

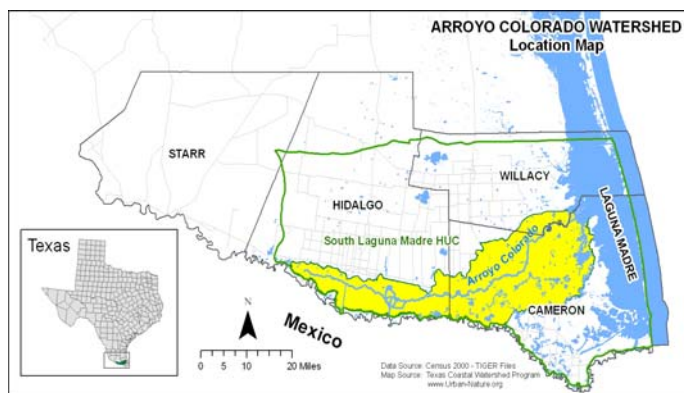


**This project is funded in whole or in part by a grant under the
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

Title: Monitoring of Arroyo Colorado Wastewater Treatment Plants
Water Body: Arroyo Colorado, Segments 2201 and 2202
Location: Cameron and Hidalgo Counties
River Basin: Rio Grande River Basin
Implementing Agency: Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Project Period: 2-15-10 thru 08-31-11

Project Summary

The project will include planning for data collection from 20 outfalls to the Arroyo Colorado, 12 months of nutrient concentration data collection, and significant outreach to watershed stakeholders. The data collected during the monitoring project described herein will be used to refine nutrient loading estimates for the Arroyo Colorado and to gauge the effectiveness of water quality wetland systems and other measures currently being instituted to mitigate pollutant loading to the Arroyo Colorado.



Project Partners & Funding

Project partners:

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC)	Is the grantee and is coordinating all work for the project.
University of Texas-Brownsville & Texas A&M University-Kingsville	Will be developing the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), and collecting and analyzing all of the data.
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)	Funding agency and will be providing final technical and fiscal oversight.
Arroyo Colorado Watershed Coordinator	Will be reporting the status of the project to the Watershed Stakeholders and web site updates, and will provide assistance to LRGVDC on some of the tasks.

Funding Amount is \$113,868.

*Implementing Agency
Address line
Phone
Website*

*Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
PO Box 13087 • Austin, TX 78711-3087
(512) 239-1000
<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/eq/nonpointsrcpgm.html>*

Project Status

Describe the water quality problem(s) and the reason for the project.

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/monitoring/water/quality/data/wqm/305_303.html

Segment 2202, The Arroyo Colorado Above Tidal, is listed on the State's 303d list for high levels of bacteria. Segment 2201, The Arroyo Colorado Tidal, is listed on the State's 303d list for low Dissolved Oxygen.

If the project is part of a watershed plan or other comprehensive plan, note that:

The project is part of The Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan.

List the water quality goals of the project:

The goal of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan is to reduce the addition (i.e., loading) of pollutants such as oxygen demand substances, nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment to the Arroyo Colorado and to improve natural habitat to the degree necessary to meet the uses designated by the State of Texas and specified in the State's Water Quality Standards (30TAC //307.1-307.10). The goal of this monitoring project is to assess the nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations in permitted wastewater effluents discharged to the Arroyo Colorado.

Describe the major objectives of the project. After the first report, describe the progress towards each objective:

Outfalls for 17 permitted wastewater treatment plants and 3 wetland sites (20 sites total) will be monitored for five nutrient parameters: total phosphorus, orthophosphorus, total ammonia nitrogen, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, and total nitrite plus nitrate nitrogen. Grab samples will be collected from each site twice a month for 12 months.

Has anything significant changed since the project inception? What adjustments have been made?

No significant changes or adjustments have been made.

What are the next steps? Over what time period will these steps be accomplished?

The contract was executed February 15, 2010. TAMUK and UTB are currently developing the Data Quality Objectives (DQOs), Water Quality Monitoring Plan, and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). Effluent sampling will initiate in the summer of 2010.

Last Updated: **April 11, 2010**

Related website(s): **www.arroyocolorado.org**

For More Information Contact:

Ludy Saenz
LRGVDC
311 N. 15th Street
McAllen, TX 78501
Phone # (956) 682-3481
lsaenz@lrgvdc911.org

Bob Johnson
TCEQ
12100 Park 35 Circle
Austin, TX 78753
Phone # (512)239-6453
bob.johnson@tceq.texas.gov