

Fred Flickinger

Our area has significant issues with sediment from upstream sand mining operations, being deposited into the San Jacinto river and Lake Houston. This additional sediment not only causes greater flooding, but reduces the capacity of Lake Houston to retain drinking water. Numerous sand mining operations were breached by the river during large rain events last year with a number of them remaining breached after the rain event passed. This causes additional sediment to be deposited in the river and Lake Houston on a 24/7 basis. This has necessitated dredging to be completed which is the case on Lake Houston as I write this. Dredging is incredibly expensive costing millions. Far more expensive than what it would cost the sand miners to take mitigation efforts to reduce the amount of sediment entering into the river upstream. We must have more responsible sand mining. This could take several forms with the most obvious one being the distance between the river and the sand mine. Please take action to reduce the amount of sediment entering the river or set aside funds to pay for dredging downstream.