Port Lavaca Water Treatment Plant to Implement Temporary Modified Disinfection Process

For more information
LaMarriol Smith, 830-379-5822, lsmith@gbra.org

PORT LAVACA, TX — Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) will temporarily substitute chlorine as the disinfecting agent in the drinking water treatment process in place of its regularly used chlorine/ammonia compound (chloramines) at the GBRA Port Lavaca Water Treatment Plant. According to Stephanie Shelly, GBRA Division Manager, this action will begin on July 10, 2017, and will be used through July 28, 2017, after which the plant will resume the use of chloramines.

"Chlorine and chloramines are both excellent disinfecting agents and are used extensively in the drinking water industry to safeguard finished water against bacteria that cause water-borne illnesses,” said Shelly. "However, the substitution of chlorine alone on a periodic basis is recommended by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in order to provide more stability to the disinfecting process and to remove any excess ammonia that might accumulate in the distribution systems over time.”

As part of the process, the wholesale customers of GBRA—the City of Port Lavaca, the Calhoun County Rural Water System of GBRA, the Port O’Connor Improvement District, and the LaSalle Water Control and Improvement District will monitor the disinfectant residual in water mains and increase flushing activities to provide a more efficient change-out of the water.

“Some customers may notice a slight change in palatability or ‘taste’ of the water,” Ronnie Parenica, GBRA chief operator said, adding, "There also may be a slight discoloration of the water due to flushing, but the water will remain safe and available for all domestic purposes.”

For more information, please contact your local drinking water provider: City of Port Lavaca (361) 552-3347, GBRA Rural Water (361) 552-9751, or Port O’Connor (361) 983-2652. LaSalle customers may call the 983-2652 number or GBRA at 552-9751.

GBRA Communications and Education staff disseminates press releases to local media and posts accordingly on the press release page of GBRA’s website: www.gbra.org. Information also is shared through GBRA’s social media accounts: Instagram and Twitter @GBRATX and Facebook at 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.