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# SRACTIVITIES

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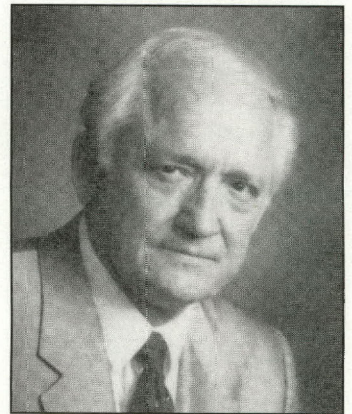
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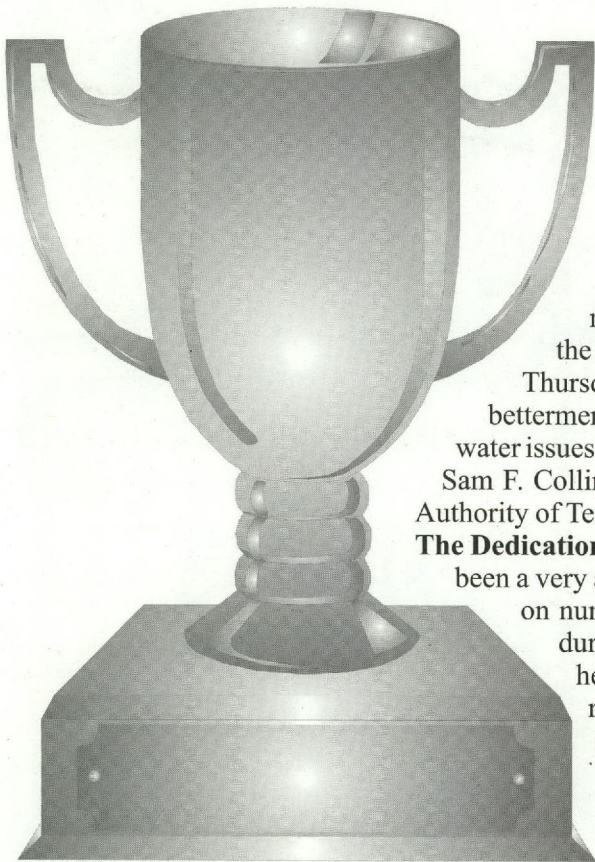
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SPRING, 1997

## STATE WATER ASSOCIATION HONORS LOCAL MANAGER



The Texas Water Conservation Association (TWCA) is a state wide organization composed of members who are vitally concerned with water issues in the State of Texas. They include representatives from Municipalities, Industry, Farming, Ranching, Irrigation, Navigation, Environmental, Port Authorities, River Authorities, Municipal Utility Districts, Under-Ground Water Districts, Water Conservation and Reclamation Districts, Waste Disposal Districts, Legislators and public citizens concerned with development, management and conservation of water resources of the State of Texas.



The 53rd Annual Convention was held in Austin February 26-28 with many important issues being discussed including the Drought of 1996 and the proposed Senate Bill No. 1. An annual awards banquet was held on Thursday night honoring various individuals who had contributed to the betterment of the State through their activities and past involvement with State water issues.

Sam F. Collins, Executive Vice-President and General Manager of the Sabine River Authority of Texas was the recipient of the most prestigious award presented, that being, **The Dedication of the 53rd Annual Convention of the TWCA in his honor.** Sam has been a very active member of the organization for more than thirty-four years serving on numerous committees and offices over the years, and serving as president during 1983-84. Sam has not only been active in local and state water issues, he has also been active in national issues serving as an officer and on numerous committees of the National Water Resources Association (NWRA), Water Resources Congress (WRC), and the Inter-State Council on Water Policy (ICWP).

After more than 35 years, Sam continues to be very active in all water issues that need to be addressed either locally, state wide or nationally. He gives the Board of Directors of the Sabine River Authority of Texas and the various members that have unselfishly served thereon the credit

for being pro-active in water issues that have arisen over the years and thanks them and his Staff's support for anything we may have accomplished together.

Sam stated in his acceptance of the award that the average citizen does not realize and adequately appreciate the contribution that members of this organization have made in making each of our lives easier and more convenient. Each morning when we get up and go to the tap, the water is usually always there! If it had not been for the foresight of some of our members in the 1940's and 1950's, the drought of 1996 would have made a more indelible impression on the minds of numerous people who went to the tap and found nothing. Water is the most vital of our natural resources and we must continue to be innovative in our development and conservation of this most precious commodity. ★



# Texas Watch Outstanding Partner

**T**he Sabine River Authority (SRA) was recognized as an "Outstanding Partner" of Texas Watch. This recognition was received at the Texas Watch Annual Meeting of the Monitors in Austin, Texas on March 22, 1997. SRA was selected along with the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Board for its consistent involvement and support with Texas Watch. The SRA has participated in Texas watch by training, recruiting and supporting volunteer monitors as well as speaking and participating in regional workshops and training sessions.

Texas Watch is a program sponsored by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) that uses volunteers to conduct environmental monitoring of streams, lakes, bayou, estuaries, and other bodies of water around the state of Texas.

On March 21 through March 23, 1997 the annual Texas Watch Meeting of the Monitors was held in Austin, Texas. SRA Environmental Services Division (ESD) employees in attendance were Mark Howard and Troy Henry. Also in attendance were representatives from United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), TNRCC, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Texas Watch Partners from a variety of organizations and river

authorities, and many Texas Watch Monitors. Activities included a trainer recertification workshop, Partner's meeting, and concurrent sessions covering a variety of subjects including data presentation, aquatic plant identification, urban pollution, and environmental monitoring and the Internet. For the second year in a row, the SRA has made a presentation at this conference. This year's presentation

was titled "Partner Innovations."

Mark Howard discussed the use of biological monitoring and how the data may be interpreted. Troy Henry discussed Texas Watch

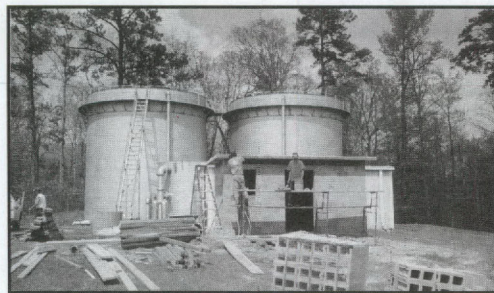
activities in the upper Basin as well as how the data will be incorporated in SRA's geographical information system. ★



*Pictured from left to right: Mary Ann Neely, President of Texas Watch Advisory Council; Mark Howard, SRA; and Troy Henry, SRA.*

## RENOVATION OF CC RICE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

*Plant is owned by the Sabine River Authority and serves both the city of Hemphill and the G-M Water Supply Corporation.*



The renovation of the C.C. Rice Water Treatment Plant, which serves 671 customers in the city of Hemphill and approximately 2,500 customers for the G-M Water Supply Corporation, began on December 30, 1996 and is scheduled for

completion in 240 working days. This plant is owned by the Sabine River Authority and is operated by the city of Hemphill. Initial construction work included driving piling for a new intake structure and building new chemical

distribution buildings.

Engineering services are being provided by Everett Griffith, Jr. & Associates of Lufkin and the General Contractor is Oscar Crawford Construction Company, also of Lufkin. ★



The Southeast Area Policy Management Committee (SEPMC) and the Southeast Area Technical Advisory Committee (SETAC) held a joint meeting on January 8, 1997 in Channelview, Texas to discuss recommendations on two program elements;



program selection and water equity.

*Integrated Resource Planning.* The Steering Committee defined a framework for an Integrated Resources Planning process to evaluate water management alternatives and craft a water management plan for the region. The framework includes program goals and objectives, preliminary evaluation criteria, water management alternatives, and selection team composition. A Selection Team, composed of TAC and PMC members, will formulate the water management plan. These recommendations were approved and invitations were extended to members of organizations and entities representing:

- Wholesale and retail water providers
- Residential customers
- Industrial interests
- Agricultural users
- Commerical fisheries
- Recreation interests
- Government regulators and planners
- Environmental interests
- Economic development groups
- The State of Louisiana

Selection Team nominees have been contacted and provided with information on the process and schedule. The initial meeting of the team is tentatively scheduled for July 1, 1997. Meeting notices will be distributed with final plans for this meeting in early May.

*Water Equity.* The Southeast Area began the task of investigating the issues surrounding impacts to the basin of origin resulting from interbasin water transfers. This task explores the equity issues associated with urban to urban water transfers and the potential methods of negotiation and mediation available to address basin of origin concerns. Traditionally the discussion surrounding equity issues has been focused on reallocating water from rural to urban water uses. The situation in Southeast Texas differs in that currently unallocated water is being considered for transfer between metropolitan regions.

The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC) convened a Water Equity Committee to provide information on local concerns and opportunities. The committee has held three meetings. The first meeting was on January 22, 1997 at the John Gray Center in Beaumont.

Presentations were made on Equity Mechanisms, Full Cost Analysis, Negotiation/Mediation Options, and Mediating Water Conflicts. This was followed by a March 6, 1997 meeting at which regional equity issues and alternatives compensation and mitigation strategies were identified. On March 19, 1997 the committee met again to discuss these issues with the TTWP team and consider the process of designing solutions for the region. A final meeting focusing on potential frameworks for developing regional solutions is tentatively scheduled for late June. In 1996, the SETRPC passed a resolution opposing the interbasin transfer of Sabine or Neches River water to other areas of the state. Discussions with this group have been frank and productive. All meetings are held at the John Gray Center in Beaumont, Texas and open to the public. ★

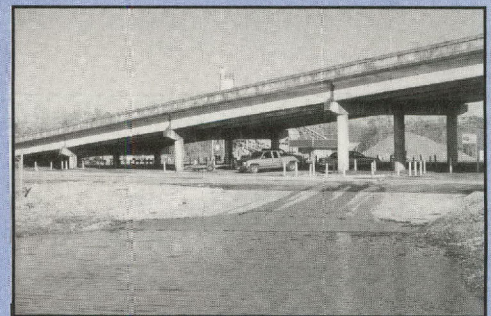


## ON THE SABINE RIVER BRIDGE CITY, TEXAS

The Sabine River Authority of Texas (SRA) recently completed construction of a new **public** boat ramp facility on Cow Bayou located at Highway 87 in Bridge City, Texas, Orange County. The two lane concrete boat ramp was designed and constructed for use even during low tide and has 15 designated parking spaces, including handicapped parking.



Present at the dedication ceremony, pictured left to right, were Mike Cedars, Bridge City Chamber; Earl Williams, SRA Board of Directors (BOD); Nolton Brown, SRA BOD; Betty Harmon, Executive Vice President of Orange Chamber; Thad Angelle, President of Bridge City Chamber; Jeff Ellington, City Manager for Bridge City; Marialeice Colletti, Vice President of Bridge City Chamber.; Traci James, G&G Enterprises; Kim Davis, Bridge City Chamber; and Charles Ceasac, Bridge City Chamber.



This ramp is the last of six new or reconstructed ramps in the Sabine Basin to be completed by the SRA in the last couple of years. The work was performed under contract by G&G Enterprises of Orange. ★





# Hydrographic Survey Underway on Lake Tawakoni

**STUDY IS ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN PLANNING  
FOR THE FUTURE WATER NEEDS OF THE  
UPPER SABINE BASIN.**

Subsequent to Board authorization to update existing reservoir capacity information on Lake Tawakoni as

part of the Comprehensive Sabine River Watershed Management Plan, an agreement was consummated between the Authority and the Texas Water Development Board to perform the needed hydrographic survey work.

The Hydrographic Survey Program of that agency provides, at cost, the equipment and man power required to make an accurate determination of a reservoir's current storage capacity. The program utilizes the latest satellite surveying technology, differential global positioning systems (DGPS) for data collection, and geographic information systems (GIS) software for data processing. The resulting hydrographic survey report includes new elevation/area capacity tables, underwater topographic contour maps, and plotted cross-sections. The updated capacity information for Lake Tawakoni, the Authority's oldest reservoir, will be an essential element in planning for the future water needs of the upper Sabine Basin. ★

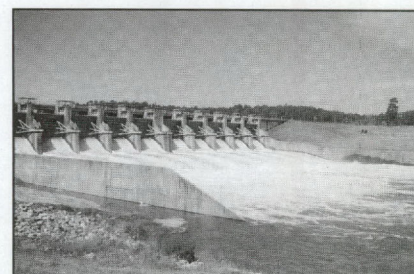


*Information is being  
compiled by The Texas  
Water Development  
Board.*

## Year Long Drought is Over in the Sabine Basin

**THE STATE WIDE DROUGHT  
WHICH LEFT SEVERAL  
TEXAS COMMUNITIES  
QUESTIONING THEIR  
FUTURE WATER SUPPLY IS  
FINALLY OVER.**

The drought which plagued Texas, causing record or near record low lake elevations throughout the state, was a major topic of conversation in 1996 but now the conversation has turned to concerns of flooding. At Toledo Bend Damsite 17.32 inches of rainfall were recorded for the first three months of this year, compared to 5.22 inches for the same period in 1996. Even with both units of the hydroelectric plant operating at Toledo Bend since January 17, the Reservoir still reached 172.69' on February 26 (172.00 m.s.l. is full pool) which caused spillway operations to begin. An all time record length of time for spillway gates to be open was reached on March 27 when gates had been open for 30 days and as of April 7, spillway releases are continuing. ★



**SABINE RIVER AUTHORITY OF TEXAS**

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