

Statement from John Byrum

Executive Director, Nueces River Authority

A recent media report reviewed circumstances that occurred 18 months ago related to water quality documents submitted by the Nueces River Authority. Specifically, forms were submitted showing my name as the collector on samples I did not personally take.

To be absolutely clear: I did not perform those field collections. When I learned that documents may have been improperly signed, I took immediate action to investigate, end that employees' service with NRA, reassign responsibilities, and strengthen oversight.

The public deserves confidence that every sample, every report, and every signature from the Nueces River Authority is accurate and accountable. That confidence begins and ends with leadership, and leadership depends on people.

Even the most advanced systems in the world are only as reliable as the people who operate them. Just this month, Amazon Web Services experienced a global outage traced to a single human configuration error. It's a reminder that every organization, from Fortune 500 companies to public agencies like ours, relies on trust, verification, and constant vigilance to keep operations running smoothly.

The lesson is universal: When something goes wrong, you face it directly, fix it quickly, and strengthen the safeguards to prevent it from happening again. That's exactly what we've done.

The Nueces River Authority has:

- Completed an internal review of all field and reporting procedures.
- Implemented new verification protocols for every water-quality submission.
- Increased management oversight and training to ensure full compliance with state and federal standards.
- Enhanced transparency with our board, regulators, and the communities we serve.

Water security and public health are at the core of everything we do. While this incident is deeply disappointing, it reinforces our resolve to maintain the highest standards of professionalism, transparency, and accountability.

We are cooperating fully with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and other reviewing authorities. We remain committed to continuous improvement in every aspect of our operations.

The people of South Texas deserve nothing less.

— John Byrum

Executive Director

Nueces River Authority