilities to control, store, preserve, and distribute the waters of the Sabine River and its tributary system for useful purposes.

For Further information, contact Jim Brown at (409) 746-2192 or 70751.3551@compuserve.com. ✯



## TWDB Adopts New Water Conservation Plan Rules for Water and Wastewater Loans

In May, the Texas Water Development Board (Board) adopted new water conservation plan rules for entities seeking the Board's financial assistance for water and wastewater projects exceeding $500,000. The new rules clearly specify the minimum requirements for an acceptable water conservation plan and provide consistency with similar rules of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC).

Under the new rules, an applicant's water conservation plan must include an evaluation of its utility system and identify goals for water conservation measures. At a minimum, the long-term water conservation plan must include public education, programs to minimize unaccounted-for water, and "non-promotional" water rate structures (i.e., rate structures that do not encourage excessive use of water). Other water conservation measures the applicant finds appropriate can be included in the conservation plan. The rules also require the applicant to develop an emergency water demand management plan and

*Continue on page 2*

## SRA Receives New Board Members

**James E. Campbell,** long term Board Member, was originally appointed on October 16, 1978. He was reappointed by Governor White in 1983 and by Governor Bill Clements in 1983, and now reappointed by Governor Bush on July 24, 1995. Mr. Campbell resides in the Center area and is president of Port-A-Building Company. He is a member of several professional organizations. ✯

**Margin S. Latham** was appointed by Governor Bush on July 24, 1995. She resides in the Sulphur Springs area and was their former Mayor. She is a member of the Planning and Zoning Board and the Regional Civic Center Board; served on several Texas Municipal League Boards; and is active in numerous professional and civic organizations. She replaces Jerry G. Forbes, whose term expired. ✯

**Karen C. Hampton** was appointed by Governor Bush on July 24, 1995. She resides in the Tyler area and is a legal administrator with the law firm of Potter, Minton, Roberts, Davis & Jones P.C. She is a member of Assoc. of Legal Administrators; on the Board of Directors of Legal Administrators Division, State Bar of Texas; founding member of Northeast Texas Chapter of the Association of Legal Administroators; past president of Historic Tyler, Inc.; and is active in numerous other professional and civic organizations. She replaces Tommy Merritt, whose term expired. ✯

P.O. Box 579 Orange, Texas 77630 409-746-2192 Fax 409-746-3780

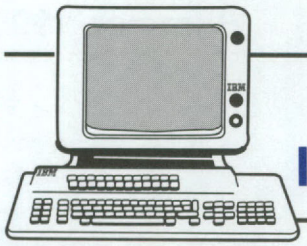
*Continued from page 1*

allow wholesale service providers to pass through water conservation plan requirements to retail service providers.

The new rules terminate annual reporting requirements after three years if the loan recipient has implemented an acceptable water conservation program. Previously, loan recipients were required to report annually on the status of their water conservation program for the life of the loan. Over a five-year period, the reduced reporting requirement is estimated to save loan recipients $231,000 and save the Board $92,400. Another important benefit is that water conservation plans prepared under TNRCC rules will be accepted by the Board. This eliminates potential duplication of effort in satisfying both agency's requirements.

Copies of the water conservation plan rules are available by contacting J.D. Beffort, Texas Water Development Board, P.O. Box 13231, Austin, TX 78711-3231; 512/463-7989.

**Note:** The Texas Water Development Board is the state agency charged with statewide water planning and administration of low-cost financial programs for the planning, design, and construction of water supply, wastewater treatment, municipal solid waste management, flood control, and agricultural water conservation projects. ✯



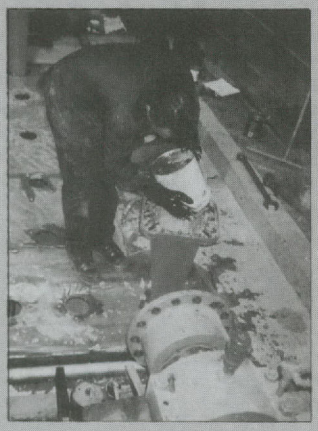
## COMPUTER UPGRADE IMPROVES EFFICIENCY

The canal monitoring system at the Gulf Coast Division was recently enhanced by the replacement of the computer along with software upgrading. We have been able to monitor water levels at 15 sites throughout the system by computer since 1986, but this upgrade now allows us to actually control flows in the system at three locations by the remote operation of automatic gates installed last fall. This system reduces the amount of time necessary to make "field" adjustments, thereby continuing to improve our water conservation program as well as meet the needs of our customers more efficiently. ✯

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

## SRA/Kilgore Pump Station and Channel Weir Facility Nears Completion

Operations Manager M.E. Nelson recently inspected the Kilgore pump station/channel weir construction site on the Sabine River in Gregg County. Work on the inlet piping to the pump station and the headwall structure is expected to be completed by mid-September. Heavy spring and early summer rainfall runoff in the upper Sabine River watershed had delayed completion of the project for several months, however the high river flow levels earlier this year backed water directly into the completed pump station which allowed the City of Kilgore to utilize the facility to move raw water from the river to their new storage reservoir and water treatment plant. ✯



## Gulf Coast Division Renovates Pump Station

During routine maintenance and inspection of the pumps and motors in the Gulf Coast Division Pumping Plant this spring, it was found that three of the four pumping units had alignment problems that were severe enough to necessitate removing the motors, clutches, gearboxes and mounting frames, and jackhammering the foundation slab so they could be reset and regrouted to achieve the proper alignment. The units were removed and repaired on a staggered basis so that adequate pumping capacity could be maintained while the repairs were being made. The units were all properly aligned and should operate smoothly for years to come. ✯

# Lake Fork Reservoir Gets Pure Florida Bass Booster

Texas' premier largemouth bass lake recently received a restocking of approximately 600,000 pure Florida bass fingerlings. The stocking was part of an effort by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department to increase the percentage of the Florida bass gene in the overall bass population. Texas Parks & Wildlife Department testing of liver tissue removed from Lake Fork largemouths in 1987 showed 69 percent to be pure Florida bass. In 1994, that percentage had dropped to 39 percent. It is hoped that the recent re-stocking effort will provide a shot-in-arm to Lake Fork's Florida bass gene pool that will help the heavily-fished reservoir continue to maintain it's position as largemouth lunker leader of the country. ✯

# SRA'S Quality Assurance Project Plan Meets TNRCC Approval

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) has recently approved SRA's Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for Environmental Monitoring and Measurement Activities Relating to the Water Quality Monitoring Programs. SRA's QAPP is one of the first in the state to be approved. Although SRA's Environmental Services Division (ESD) has conducted water quality monitoring for more than 20 years, the QAPP was required as part of SRA's involvement in the Texas Clean Rivers Program (TCRP). The QAPP includes all of the activities associated with ESD's water quality monitoring program and all of the additional monitoring and related activities involved with the TCRP. The additional monitoring activities include a subwatershed monitoring program which examines many of the smaller tributaries in the Sabine Basin for which little or no water quality data has been collected. The subwatershed monitoring program uses biological screening studies as well as physical and chemical parameters. The QAPP is required by the TNRCC to ensure that all data collected for use in the TCRP be reliable and of comparable quality for each watershed in the state. The 150+ page document will need to be revised annually to reflect changes in the monitoring program and improvements in laboratory analyses. ✯

# Trans-Texas Water Program Southeast Study Area

One of the early decisions of the Trans-Texas Policy Management Committee (PMC) was that current Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) water demand projections would be used as the baseline for planning. Phase I studies used TWDB's most recent projections from the 1992 state water plan. Concurrent with Phase I studies, TWDB, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department were engaged in a cooperative water planning process referred to as "consensus state water planning." The overall goal was to develop a new state water plan, by 1996, which would be accepted and supported by each agency.

The consensus projections were adopted by TWDB in January 1995. As a result, one task in Phase II reevaluated the Southeast Study Area water demand projections and timelines. Water demands in 2050 for this 32-county area are now projected to be about 900,000 acre-feet per year less than forecast in Phase I. In particular, water demands for the Houston and Galveston metropolitan areas amount to 500,000 acre-feet per year less than previously projected.

Houston area water supplies should be sufficient until approximately the year 2040. Also, several water management options in Phase II may prove to be cost-effective in the near and mid-term which will extend this time to beyond 2050. Options included are enhanced conservation, reuse, systems operations of reservoirs, and contractual water transfers in the Brazos and Trinity Basins. Due to the projected timing, no specific Sabine-to-Houston water transfer project will be proposed in the near future and Phase II studies will include only conceptual planning concerning this matter. Phase II work is being refocused to enhance studies of the Sabine Lake estuary system and public input and coordination.

One cornerstone of Trans-Texas is that one area of the State will not be hurt to help another area of the State. The primary responsibility of the SRA in these studies is to protect Sabine Basin water resources for future use in the Basin and, if there are future interbasin transfers, to insure that our Basin is protected. We also recognize that many areas of the State may experience future water supply problems that require workable solutions. The Trans-Texas Water Program is our opportunity to have input into resolving regional water issues in an acceptable manner while minimizing the possibility of major political battles in future years. ✯

# Docking Piers Constructed At Two Lake Fork Reservoir Public Boat Ramps

One of the most requested additions to Lake Fork Reservoir public boat ramp facilities has been the construction of loading piers that people can tie their boats to while parking their vehicles. The Authority recently moved to meet that need by constructing two docking piers at S.H. 154 and F.M. 17 public ramps. In the past, people launching their boats alone would have difficulty finding a place to "tie up" while moving their vehicle from the ramp to a parking space. This problem often resulted in the temporary blocking of one or both lanes of the double-wide ramps causing a great deal of aggravation to other boaters waiting in line to launch. Installation of the docking piers will significantly reduce the "in and out" time for individual boaters at Lake Fork Reservoir.

The piers were constructed of steel pipe with treated wood decking and walkways. The pier configuration resembles a "T". The "T" head is 24 feet long and 6 feet wide. The walkway to the bank is approximately 12 feet long and 6 feet wide. This design will accommodate seven or eight boats at one time. ✯

## Top 10 Fishing Lakes in US

*Compiled by Field & Stream*

- **Lake Fork, TX** ***(SRA's)***
- **Toledo Bend, Borders TX and LA** ***(SRA's)***
- Lake Okeechobee, FL
- Truman Lake, MO
- Lake Powell, Borders UT and AR
- Table Rock Lake, Borders AR and MO
- Lake Ontario, Borders NY and Canada
- Lake Erie, Borders NY, PA, OH and MI
- Lake Lanier, GA
- Castaic Lake, CA

## Name the Newsletter Contest

Please help us name our new newsletter. SRA is planning a new newsletter to deal with issues concerning water quality in the Basin. We plan to use the newsletter to keep citizens in the basin aware of what SRA is doing as well as important general water quality issues and activities in the basin. Some of the articles planned are; profiles of Texas Watch sites in the basin, Centralized Composting, a historical perspective of SRA's Environmental Services Division, Internet services, and an "Inform Yourself" section that will feature water quality topics such as lead, bacteria, and stormwater. If there is a topic you would like us to cover, we would love to hear from you.

For the contest: The entry selected will win a unique and really neat SRA shirt. Entries should be submitted by September 30, 1995. Please include your name, address, phone number with your submission. Submit entries either by phone, fax or mail to Kitty Bruno. P.O. Box 579, Orange, TX 77631, Phone: (409)746-2192, Fax: (409)746-3780. ✯

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based inks.

SABINE RIVER AUTHORITY OF TEXAS
P. O. Box 579
Orange, Texas 77631-0579
(409) 746-2192

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
**PAID**
Orange, TX
Permit No. 31