

Jack Shanafelt, Commissioner PCT 2 Guadalupe County
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I was appointed by the Guadalupe County Commissioners Court to the San Marcos River Task Force, chaired by Texas Parks and Wildlife Commissioner Bill Jones. I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the task force report.

After reviewing all the information and discussion made by Task Force Members, it is clear to me that we and the State of Texas have no other option than to establish a "Water Oriented Recreational District" (WORD). This WORD can be custom designed for the San Marcos River from Hays County to the intersection of the Guadalupe River.

To this end, both Guadalupe County and Caldwell Counties have adopted Resolutions in support of this WORD. With the two most heavily impacted counties by the tubing businesses requesting a WORD, we are hopeful that the Legislature will give us the authority to enact one, as we believe it would benefit the river as well as the landowners and the other citizens of our counties by providing a means to keep the river and surrounding roadways clean and safe.

It's just real simple, the sheer volume of folks using this river during the summer time tubing season is "KILLING THIS RIVER". I have personally seen beer cans 3 - 4 feet deep in the river bed. During the summer months and huge tubing events, the water color turns to a muddy filthy black. On July 16, 2016 a total count of 10,192 tubes in addition to 2,126 tubes with ice chest coolers were documented. No sanitary systems were in place, and there were no visible trash containers during this event.

The study segment is a "No Mans Party Land" since it is the county line between Caldwell and Guadalupe Counties. Because it is 15 miles to the Guadalupe County Sheriff office and 17 miles to the Caldwell County Sheriff's office, there is little or no Law Enforcement presence.

I represent the folks on the Guadalupe County side of the river, and it is my responsibility to take action for the adjacent landowners along this segment of the river, as they are in my jurisdiction and have requested my assistance. I believe a WORD would help with the trash, lack of law enforcement, and poor behaviors being experienced from this heavy tubing activity. The WORD enacted in Comal County is a good example of how trash cleanup, additional law enforcement, and water safety concerns were handled for similar tubing volumes, and could be used as a model to custom a WORD for Caldwell and Guadalupe Counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and to have served on the San Marcos River Task Force.

Sincerely,



Jack Shanafelt
Guadalupe County Commissioner, PCT 2