



January 23, 2023

Drawdown Notice - Meadow Lake
Remove all Recreational and Personal Property by March 26, 2023

Meadow Lake Neighbors -

As previously communicated, the spillgates on Nolte Dam are in need of replacement in order to remain in operation. The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) worked with third-party engineering consultants to identify a solution for replacing the spillgates to ensure the long-term sustainability of Nolte Dam, but funding it would require a collective effort. GBRA has reached agreements with the Water Control and Improvement Districts (WCID) formed on Lake Dunlap, Lake McQueeney, and Lake Placid to fund the necessary replacement of the aging spillgates at those dams. While we remain in communication with the Meadow Lake Nolte Dam Association (MLNDA) and the City of Seguin, a solution for the long-term operation of the Nolte Dam and funding of the replacement spillgates has yet to be identified.

Safety has always been and remains our top priority. To mitigate the risks posed by the aging dams, we have instituted a variety of safety measures - including adding signage and buoys, establishing restricted zones and installing real-time monitoring cameras, sirens and public address systems - to warn people and encourage safe recreational practices. A court-ordered Independent Expert Panel (IEP) reinforced the safety concerns surrounding the aging dams in a November 2019 assessment that reaffirmed and extended the restricted areas on the upstream and downstream sides of each dam, and a subsequent GBRA ordinance established the criteria for the criminal prosecution and fines of up to \$500 for violation of the restrictions. Despite all efforts, our monitoring systems routinely capture people within the prohibited and restricted unsafe areas close to, and in some instances on top of, the dams. We ask for your continued cooperation in maintaining a safe distance around the dam at all times by respecting the marked prohibited and restricted unsafe zones. There have been four spillgate failures within the past six years on the Guadalupe Valley Lakes, all without warning. As a result, we cannot continue to operate the dams in their current condition, knowing the potential risks posed by the aging spillgates.


We have therefore decided to move forward with a drawdown of Meadow Lake. This drawdown will occur in conjunction with the drawdown of Lake McQueeney. The lowering of the spillgates at Nolte Dam will reduce the water level by approximately 12 feet at the dam. Working with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, we have devised an Aquatic Resource Relocation Plan designed to minimize the environmental impacts of the drawdown. The ARRPs call for each lake to be lowered over a two-day period, beginning at Meadow Lake. **The process of lowering the spillgates at Lake McQueeney and Meadow Lake will begin on March 27; this letter serves as your drawdown notice. All activity on Lake McQueeney, Lake Placid and Meadow Lake should be suspended during the drawdown period beginning on March 27th.** Any access or activities on the water including to retrieve or secure property should be completed prior to March 27. Once the lowering of the spillgates at both lakes is completed, access or activities on the water may resume, but please continue to maintain a safe distance from the dam.

In preparation for the drawdown, please remove and secure all recreational and other personal property on or near the water. GBRA is not responsible for recreational property used or stored on the Guadalupe Valley Lakes. Removal of recreational and personal property will be the owner's responsibility and at the owner's expense. Waterfront structures, including docks, do not need to be removed. Please continue to follow the existing GBRA application and construction permit process to make any additions or modifications to waterfront structures.

We understand you may disagree with this decision, but it is a decision that is necessary due to the safety risks posed by the aging spillgates. We will continue to work closely with the community to provide updated information on all the Guadalupe Valley Lakes to <https://gvlakes.com/>.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darrell Nichols".

Darrell Nichols
Acting General Manager/CEO