

## Oso Creek Bacteria Investigation

Oso Creek TMDL Meeting Update

June 26, 2008

The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program (CBBEP) is working with Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi to investigate possible sources of enterococci in Oso Creek. The project was initiated in January 2008 and a Quality Assurance Project Plan is currently being reviewed by TCEQ (as of May 2008). Project sampling is expected to commence in June 2008 with a scheduled project completion date of December 2008.

The objective of this project is to determine source(s) of enterococci in Oso Creek, identify un-permitted discharges and/or inflows to Oso Creek and to document dry weather bacteriological conditions in the creek through a report that documents data collected, analysis/synthesis of the data and the results of the study in a manner that assists in the TMDL development process and implementation phases for Oso Creek TMDL and to ultimately help restore the creek to appropriate water quality standards.

This project will investigate the possible sources of enterococci found in sections of Oso Creek under primarily dry weather flow conditions and to provide a report for resource managers to utilize in efforts to restore Oso Creek to appropriate water quality standards. Additional dry weather sampling stations within Oso Creek and its tributaries will be identified. An initial task will be to access and observe the entire length of Oso Creek, above Oso Bay, and identify discharges and inflows to the creek. Sampling will include collection of a sample for bacteriological analysis (*Enterococcus*) of un-permitted discharges or inflows as well as a bacteriological upstream and downstream sample of all discharges into Oso Creek.

After all known and newly identified discharges are initially sampled, a GPS coordinate of their location will be recorded, as well as photo identification of the discharge and an upstream and downstream photographic view of Oso Creek will also be made. In addition to photos, field comments and observations of the stream physiology (i.e. cross section) and flow conditions of Oso Creek will be conducted. Following the initial field identification of the discharges or inflows to Oso Creek, follow up dry weather sampling will be repeated at the areas where high bacteria counts were observed to attempt to identify source of bacteria. Additionally, if deemed necessary, sampling for bacterial analysis will be conducted up to 10 times at the closest road crossing on Oso Creek downstream of each of the found dry weather discharges or inflows.

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For more information about this project please feel free to contact:

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