



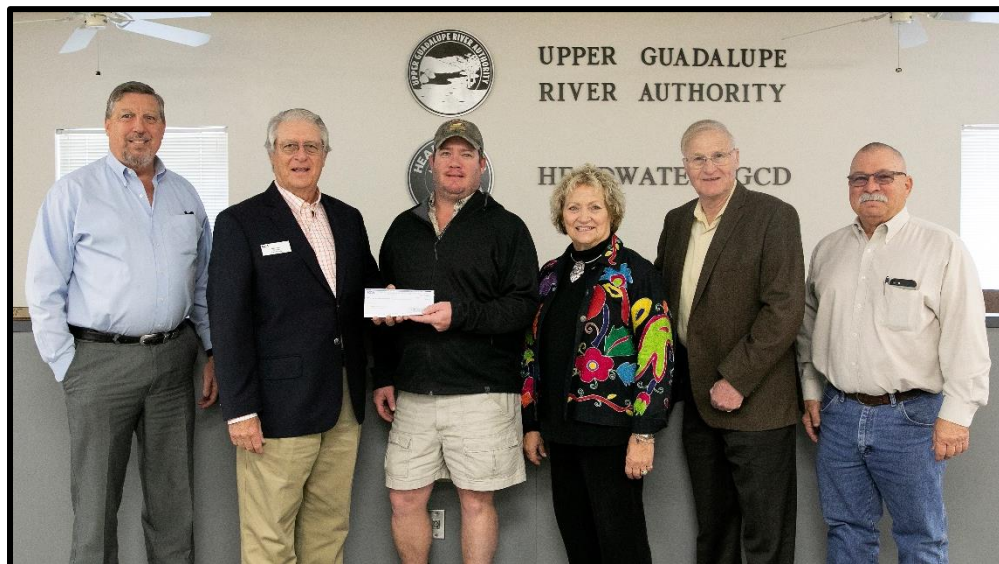
## PRESS RELEASE

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**Contact:** Upper Guadalupe River Authority,  
830-896-5445

### UGRA Receives Grant from LCRA to Target Waterway Polluters

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) is delighted to announce that due to the success of our partnership with Kerr County to manage feral hogs, the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) has provided additional funding to help offset the bounty costs of hogs harvested in the Llano River drainage in northwest Kerr County. “LCRA is proud to help with the management of the watershed to provide cleaner water for the Llano River watershed and greater Colorado basin,” said Mike Allen, LCRA Director. The \$2,500 grant from LCRA will continue this water quality protection program to slow the spread of feral hogs.



Pictured L-R: Ray Buck, UGRA General Manager; Mike Allen, LCRA Director; Aaron Bulkley, UGRA Secretary; Lynda Ables, UGRA Director; Bill Rector, UGRA Treasurer; and Don Harris, Kerr County Commissioner, Precinct 4.

“Kerr County and UGRA greatly appreciate the support from LCRA through this financial assistance to benefit our efforts to curb the spread and growth of the feral hog population in Kerr County. Since 2017, the Feral Hog Abatement Program has assisted Kerr County ranch owners in the removal of over 3,300 feral hogs,” said Aaron Bulkley, UGRA Director.

Feral hogs seek out areas along waterways to wallow in the mud and shallow water. As a result, feral hogs heavily use riparian areas, the dense band of vegetation along rivers and creeks, as travel corridors. Research has demonstrated that the loss of riparian vegetation due to rooting and

trampling by feral hogs leads to increased stormwater runoff and erosion. This increased runoff in turn carries sediment into the waterway along with bacterial contamination and nutrients from hog feces. In some areas, hogs are contributing to water quality degradation so severe that the waterbody cannot support contact recreation, such as swimming and wading, and is detrimental to aquatic life.



Feral hogs trample and root in riparian vegetation causing erosion and poor water quality.

Since 2017, UGRA and Kerr County have proactively partnered to offer competitive bounties for feral hogs in order to encourage reduction in the feral hog population. This program has proven to be successful in that 1,071 hogs were submitted for bounties the first year of the partnership and the number jumped to 2,262 during the next 12 months.

**Let's Keep Our River Clean!**