

SOAH DOCKET NO. 582-22-0585
TCEQ DOCKET NO. 2021-1001-MWD

APPLICATION BY
CITY OF GRANBURY,
FOR TPDES PERMIT NO.
WQ0015821001

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BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE
OF
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

EXHIBIT GF-100

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BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE
OF
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

PREFILED TESTIMONY

OF

VICTORIA CALDER, PH.D.

ON BEHALF OF

GRANBURY FRESH

SUBMITTED ON FEBRUARY 4, 2022

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION	3
II.	PROPERTY AND USE OF PROPERTY	3
III.	CONCERNS	4
IV.	CONCLUSION.....	6

1 I. INTRODUCTION

2 Q: Please state your name.

3 A: Victoria Calder.

4 Q: Please state your address.

5 A: 1911 Green Wing Drive, Granbury, Texas 76049.

6 II. PROPERTY AND USE OF PROPERTY

7 Q: Can you please describe where your property is in relation to the proposed Facility?

8 A: Yes. Our home which I and my husband have shared for 11 years is within a one-mile
9 radius of the proposed site for the City of Granbury's wastewater treatment plant at 3121
10 Old Granbury Road. Our home and recreational boat dock are located directly on Rucker
11 Creek. This is along the wastewater effluent discharge route before it reaches the main
12 body of Lake Granbury.

13 Q: How do you use your property?

14 A: From our backyard boat dock on Rucker Creek, we enjoy fishing, boating, kayaking,
15 floating, and swimming. We fish in Rucker Creek, and we eat the fish that we catch. Our
16 family and friends, including young children, spend a great deal of time outdoors on our
17 backyard lawn, immediately adjacent to Rucker Creek.

18 Q: Has Rucker Creek previously experienced any problems with flooding?

19 A: Rucker Creek certainly has a history of flooding. During flood events, the debris comes
20 down Rucker Creek, enters the cove where our marina is located, and is held in there. This
21 water becomes trapped around our recreational docks, as well as in Rucker Creek's
22 upstream cove areas and places on the creek where it narrows and winds. In June of 2014,
23 there was a massive flooding event in Rucker Creek. During this flood, entire docks from

1 upstream were swept away and debris was trapped in the marina cove. During prior
2 flooding events, the water from Rucker Creek came over the lawns across the creek.

3 In addition, when flooding occurs regionally, large volumes of water have been released
4 from Possum Kingdom Dam, north of us on the Brazos River. This has led to water from
5 the Brazos River going upstream on Rucker Creek and remaining there through the flood
6 event.

7 During periods of low rainfall, Rucker Creek is shallow. During droughts, Rucker Creek
8 runs dry.

9 **Q: How do you obtain water for use in your home?**

10 **A:** Our family, like most Mallard Pointe residents, obtain our drinking water from water wells
11 in proximity to Lake Granbury. We water our lawn with the water from Rucker Creek, as
12 permitted by the Brazos River Authority.

13 **Q: Please describe the aquatic life in Rucker Creek and Cove.**

14 **A:** Rucker Creek and Cove are breeding areas for crappie and other fish species. Breeding
15 pairs of Canadian Geese, Belted Kingfishers, Great Blue Herons, Mallards, Grebes,
16 Cormorants and American Egrets nest on or near Rucker Creek. Further, endangered
17 species including the Brazos River Snake and Bald Eagle are found in and near our area.

18 III. CONCERNS

19 **Q: Do you have concerns regarding the Application by the City of Granbury (“the City”
20 or “Applicant”) for Permit No. WQ0015821001?**

21 **A:** Yes.

22 **Q: What concerns do you have regarding the Application?**

1 A: I am concerned about the potential risk that will come to our family's health and the health
2 of the aquatic life in Rucker Creek and Lake Granbury. I am also worried about the
3 potential negative impacts on our recreational and aesthetic enjoyment of Rucker Creek.
4 The potential for nuisance odors from the proposed treatment plant and the potential for
5 flooding are also concerns I have regarding this application. Since Rucker Creek runs dry
6 when droughts occur, I am concerned that during droughts Rucker Creek will be effluent-
7 only and our back yards will be an open sewer, especially if an accidental raw sewage spill
8 occurred. I am concerned that the severity of consequences, if this were to occur in Rucker
9 Creek, is highly significant. Rucker Creek is used for recreation and has significant aquatic
10 life, as the TCEQ recognizes.

11 **Q: Please describe your concerns regarding the impacts on your family's health.**

12 A: We have concerns about the impact of the proposed treatment plant on the fish and on our
13 health as a result of eating fish that might be impacted by the constituents of the wastewater.
14 Health risks from contamination would significantly increase as well if there was an
15 accidental spill of raw sewage into Rucker Creek. Additionally, I'm concerned at the
16 potential for contamination of our drinking water if this treatment plant were to be
17 permitted.

18 **Q: Do you have concerns relating to aquatic life and wildlife in the area?**

19 A: Yes. One of the most potentially devastating impacts of pumping effluent wastewater
20 through the narrow, shallow Rucker Creek and Cove, is the increased risk of another costly
21 Golden Algae bloom and resulting fish kill, much like the one that killed over 250,000 fish
22 in the Brazos River in 2011.

23 **Q: Do any of your concerns relate to the flooding you previously described?**

1 A: Yes. I worry that adding millions of gallons of treated wastewater to that flood and debris
2 mix would have negative consequences for the health of our community.

3 **Q: Please explain your concerns about noxious odors.**

4 A: I am concerned that air pollution and noxious odors from the treatment plant will also create
5 a health hazard and will have a negative impact on our quality of life, particularly during
6 storm events, when the risk of odors will increase and be treated, according to the applicant,
7 using "biological" methods. We moved to this neighborhood to enjoy recreation in the
8 outdoors, including Rucker Creek, the Mallard Pointe marina and park, and our backyard.
9 Odors from the treatment plant, especially in the heat of summer under and following heavy
10 rain events, will severely impair our well-being. Emissions from the facility will have
11 adverse effects on our health, property values, welfare, and environment. Our family
12 members include senior citizens with health conditions (e.g., lung disease) that I am
13 concerned may be impacted by the air pollution and odors from this plant.

14 **III. CONCLUSION**

15 **Q: Does this conclude your testimony?**

16 A: Yes, although I reserve the right to supplement this testimony.