

City of Austin Reporting and Data-Sharing Related to PAHs in Sediment

- 7/10/96** City provided USFWS data on elevated PAHs in sediment samples taken in Barton Creek on 11/21/1994 and Barton Springs on 4/20/95 during public comment period for use in final draft listing of Barton Springs Salamander.
- 4/22/97** Draft of Barton Creek Report sent to TCEQ, EPA, USFWS, TPWD, USGS, and additional reviewers throughout scientific community. Report included all PAH sampling results available to that time. Presentations were made to the Environmental Board and Council.
- 4/30/97** Federal Register listing of Barton Springs Salamander including COA sediment data for PAHs. Specific reference was made to 11/21/94 data in Barton Creek and 4/20/95 data in Barton Springs in the listing.
- 12/~16/97** COA provided Barton Springs information notebook to EPA and USFWS staff and management identifying threats to Barton Springs, specifically that “PAHS have been detected in sediment at levels which may have biological effects in and near Barton Springs”
- 5/15/98** Biological Assessment submitted by USFWS for Endangered Species Act Section 10(a) Permit consultation by COA staff included sediment data available to date.
- 6/30/98** Provided TCEQ with all COA water quality and sediment data to date for use in 305(b) and 303(d) listings. Data submitted in electronic format via email.
- 8/17/98** Submitted completed Contaminated Sediment Grant report to TCEQ and EPA, documenting high PAHs found during screening and verification studies. Copies of report submitted to contract managers of grant program.
- 12/28/98** Correspondence from COA to TCEQ transmitting data showing PAH sediment concentrations above effects levels for aquatic life and requesting Barton Creek and Onion Creek segments be listed as impaired.
- 1/11/99** Correspondence from COA to TCEQ including additional comments and discussion of data and requesting listing of Barton Creek as impaired segment due to potential sediment toxicity indicated by high concentrations of PAHs.
- 1/19/99** Correspondence from COA concerning 303(d) data including reference to COA assessment of concerns based on Barton Creek sediment concentrations.
- 2/28/99** Staff Comments on 1/28/99 Draft 303(d) Water Quality Concerns list which included Barton Creek as of concern for PAH concentrations in sediment
- 6/30/99** COA provides comments on Scientific Background for Construction General Permit Environmental Impacts drafted by USFWS including information on PAHs in sediment from Barton Springs and Barton Creek.
- 2/8/00** Correspondence from COA to TCEQ citing sediment PAH concentrations as reason to list Onion Creek as well as Barton Creek on 303(d) list.
- 4/23/00** COA staff presented PAH screening project and verification sampling via a Poster Session in National Water Quality Monitoring Conference in Austin.

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- 03/00** Verbal guidance from TCEQ during a meeting on their acceptance of COA data for 303(d) listing indicated that ambient sediment toxicity would be considered evidence of impairment rather than chemical concentrations.
- 6/1/00** Submitted NPDES annual report to EPA for 1999 monitoring period including screening and verification results for sediment PAHs in Barton Creek watershed.
- 8/14/00** COA sent proposal for sediment toxicity and PAH testing to TCEQ for evaluation as a special study for use in the 303(d) listing program for impaired water bodies.
- 2/12/01** Meeting with TCEQ to discuss concerns noted by COA from sediment PAH data in Barton Creek tributaries and sediment toxicity testing performed by USGS for COA.
- 5/15/01** COA provided sediment and water quality data to USFWS for use in the final Biological Opinion for the NPDES Construction General Permit
- 3/27/01** EPA/USFWS – Seminar on Construction General Permit Biological Opinion – COA staff presented variety of technical information including PAHs in Barton Springs Pool and Barton Creek sediment to group including representatives of EPA, USFWS, TPWD, TCEQ, USGS, TxCABA, RECA, SOS, Environmental Board Members and other interested parties.
- 6/1/01** COA submitted NPDES annual report for 2000 monitoring period including update on sediment screening and verification
- 8/06/01** COA sent Barton Springs Inventory containing summary of water quality and sediment data including PAH data to date to TCEQ, TPWD, USGS, BSEACD, LCRA, UT, and USGS representatives and invited to 8/26/01 meeting on inventory issues.
- 1/17/02** COA water, sediment, and biological data submitted to TCEQ for use in determining impairment and concerns listing under CWA 303(d).
- 2/22/02** COA staff investigation of continued UBS salamander mortality included sampling of sediment, water, dissolved gases, and benthic macroinvertebrates. Lab samples of sediment sent to LCRA to UBS for salamander investigation. Environmental Board briefing was held followed by updates as the investigation proceeded.
- 3/8/02** COA staff provided USGS water quality data from Upper Barton Springs and Barton Springs Pool to Dr. Steven Harris, City of Austin & Travis County Public Health Authority.
- 6/1/02** Submitted NPDES annual report for 2001 monitoring period including update on sediment screening and verification sampling.
- 6/20/02** City of Austin provided sediment PAH information at a meeting of USEPA and USFWS toxicologists and other staff requested to review the biological opinion for the NPDES Construction General Permit. Resulted in additional Reasonable and Prudent Measures for EPA as condition of permit approval.
- 7/18/02** Stratus hearings - Staff memorandum to Council and comments made at public hearing regarding PAHs in sediment
- 8/16/02** COA provided water quality and sediment data to TCEQ and TDH for evaluation of human health risks at the pool.