GBRA to Temporarily Lower H-4 for Work at H-5

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GONZALES COUNTY, Texas – Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) Hydro crews plan to temporarily lower H-4 (Lake Gonzales) approximately 2 feet beginning this weekend. The 2-foot change would remain through Friday, April 8, 2016.

According to Allen Ognoskie, division manager for the Guadalupe/Gonzales Counties, Guadalupe Valley Hydroelectric Division, an engineering firm will be obtaining structural measurements inside the H-4 spill gate. The action is required for engineers to draw plans for the repairs to the H-5 (Lake Wood) spill gate. GBRA advises anyone using the lake for recreational purposes during this time to exercise caution because lower lake levels may expose debris and other potential hazards that otherwise are normally under water.

During a rain event a few weeks ago, the dam at H-5 sustained damage to one of its gates and it malfunctioned while spilling water. Hydro crews went out and inspected the gate, but were unable to initiate repairs to make the gate operational. After Hydro staff consulted with an engineering firm to try to determine what options might be available and related costs, a course of action was recommended. GBRA officials met with residents, users and recreationalists of H-5 Tuesday, March 22, 2016, to explain the situation and proposed plan of action.

At the Board of Directors meeting on April 20, GBRA staff will present the plan for board members to consider for approval.

GBRA Communications and Education staff will disseminate notices via press releases to local media and lake associations as well as post accordingly on the press release and lake management pages of GBRA’s website: www.gbra.org. Information also may be posted on Twitter with “@GBRATX” and Facebook on the page “GBRA of Texas.”

The GBRA was established by the Texas Legislature in 1933 as a water conservation and reclamation district. GBRA provides stewardship for the water resources in its 10-county statutory district, which begins near the headwaters of the Guadalupe and Blanco rivers, ends at San Antonio Bay, and includes Kendall, Comal, Hays, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Gonzales, DeWitt, Victoria, Calhoun, and Refugio counties.