



2019 ANNUAL WATER REPORT

A BRIEFING OF WATER ACTIVITIES
PERFORMED FOR THE:

CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH

Mailing Address:

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Performed by the:

**Galveston County Health District
Air and Water Pollution Services**



“PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE
OPTIMAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF
GALVESTON COUNTY.”

Citizens can submit a complaint electronically by visiting our website at www.gchd.org and clicking the environmental online forms button or by telephone at 409- 938-2251, by fax at 409-938-2271, or by mail.

Overview

The Galveston County Health District (GCHD) organized the Water Pollution and Abatement Control program in 1972. The Water Pollution Program designated with performing water quality monitoring and pollution abatement activities for Galveston County and its contracted political subdivisions and is supported through the county general fund and contracted political subdivision contributions. The GCHD and the City of Jamaica Beach have agreed to contract water pollution control and abatement services. This contract serves to satisfy the requirements found under the Texas Water Code and outlines specific requirements and responsibilities of a water pollution control and abatement program. Our team consists of Program Managers, Senior Environmental Investigators and Basic Investigators.

The program effectively and efficiently implemented a comprehensive water pollution control and abatement effort. Objectives of this program can include Citizen Complaint Response, Waste Water Treatment Plant Inspections, Grease Trap Inspections and Ambient Storm Water Monitoring.



Waste Water

The City of Jamaica Beach Wastewater Treatment Facility is located on Marina Drive and discharges into West Galveston Bay. The plant is currently permitted to have a daily average discharge of 0.36 million gallons per day (MGD). As measured by GCHD staff, the average level for *Enterococcus* was less than 10.0mpn/100mL, the minimum measurable value by the test method. The plant received its renewed Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) discharge permit, extended to December 2023. During the past year, the plant also made the necessary upgrades to enable the restart of the plant's long-dormant second train if needed. This increased the plant's potential capacity for peak demand events and allows for uninterrupted operation during future equipment maintenance.



Storm Water

During FY 2019, the Water Pollution Services Program continued to monitor the four storm water sites within the city of Jamaica Beach 4 times per year. The GCHD reviews the historical storm water data and analyzed the sampling sites attempting to locate pollution sources. Sampled water bodies include various storm water drainage ditches located throughout the city which directly or indirectly flow into the waters of the state.

The bacterial analysis for freshwater and storm water is compared to the Texas Water Quality Standards and other parameter results are also evaluated, such as Dissolved Oxygen, pH, Chlorine, Biochemical Oxygen Demand, and Ammonia. These laboratory and field tests are used to assist staff in understanding water pollution impacts and possible sources of that pollution.

During FY 2019 in Jamaica Beach, *Enterococci* levels at the four sites exceeded the standard for single grab samples 10% of the time. As compared to samples analyzed that exceeded 25% of the time in FY 2018 and 40% of the time in FY 2017. Many of the exceedances occurred within three days of a rainfall event or were due to stagnant water. Site JB6, located at Jolly Roger Rd near the park, exceeded the limit two times.



To schedule an Enviroscape presentation for local schools please contact GCHD at 409-938-2251.

Complaints

The Water Pollution Services Division investigates and resolves complaints addressing water pollution issues. These issues can include illegal discharge of sewage, improper disposal of fats, oils and grease, chemical spills, and illegal disposal of used motor oil. The complaints are either initiated by citizens or referred to the Water Pollution Services Division by local government personnel.

In FY19, 0 water pollution complaints were investigated in the City of Jamaica Beach, however, GCHD assisted the City of Jamaica Beach in checking on grease traps to find out if there was a facility dumping into the line.

On certain occasions GCHD and the City of Jamaica Beach will coordinate on complaints to ensure the issue is resolved properly and in a timely manner. When both entities work together it helps increase compliance throughout the jurisdiction and in turn minimizes our impact on the environment.



Citizens can submit a complaint at www.gchd.org and choosing the environmental online forms button, at 409- 938-2251, or by mail.

Grease Traps

The Water Pollution Services Division is contracted by the City of Jamaica Beach to perform grease trap inspections at establishments likely to use grease traps within the city's jurisdictional limits during FY19. GCHD identified 1 facility likely to use a grease trap or grease interceptor based on inspections from the previous years and records maintained in the GCHD's Consumer Health Services Division to inspect in FY19.

The Water Pollution Services Division performs unannounced inspections at the facilities where a review of records and a physical inspection of the grease trap are conducted along with adjacent sanitary sewer line inspections. The record review looks at the 3 most recent waste hauling manifests for the grease trap pumping to ensure the facility is having the grease trap cleaned on a regular basis and grease is being properly disposed. If no records can be produced at the time of the inspection, a notice of violation is issued to the facility.

The physical inspection focuses on the overflow pipe within the grease trap, the sample manhole, and the nearest downstream manhole. The inspection indicates if the trap is functioning and if the business is maintaining it adequately. Any buildup of grease seen in these 3 areas indicates that the grease trap is either failing or failed and a notice of violation is issued and must come into compliance within 48 hours or face a formal enforcement within the local court system. Additionally, they are placed on a list to be re-inspected regularly until the facility can pass 2 consecutive inspections.

Of the 1 inspected facility, there were no violations for this year.



Outreach

