

2022 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Water Quality Management Plan Update is completed annually by H-GAC in cooperation with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). This report provides an overview of regional wastewater infrastructure and discharge activities that impact water quality in our region. Data collected through this annual update are used by numerous planning efforts that H-GAC conducts in collaboration with local government partners, including the Bacteria Implementation Group, Clean Rivers Program, Total Maximum Daily Load projects, and Watershed Protection Plans.

Data collection and analytical elements of this project included:

Regional Wastewater Treatment Facilities Infrastructure Update

H-GAC analyzed up-to-date permit, service area, and location data for the 1,262 permitted wastewater treatment facilities in the region.



Analysis of Discharge Monitoring Data

H-GAC evaluated self-reported discharge monitoring data from the region's domestic wastewater treatment facilities. The rate of compliance with effluent permit limits for bacteria was high for the vast majority of these facilities. However, considering the potential impact if these facilities malfunction, regular monitoring remains critically important.

Analysis of Sanitary Sewer Overflows Data

As part of this project, H-GAC examined the locations, frequency, and causes of unauthorized discharges of untreated or partially treated wastewater from sanitary sewer collection systems or treatment facilities. Blockages in the collection lines were the most common reported cause of these overflows, with fats, oils, and grease being the most prominent reason for those blockages. This data helped H-GAC better target public outreach and education activities throughout the region.



On-Site Sewage Facility Database Update

H-GAC maintained and updated a database of nearly 120,000 permitted (and an estimated 340,000 unpermitted) septic tanks and on-site sewage facilities in the region. Analysis of this information allowed H-GAC to better develop watershed-based plans, coordinate with local officials on our Homeowner Wastewater Assistance Program, and conduct training for homeowners.

The Draft Water Quality Management Plan Update is available at
<https://www.h-gac.com/water-quality-management-planning>



Houston-Galveston
Area Council



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Funding for this project was provided by the Environmental Protection Agency through a Clean Water Act Section 604(b) grant to the Houston-Galveston Area Council, administered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.
CONTRACT NO. 582-22-30193

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