TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

AGENDA REQUESTED: August 31, 2011

DATE OF REQUEST: August 12, 2011

NAME AND NUMBER OF PERSON TO CONTACT REGARDING CHANGES TO THIS REQUEST, IF NEEDED: Chip Morris, 239-6686.

CAPTION: Docket No. 2011-0722-TML. Consideration for approval to publish and solicit public comment on Eight Total Maximum Daily Loads for Indicator Bacteria in Dickinson Bayou and Three Tidal Tributaries, Segments 1103, 1103A, 1103B, 1103C, and 1104, in Galveston County.

Project No. 2011-021-TML-NR
(Ron Stein, Robert Brush)

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Office of Water

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Commissioners **Date:** August 12, 2011

Thru: Melissa Chao, Acting Chief Clerk
Mark R. Vickery, P.G., Executive Director

From: L'Oreal W. Stepney, P.E., Deputy Director
Office of Water

Subject: Docket No. 2011-0722-TML; Project No. 2011-021-TML-NR
Proposal for Eight Total Maximum Daily Loads for Indicator Bacteria in Dickinson Bayou and Three Tidal Tributaries, Segments 1103, 1103A, 1103B, 1103C, and 1104, in Galveston and Brazoria Counties for Public Comment

Issue Consideration for approval to publish and solicit public comment on eight draft total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) corresponding to eight assessment units (AUs) for indicator bacteria (Segments 1103, 1103A, 1103B, 1103C, and 1104) in Dickinson Bayou in Galveston County.

Background and Current Practice Eight draft TMDLs have been prepared as required by the Clean Water Act §303(d). TMDLs must be submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval as certified updates to the State of Texas Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP). The Water Quality Planning Division requests approval from the commission to propose the TMDLs for a formal public review and comment period. After the public comment period, staff will make appropriate changes to the draft TMDLs and respond to public comments. The next step will be to request that the commission consider adoption and certification of the final TMDLs as an update to the State of Texas WQMP. The commission approved TMDLs are then forwarded to EPA for its final action.

Watershed Information This project addresses elevated levels of indicator bacteria related to the contact recreation use in fresh water and saltwater. Dickinson Bayou Tidal (Segment 1103) is 14.87 miles in length and consists of four AUs defined in the draft 2010 Texas Integrated Report. Three of the four AUs in Dickinson Bayou Tidal (AU 1103_02, AU 1103_03, and AU 1103_04) were listed as impaired for the contact recreation use in the 2008 Texas 303(d) List. These AUs represent 9.59 stream miles of the tidally-influenced segment of Dickinson Bayou and are addressed in the TMDL document. Three unclassified tidal tributaries to Dickinson Bayou are also impaired for the contact recreation use and are included in the TMDL document. These are Bensons Bayou (AU 1103A_01; 2.03 stream miles), Bordens Gully (AU 1103B_01; 1.89 stream miles), and Geisler Bayou (AU 1103C_01; 3.17 stream miles). Additionally, the entire length (8.17 stream miles) of Dickinson Bayou Above Tidal (Segment 1104) was listed as impaired for the contact recreation use in the 2008 Texas 303(d) List and the two AUs that comprise the Above-tidal segment of Dickinson Bayou (AU 1104_01 and AU 1104_02) are also included in the TMDL document.

Problem Definition *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) is the preferred indicator bacteria for assessing the contact recreation use in freshwater and is used to the assess contact recreation use in all AUs in Segment 1104. *Enterococcus feacalis* (Enterococcus) is the preferred indicator bacteria for assessing the contact recreation use in saltwater and is used to assess the contact recreation use in all AUs in

Segment 1103 and all tidal tributaries. Elevated levels of these indicator bacteria have been a persistent issue in the watersheds of the impaired AUs since, at least, 2002. The geometric mean of bacteria samples collected in all eight impaired AUs exceeded the criteria used to assess these water bodies in 2008. The geometric means of the indicator bacteria (published in the 2008 Texas Water Quality Inventory) are included in Table 1.

Table 1. Geometric Means of Indicator Bacteria Published in the 2008 Texas Water Quality Inventory for Dickinson Bayou Assessment Units

Description	Segment	First Year Listed on 303(d) List	Assessment Unit	Indicator Bacteria	Geometric Mean Criteria (MPN/100ml)	Geometric Mean of samples
Dickinson Bayou Tidal	1103	1996	1103_02	Enterococci	35	36
	1103	1996	1103_03	Enterococci	35	194
	1103	1996	1103_04	Enterococci	35	116
Bensons Bayou	1103A	2002	1103A_01	Enterococci	35	75
Bordens Gully	1103B	2002	1103B_01	Enterococci	35	470
Geisler Bayou	1103C	2002	1103C_01	Enterococci	35	107
Dickinson Bayou Above Tidal	1104	1996	1104_01	*E. coli*	126	271
	1104	1996	1104_02	*E. coli*	126	135

Endpoint Identification The endpoint for the TMDLs for the freshwater segment of Dickinson Bayou is to maintain the geometric mean of concentrations of *E. coli* below the geometric mean criterion of 126 MPN/100 mL. The endpoint for the TMDLs for tidal segment of Dickinson Bayou and three of its tidal tributaries is to maintain the geometric mean of concentrations of Enterococci below the geometric mean criterion of 35 MPN/100 mL.

Source Analysis The most probable sources of indicator bacteria within the watersheds of the impaired AUs are failing onsite sewage facilities (OSSFs), improper disinfection at permitted wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs), sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), storm water runoff from permitted municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s), dry weather discharges (illicit discharges) from MS4s, and unregulated nonpoint sources (NPS) such as wildlife, livestock and pets.

Linkage Flow and NPS loadings in the Dickinson Bayou watershed were modeled using the Hydrologic Simulation Program FORTRAN (HSPF). For the AUs that comprise the tidally-influenced segment of Dickinson Bayou (Segment 1103) and three tidal tributaries, a tidal prism model (TPM) was used to examine the relationship between instream water quality and the sources of indicator bacteria loads. For AUs in the freshwater segment of Dickinson Bayou (Segment 1104), load duration curve (LDC) analyses were used to establish this relationship.

TMDL Calculation The bacteria TMDLs for the 303(d)-listed AUs covered in this TMDL report were derived using a TPM and LDCs. The estimated maximum allowable loads of Enterococci for each of the tidal AUs were determined using the median flow value. The estimated maximum

allowable loads of *E. coli* for each of the freshwater AUs was determined as that corresponding to the mid-range flow regime as determined by the LDCs.

Margin of Safety (MOS) The TMDLs covered by this report incorporate an explicit MOS by setting a target for indicator bacteria loads that is 5 percent lower than the geometric mean criterion, in the case of the freshwater AUs, and, in the case of the saltwater AUs, by reserving a portion of the estimated allowable loading equal to 5% of the TMDL.

Wasteload Allocations (WLAs) Current Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES)-permitted WWTFs are allocated a daily wasteload calculated as their full permitted discharge flow rate multiplied by one half of the in-stream geometric mean water quality criterion.

Load Allocation (LA) The load allocation is the sum of loads from unregulated sources. It is calculated by subtracting the sum of WLA_{WWTF}, $WLA_{Stormwater}$, MOS, and future growth from the TMDL.

TMDL In the case of the freshwater AUs in Dickinson Bayou, the TMDLs were calculated based on the median flow in the 20-80 flow exceedance percentile range. This percentile corresponds to the mid-range flow condition for each freshwater AU. In the case of the saltwater AUs in Dickinson Bayou, the TMDLs were determined using the median flow value for each AU.

Future Growth To account for the probability that new and/or additional wastewater flows may occur in any of the segments, a provision for future growth was included in the TMDL calculations. Future growth was based on the projected population increase from year 2010 to year 2050 and an estimate of the amount of wastewater generated per person per day or gallons per capita per day (gpcd).

Allocations The final TMDL allocations needed to comply with the requirements of 40 Code of Federal Regulations §130.7 are presented in Table 2. The allocations in this table are based on the current criteria for *E. coli* (geometric mean of 126 Most Probable Number (MPN)/100 mL) in freshwater and enterococcus (geometric mean of 35 MPN/100 mL) in saltwater.

Public Participation TCEQ, The University of Houston, and Texas AgriLife are jointly providing coordination for public participation in this project. Public meetings have been conducted approximately on a quarterly basis since 2008 to keep the public aware of the TMDL process and to engage public participation. The meetings introduced the TMDL process, identified the impaired AUs and the reason for the impairment, reviewed historical data, and described potential sources of bacteria within the watershed. In addition, the meetings gave TCEQ the opportunity to solicit input from all interested parties within the study area.

Implementation Texas AgriLife is working with the TCEQ to lead development of the Implementation Plan (I-Plan). Through the advisory group led by Texas AgriLife, the resources and expertise of the local organizations and individuals have been brought together to set water quality priorities, provide flexibility, and consider appropriate social and economic factors.

Table 1. TMDL Allocation for Dickinson Bayou Watershed (in MPN/day)

Stream Name	Assessment Unit	Indicator Bacteria	TMDL[1]	WLA_{WWTF}[2]	$WLA_{Stormwater}$[3]	LA[4]	MOS[5]	Future Growth (FG)[6]
Dickinson Bayou Above Tidal	1104_01	*E. coli*	3.70E+10	1.97E+09	2.06E+09	3.06E+10	1.82E+09	5.28E+08
	1104_02	*E. coli*	1.04E+10	2.44E+09	2.21E+09	3.16E+09	4.11E+08	2.19E+09
Bensons Bayou	1103A_01	Enterococci	9.26E+09	0.00E+00	4.25E+09	4.55E+09	4.63E+08	0.00E+00
Bordens Gully	1103B_01	Enterococci	1.65E+09	0.00E+00	5.64E+08	1.00E+09	8.25E+07	0.00E+00
Geisler Bayou	1103C_01	Enterococci	4.14E+09	0.00E+00	1.04E+09	2.89E+09	2.07E+08	0.00E+00
Dickinson Bayou Tidal[7]	1103_02	Enterococci	2.41E+11	3.22E+09	4.17E+09	2.21E+11	1.21E+10	8.03E+08
	1103_03	Enterococci	9.41E+10	0.00E+00	3.06E+10	5.87E+10	4.70E+09	0.00E+00
	1103_04	Enterococci	6.74E+10	0.00E+00	1.72E+10	4.68E+10	3.37E+09	0.00E+00

Notes:

[1]TMDL calculated as sum of WLA_{WWTF}, $WLA_{Stormwater}$, LA, MOS and future growth (includes full permitted flow and no margin of safety); for above tidal segments, the TMDL was calculated by summing the median value of the LDC from the mid-range flow (between 20-80th percentile), MOS and future growth.

[2] WLA_{WWTF} is sum of permitted loads discharging to impaired assessment units

[3] $WLA_{Stormwater}$ is TMDL minus the sum of WLA_{WWTF}, MOS and future growth multiplied by the percentage of the assessment unit watershed covered by MS4 permits

[4] LA is TMDL minus the sum of WLA_{WWTF}, $WLA_{Stormwater}$, MOS, and future growth

[5] MOS is a 5% margin of safety which is applied to the TMDL

[6]Future growth accounts for population growth through 2050 in permitted WWTF discharges

[7] Because it was not included on the 2008 Texas 303(d) List, a TMDL has not been specified for Assessment Unit 1103_01

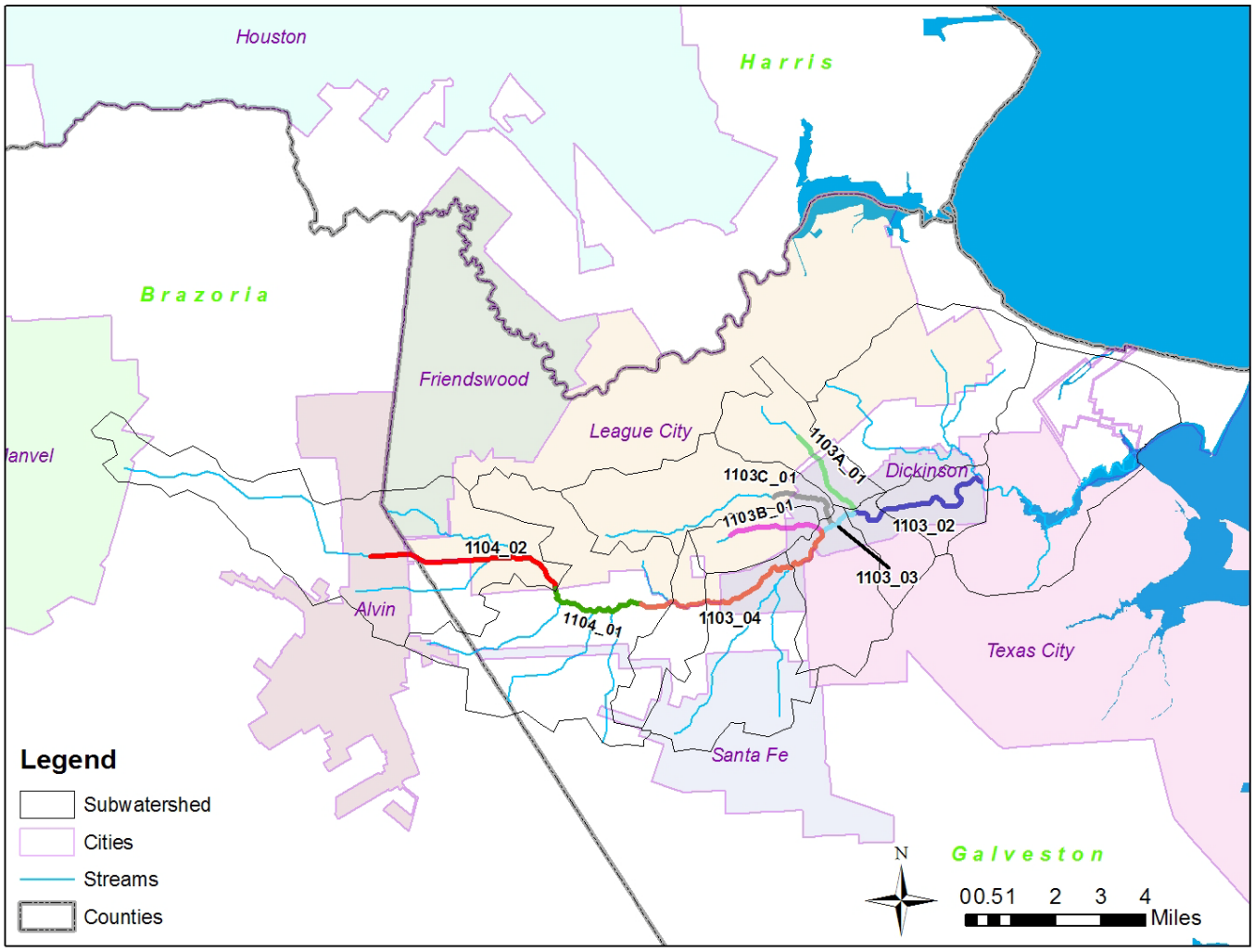

Figure 1. Map of Dickinson Bayou Watershed Assessment Units

<u>Key Points in the TMDL Proposal Schedule</u>
Anticipated proposal date: August 31, 2011
Anticipated *Texas Register* publication date: September 16, 2011
Public meeting date: October 2011 (TBA)
Public comment period: September 16, 2011 – October 17, 2011

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Attachments

cc: Chief Clerk, 7 copies

Draft for Public Comment
September 2011

Eight Total Maximum Daily Loads for Indicator Bacteria in Dickinson Bayou and Three Tidal Tributaries

Segments 1103, 1103A, 1103B, 1103C, 1104

Assessment Units: 1103_02, 1103_03, 1103_04, 1103A_01, 1103B_01, 1103C_01, 1104_01, and 1104_02

Water Quality Planning Division, Office of Water

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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TMDL project reports are available on the TCEQ Web site at:
<www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/>

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This TMDL report is based in large part on the report titled Technical Support Document:
Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Loads for Dickinson Bayou, August 2010
prepared by University of Houston and CDM

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Abbreviations

AFO	animal feeding operation
AU	assessment unit
BMP	best management practice
CAFO	concentrated animal feeding operation
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CFU	colony-forming units
CFS	cubic feet per second
dL	deciliter
DO	dissolved oxygen
DMR	Discharge Monitoring Report
EC	Escherichia coli
FC	fecal coliform

FDC	flow duration curve
FWSD	Fresh Water Supply District
GIS	Geographic Information System
HCFCD	Harris County Flood Control District
HCOEM	Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
H-GAC	Houston-Galveston Area Council
I-Plan	implementation plan
LA	load allocation
LDC	load duration curve
m^3	cubic meters
mL	milliliter
MGD	million gallons per day
MOS	margin of safety
MPN	most probable number
MS4	municipal separate storm sewer system
MUD	municipal utility district
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	nonpoint source
NRCS	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWSO	National Weather Service Office
OSSF	onsite sewage facility
SSO	sanitary sewer overflow
STATSGO	State Soil Geographic Database
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TAC	Texas Administrative Code
TMDL	total maximum daily load
TPDES	Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
TSSWCB	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
TWDB	Texas Water Development Board
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WCID	Water Control and Improvement District
WBAN	Weather Bureau Army Navy
WLA	wasteload allocation
WQMP	Water Quality Management Plan
WWTF	wastewater treatment facility

Eight Total Maximum Daily Loads for Indicator Bacteria in Dickinson Bayou and its Tributaries

Executive Summary

This document describes total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for Dickinson Bayou and its tributaries where concentrations of indicator bacteria exceeded the criteria used to evaluate attainment of contact recreational use for the *2008 Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List*. This impairment was first identified in the 1996 Inventory and List for the main stem of Dickinson Bayou, and was expanded in 2002 to include its tributaries. Dickinson Bayou is comprised of both tidal and non-tidal waters that drain to Dickinson Bay and to Galveston Bay.

The Dickinson Bayou watershed encompasses approximately 106 square miles in Galveston and Brazoria counties. It includes portions of the cities of Alvin, Dickinson, Manvel, Friendswood, Texas City, and Santa Fe. Almost 40 percent of the watershed was developed as of 2010. Between 2002 and 2008, the amount of developed land has more than doubled due to increased urbanization and increases in population within the watershed.

As described in the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ's) "2008 Guidance for Assessing Texas Surface and Finished Drinking Water Quality Data" (TCEQ 2008b), the TCEQ requires a minimum of 10 samples in order to assess support of the contact recreation use. The preferred indicator bacteria for assessing the use are *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) in freshwater and Enterococci in tidal water. For this project, *E. coli* data were used for analysis and modeling to support TMDL development for the segments of Dickinson Bayou above tidal influence. Enterococci data were used for the Dickinson Bayou Tidal segment, Bensons Bayou, Bordons Gully, and Geislers Bayou.

Using the *E. coli* criteria, when the minimum sample requirement is met, the contact recreation use is not supported if:

- the geometric mean of all *E. coli* samples exceeds 126 colony forming units (cfu) or most probable number (MPN) per 100 mL (1 dL); and/or
- individual samples exceed 394 cfu or MPN per dL more than 25 percent of the time.

For the Enterococci criteria, when the minimum sample requirement is met, the contact recreation use is not supported if:

- the geometric mean of all Enterococci samples exceeds 35 cfu or MPN per dL; and/or
- individual samples exceed 89 cfu or MPN per dL more than 25 percent of the time.

In Dickinson Bayou and its tributaries, elevated levels of bacteria have been observed frequently through routine monitoring of the bayou, so that enough information was available to characterize both wet and dry conditions. More than 760 *E. coli* samples were collected, and the results demonstrate exceedances of the single sample standard 33% of the time. For Enterococci, almost 650 samples were collected; the single sample criterion was exceeded 40% of the time. Geometric means of *E. coli* ranged from 7 MPN/dL to 711 MPN/dL. Enterococci means ranged from 11 MPN/dL to 321 MPN/dL.

The most probable sources of the bacteria are non-compliant discharges from wastewater treatment facilities, stormwater runoff from permitted storm sewer sources, sanitary sewer overflows, failing on-site sewage facilities, broken sewer lines, and stormwater runoff from unregulated areas.

For freshwater streams, the allowable pollutant loads were quantified using load duration curve analysis. A mass-balance, tidal-prism model was used for tidal segments. The allocations are discussed in the section "TMDL Calculations" and are presented in Table 20.

The wasteload allocation was established as the permitted flow for each wastewater treatment facility times one-half the geometric mean criterion (63 MPN/dL for *E. coli* and 17.5 MPN/dL for Enterococci). Future growth from existing or new permitted facilities is not limited by these TMDLs as long as the sources do not exceed these concentration limits. The assimilative capacity of streams increases as the amount of wastewater flow increases. Consequently, increases in wastewater flow allow for increased indicator bacteria loadings at discharge concentrations at or below the permitted limits.

The TMDL calculations in this report will guide determination of the assimilative capacity of the streams under changing conditions, including future growth. Wastewater discharges from new or expanded facilities will be evaluated case by case.

Introduction

Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires all states to identify waters that do not meet, or are not expected to meet, applicable water quality standards. States must develop a TMDL for each pollutant that contributes to the impairment of a listed water body. The TCEQ is responsible for ensuring that TMDLs are developed for impaired surface waters in Texas.

A TMDL is like a budget—it determines the amount of a particular pollutant that a water body can receive and still meet its applicable water quality standards. Thus, TMDLs are the best possible estimates of the assimilative capacity of the water body for a pollutant under consideration. A TMDL is commonly expressed as a load with units of mass per period of time, but may be expressed in other ways. TMDLs also estimate how much the pollutant load must be reduced in order to achieve water quality standards.

The TMDL Program is a major component of Texas' overall process for managing the quality of its surface waters. The program addresses impaired or threatened streams, reservoirs, lakes, bays, and estuaries (water bodies) in, or bordering on, the state of Texas. The primary objective of the TMDL Program is to restore and maintain the beneficial

uses—such as drinking water supply, recreation, support of aquatic life, or fishing—of impaired or threatened water bodies.

This TMDL addresses impairments to the contact recreation use due to exceedances of the indicator bacteria criteria in Dickinson Bayou Tidal, Dickinson Bayou Above Tidal, Bensons Bayou, Bordens Bayou, and Giesler Bayou as they appear in the 2008 Texas 303(d) List.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and the implementing regulations of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 130 (40 CFR 130) describe the statutory and regulatory requirements for acceptable TMDLs. The EPA provides further direction in its *Guidance for Water Quality-Based Decisions: The TMDL Process* (EPA 1991). This TMDL document has been prepared in accordance with those regulations and guidelines. The segments and assessment units covered by this document were included in the 2008 303(d) list.

The TCEQ must consider certain elements in developing a TMDL. They are described in the following sections of this report:

- Problem Definition
- Endpoint Identification
- Source Analysis
- Linkage Analysis
- Seasonal Variation
- Margin of Safety
- Pollutant Load Allocation
- Public Participation
- Implementation and Reasonable Assurance

Upon EPA approval, these TMDLs will become an update to the state's Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP).

Problem Definition

The TCEQ first identified the impairment to the contact recreation use for Dickinson Bayou in the *1996 Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List* (1996 Inventory and List). This impairment was expanded in 2002 to include four major tributaries of Dickinson Bayou (i.e., Bensons Bayou, Bordens Gully, Giesler Bayou, and Gum Bayou). These water bodies remained on the 2008 Texas 303(d) List, with the exception of Gum Bayou, which was removed from the 303(d) list in 2006 because more recent data indicated the contact recreation use was supported.

The State of Texas evaluates water bodies at the level of both segments and assessment units. For Dickinson Bayou, two segments are defined: the tidal portion, Segment 1103, and the above-tidal portion, Segment 1104. These segments are further delineated into smaller areas called assessment units. The assessment units for Dickinson Bayou were renumbered in 2010 to make them consistent with the segment numbering conventions used by the TCEQ (i.e., increasing ordinal rank in an upstream direction). Consequently,

the assessment units in Dickinson Bayou Tidal (Segment 1103) in the *2008 Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List* were reported with revised numbers in the *Draft 2010 Texas Integrated Report for Clean Water Act Sections 305(b) and 303(d)* (formerly the Inventory and List). The assessment units as of 2010 are shown in Figure 1 and summarized in Table 1. There are four assessment units within Segment 1103 and two within Segment 1104. Three additional assessment units of tidal tributaries were included in this TMDL project.

Safety of contact recreation is determined using indicator bacteria. For Dickinson Bayou, both *E. coli* and Enterococci are used. These organisms are fecal bacteria that originate in the intestines of warm-blooded species. While these bacteria do not always cause illness in humans, the EPA has determined that their presence indicates a heightened risk of pathogens (EPA, 1986). Table 1 shows the bacteria criteria assigned to each assessment unit studied during this project. As shown in the table, *E. coli* are the indicators preferred by the TCEQ for freshwater and Enterococci are used as indicator bacteria for tidal streams.

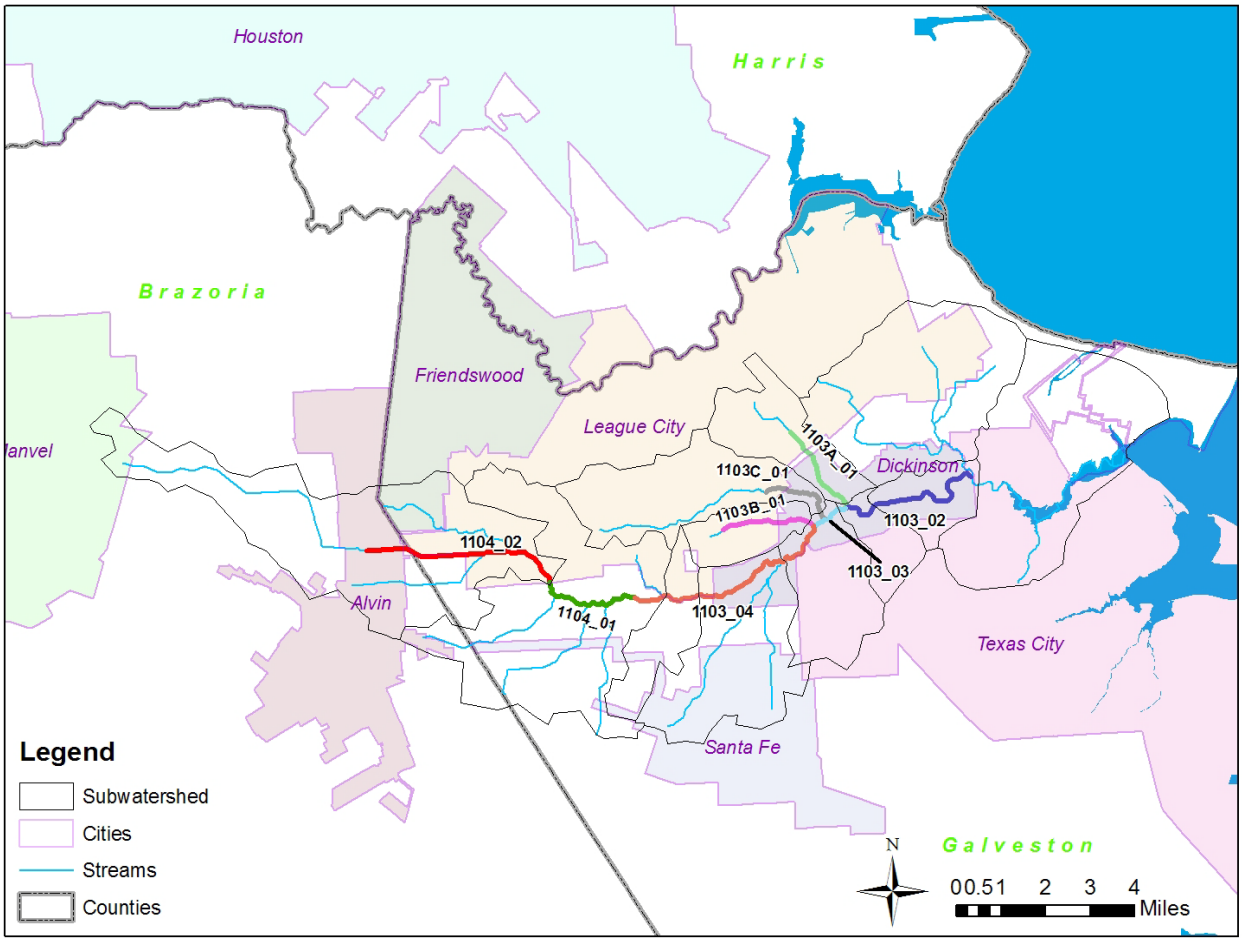

Figure 1. Dickinson Bayou Watershed Assessment Units

Table 1. Summary of Bacteria Standards by Assessment Unit

Description	Segment	First Year on 303(d) List	Assessment Unit	Indicator Bacteria	Geometric Mean Criterion	Single Sample Maximum Criterion
Dickinson Bayou Tidal	1103	1996	1103_02	Enterococci	35	89
	1103	1996	1103_03	Enterococci	35	89
	1103	1996	1103_04	Enterococci	35	89
Bensons Bayou	1103A	2002	1103A_01	Enterococci	35	89
Bordens Gully	1103B	2002	1103B_01	Enterococci	35	89
Geisler Bayou	1103C	2002	1103C_01	Enterococci	35	89
Dickinson Bayou Above Tidal	1104	1996	1104_01	*E. coli*	126	394
	1104	1996	1104_02	*E. coli*	126	394

Prior to 2010, the TCEQ used a binomial method to specify the number of exceedances of the single sample criterion required to determine nonsupport of the contact recreation use. In 2010, the TCEQ revised the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, eliminating the single sample criterion, thereby limiting assessment of the contact recreation use to the geometric mean criterion. However, as of the date of this publication, the *2010 Texas Surface Water Quality Standards* have not yet been approved by the EPA. For this reason, both criteria—single sample maximum and geometric mean—have been included in this TMDL document.

Ambient Concentrations of Indicator Bacteria

The locations of the Water Quality Monitoring Stations monitored for bacteria in Dickinson Bayou are shown in Figure 2. Samples for bacteria have been collected and analyzed in the Dickinson Bayou watershed since the early 1970's, although until 1999 these data were collected as fecal coliform. *E. coli* and Enterococci data were collected starting in 1999. Most recent sampling efforts have focused on Enterococci sampling in Segment 1103, where the parameter is the regulatory standard for tidal waters. A summary of the locations and dates when the bacteria data were collected and analyzed through 2008 (which was the most current data available when this TMDL document was prepared) is shown in Tables 2 and 3, for *E. coli* and Enterococci respectively.

Although an extensive data set of *E. coli* samples has been collected in Dickinson Bayou, of the 15 stations presented in Table 2, only 10 have been sampled since 2003. Only two stations in the watershed had *E. coli* samples beyond 2004 at the time of TMDL preparation—11467 and 11434 (Table 2). Geometric mean concentrations ranged from 7 MPN/dL at station 11472, where only two samples have been collected, to 711 MPN/dL at station 16469. It is important to note that, per TCEQ guidance, a minimum of 10 samples are necessary to calculate a geometric mean for assessment purposes. Thus, stations in Table 2 with less than 10 samples are included for illustrative purposes only.

Minimum concentrations of *E. coli* were typically below the detection limit, with the maximum concentrations reaching greater than 24,192/dL at station 11467. Exceedances of the single sample criterion were observed 69% of the time at station 16469, which was also the highest percent exceedance of all stations.

Enterococci were sampled at 14 stations in the watershed. A summary of Enterococci data is presented in Table 3. Minimum Enterococci concentrations were below one MPN/dL, while maximum concentrations were reported up to 25,200 MPN/dL at station 11462. The geometric means in the watershed range from 11 MPN/dL at station 11455 to 321 MPN/dL at station 11465. Single-sample criterion exceedances were as high as 92% at station 11467.

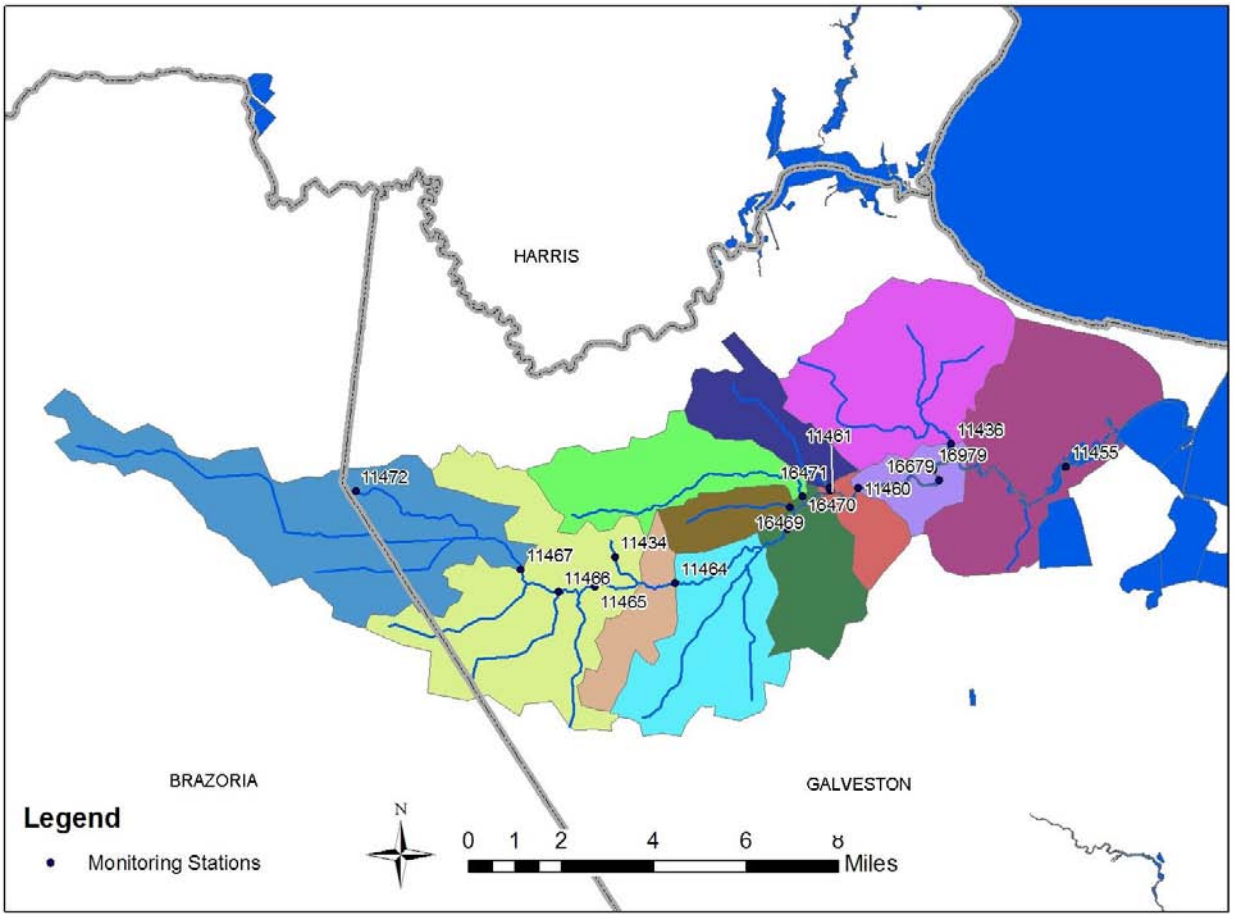

Figure 2. Water Quality Monitoring Station Locations

Table 2. Summary of Criteria and Assessment Data – *E. coli*

Station ID	Description	Assessment Unit	No. of Samples	Percent > 394 MPN/dL	Date Range[2]	Min. (MPN/ dL)	Max. (MPN/ dL)	Geometric[3] Mean (MPN/dL)
11455	Dickinson Bayou Tidal at SH146	1103_01[1]	43	12%	3/9/99 - 12/13/02	<10	5,000	45
11460	Dickinson Bayou at SH3	1103_02[1]	110	27%	3/9/99 - 2/5/03	<5	16,000	188
11461	Dickinson Bayou Tidal at Benson Bayou Confluence	1103_02[1]	44	34%	7/10/00 - 5/17/01	<20	16,000	252
11462	Dickinson Bayou Tidal at IH45	1103_02[1]	88	27%	3/9/99 - 4/10/03	<5	16,000	200
16679	Dickinson Bayou Tidal at Mariners Mooring	1103_02[1]	43	23%	3/9/99 - 2/5/03	<5	16,000	122
16979	Dickinson Bayou Near Gum Bayou	1103_02[1]	42	33%	7/10/00 - 5/17/01	<20	16,000	144
11434	Cedar Creek at FM517	1103_04[1]	26	19%	12/10/01 - 8/21/06	<5	1,300	123
11464	Dickinson Bayou Tidal Near Arcadia	1103_04[1]	92	22%	3/9/99 - 12/14/04	<5	16,000	189
16471	Bensons Bayou on Wagon Rd	1103A_01[1]	45	51%	3/9/99 - 4/10/03	<5	24,000	440
16469	Bordens Gulley at FM517	1103B_01[1]	48	69%	3/9/99 - 6/12/03	<5	24,000	711
16470	Geisler Bayou at FM517 Bridge	1103C_01[1]	46	57%	3/9/99 - 4/10/03	<10	24,000	542
11436	Gum Bayou at FM517	1103D_01[1]	44	34%	3/9/99 - 12/13/02	<5	24,000	252
11467	Dickinson Bayou at FM517	1104_01	73	34%	3/9/99 - 3/20/07	<5	24,192	272
11466	Dickinson Bayou at Happy Hollow	1104_02	10	70%	7/9/08 - 1/13/08	250	120,000	4,563
11472	Dickinson Bayou at FM528	1104_01	2[2]	0%	6/12/03 - 8/18/03	<5	10	7
11465	Dickinson Bayou at Jack Beaver	1104_02	19	26%	7/10/00 - 5/17/01	40	9,000	271

[1] *E. coli* samples collected in tidally-influenced segments (1103x_xx) are not used by the TCEQ to assess the contact recreation use (Enterococci are used instead); the tidal *E. coli* data are included in Table 2 for illustrative purposes.

[2] TMDLs determined in February 2010; data are the most current available at that time.

[3] Per TCEQ guidance, a minimum of 10 samples are necessary to calculate a geometric mean for assessment purposes.

Abbreviations: MPN – most probable number; dL – deciliter

Table 3. Summary of Criteria and Assessment Data – Enterococci

Station ID	Description	Assessment Unit	No. of Samples	Percent > 89 MPN/dL	Date Range[2]	Min. (MPN/ dL)	Max. (MPN/ dL)	Geometric Mean[3] (MPN/dL)
11455	Dickinson Bayou Tidal at SH146	1103_01	42	10%	3/9/99 - 8/22/06	<1	12,900	11
11460	Dickinson Bayou at SH 3	1103_02	121	28%	3/9/99 - 3/20/07	<1	18,300	40
11461	Dickinson Bayou Tidal at Benson Bayou Confluence	1103_02	44	52%	7/10/00 - 5/17/01	<1	18,600	110
11462	Dickinson Bayou Tidal at IH45	1103_02	82	29%	3/9/99 - 8/21/06	<1	25,200	60
16679	Dickinson Bayou Tidal at Mariners Mooring	1103_02	26	15%	3/9/99 - 8/18/03	<2	8,000	12
16979	Dickinson Bayou near Gum Bayou	1103_02	43	30%	7/10/00 - 5/17/01	<2	6,720	31
11434	Cedar Creek at FM 517	1103_04	1[2]	0%	11/3/04 - 11/3/04	<1	1	n/a
11464	Dickinson Bayou Tidal near Arcadia	1103_04	85	61%	3/9/99 - 3/20/07	6	12,100	130
16471	Bensons Bayou on Wagon Rd	1103A_01	40	30%	3/9/99 - 8/22/06	<1	10,400	53
16469	Bordens Gulley at FM517	1103B_01	38	74%	3/9/99 - 8/22/06	<10	12,800	240
16470	Geisler Bayou at FM517 Bridge	1103C_01	38	42%	3/9/99 - 8/22/06	6	10,100	86
11436	Gum Bayou at FM 517	1103D_01	41	17%	3/9/99 - 8/22/06	<2	11,000	33
11467	Dickinson Bayou at FM 517	1104_01[1]	26	92%	3/9/99 - 11/3/04	<1	8,200	310
11466	Dickinson Bayou at Happy Hollow	1104_02[1]	10	100%	7/9/08 - 1/13/08	94	92,000	6,634
11465	Dickinson Bayou at Jack Beaver	1104_02[1]	22	86%	7/10/00 - 5/17/01	<2	9,500	321

[1] Enterococci samples collected in fresh water segments (1104_xx) are not used by the TCEQ to assess the contact recreation use (*E. coli* are used instead); they are included in Table 3 for illustrative purpose.

[2] TMDLs determined in February 2010; data are the most current available at that time.

[3] Per TCEQ guidance, a minimum of 10 samples are necessary to calculate a geometric mean for assessment purposes.

Abbreviations: MPN – most probable number; dL – deciliter

Watershed Overview

Dickinson Bayou is comprised of tidal and non-tidal waters that drain to Dickinson Bay, and, subsequently to Galveston Bay. The bayou is divided into two classified segments by the TCEQ: the above-tidal segment, 1104, and the tidal segment, 1103. Segment 1104 is approximately 14.8 miles long and Segment 1103 is 6.9 miles long. Three main tributaries of interest drain into the Bayou:

- Bensons Bayou, approximately 2.5 miles long and comprises Assessment Unit 1103A_01;
- Bordens Bayou (or Gully), approximately 2.4 miles long and comprises Assessment Unit 1103B_01; and
- Giesler Bayou, approximately 1.9 miles long and comprises Assessment Unit 1103C_01.

Gum Bayou is also a tributary of Dickinson Bayou but was not listed as impaired on the 2008 List. Gum Bayou descriptions are included in this report for completeness.

The Dickinson Bayou watershed spans over 100 square miles and includes several different political boundaries. About a third of the upper segment lies in Brazoria County; its subwatershed comprises approximately one percent of the total county area. The remaining portion of Dickinson Bayou is in Galveston County and its subwatershed encompasses approximately 11 percent of the total county area.

County population and population density estimates from the Texas State Demographer's Office (2008) are shown in Table 4. Although the counties have comparable populations, the population density of Galveston County is more than three times greater than that of Brazoria County. The populations of both counties are expected to continue increasing.

Table 4. County Population and Density

County Name	2000 U. S. Census	2000 Population Density (per square mile)	2008 Texas State Demographic Projections	2008 Population Density (per square mile)
Brazoria	241,767	174	296,691	214
Galveston	250,158	627	288,239	722

Several cities have their jurisdictions at least partially within the watershed. These cities include Manvel, League City, Alvin, Friendswood, Dickinson, Texas City, and Santa Fe. These cities are projected to grow by an average of 28% between 2000 and 2050, according to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB, 2006), as shown in Table 5. The City of Dickinson and League City are projected to have the largest growth, with an increase of 46% and 49% respectively. No growth, or only limited growth, is expected for Manvel.

Table 5. Dickinson Bayou Watershed Population Increases by City, 2000 to 2050

City	2000 U. S. Census	2010 Population Estimate	2050 Population Estimate	Percent Increase (2000-2050)
Alvin	21,413	23,231	30,375	42%
Dickinson	17,093	19,955	24,921	46%
Friendswood	29,037	32,353	38,107	31%
League City	45,444	53,546	67,613	49%
Manvel	3,046	3,046	3,046	0%
Santa Fe	9,548	10,141	11,170	17%
Texas City	41,521	41,891	42,534	2%

Although extensively urbanized in certain areas, the Dickinson Bayou watershed has a large amount of undeveloped land. It is undergoing rapid development, like many coastal areas. In 2002 and 2008, the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) performed land use/land cover studies across the watershed area (H-GAC 2002, 2008). These data were used to characterize land use in the project area as shown in Table 6 and Figure 3.

Based on the most recent data from 2008, a major portion of the watershed is developed land, which comprises approximately 39% of the area. Low intensity development is the most prevalent. Cultivated land accounts for approximately 26% of the area, while grassland/shrub comprises 16%. Woody wetland accounts for 8%, and forest, herbaceous wetland, bare/transitional land, and open water collectively total less than 11%.

The most prevalent land uses in 2002, grassland/shrub and forest, have seen sharp declines during the six year period of 2002-2008. Only about one-third of the grassland/shrub area remains, and only 10% of the forest land. Between 2002 and 2008, the amount of developed land had more than doubled due to increased urbanization and rising population within the watershed. High intensity development decreased from 2002 to 2008. A significant increase in cultivated land is also seen, rising to nearly 26% of the watershed from only 6% in 2002.

Between 2002 and 2008, the land use categories used by the H-GAC were slightly altered, and "Open Space Developed" was added as a tenth category. This new categorization could cause a change in land classification, resulting in a shift of some categories rather than demonstrating noteworthy changes in classifications.

The climate of the Dickinson Bayou watershed is humid subtropical, with typical average temperatures ranging from 52.9○F in January to 83.3○F in August (NCDC, 2002). There is one rainfall gage associated with the National Weather Service that is located in the central portion of the watershed. Between 1999 and 2006, typical annual rainfall totals for this gage ranged from 37.5 to 77.1 inches, with an average rainfall total of 59.5 inches. Precipitation patterns in Dickinson Bayou are typical of a East Texas coastal watershed, with rainfall more frequent in the spring and summer and less in the fall and winter seasons.

Like most subtropical coastal areas around the world, the Dickinson Bayou watershed is prone to the effects of hurricanes, which occasionally make landfall in and around Galveston Bay. In addition to the physical devastation caused by high winds and heavy rainfall, hurricanes can have lasting effects on water quality, as environmental infrastructure can be damaged and sanitation services disrupted for long periods after these severe weather events occur.

Table 6. Land Use Summary

Land Description	2008 Area (Square meters)	2008 Percent of Watershed	2002 Area (Square meters)	2002 Percent of Watershed
High Intensity Developed	11,834,969	4.54	17,146,162	6.58
Low Intensity Developed	58,757,752	22.54	22,102,118	8.48
Open Space Developed	32,011,765	12.28	Category Not Used	Category Not Used
Cultivated Land	67,542,739	25.91	16,557,521	6.35
Grassland/Shrub	42,543,323	16.32	120,113,565	46.08
Forest	6,517,053	2.50	67,655,898	25.95
Woody wetland	20,776,366	7.97	1,862,587	0.71
Herbaceous Wetland	8,550,374	3.28	5,657,231	2.17
Bare/Transitional Land	5,865,348	2.25	1,909,996	0.73
Open Water	6,282,439	2.41	7,677,050	2.94
Total	**260,682,128**	**100**	**260,682,128**	**100**

Summary of TMDL Monitoring

The TMDL project team collected additional data under an approved Quality Assurance Project Plan to supplement TCEQ monitoring data. A portion of the monitoring effort focused on characterizing the impacts wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs) in the watershed, as well as those of a wildlife park (Bayou Wildlife Park) during runoff conditions.

The data collected upstream and downstream of Bayou Wildlife Park during two wet weather events are presented in Table 7. As the table demonstrates, the downstream geometric mean of the first flush samples is higher than the means observed upstream of the park. Note that because of the high variability in the bacteria data set, the statistical significance of the differences could not be determined.

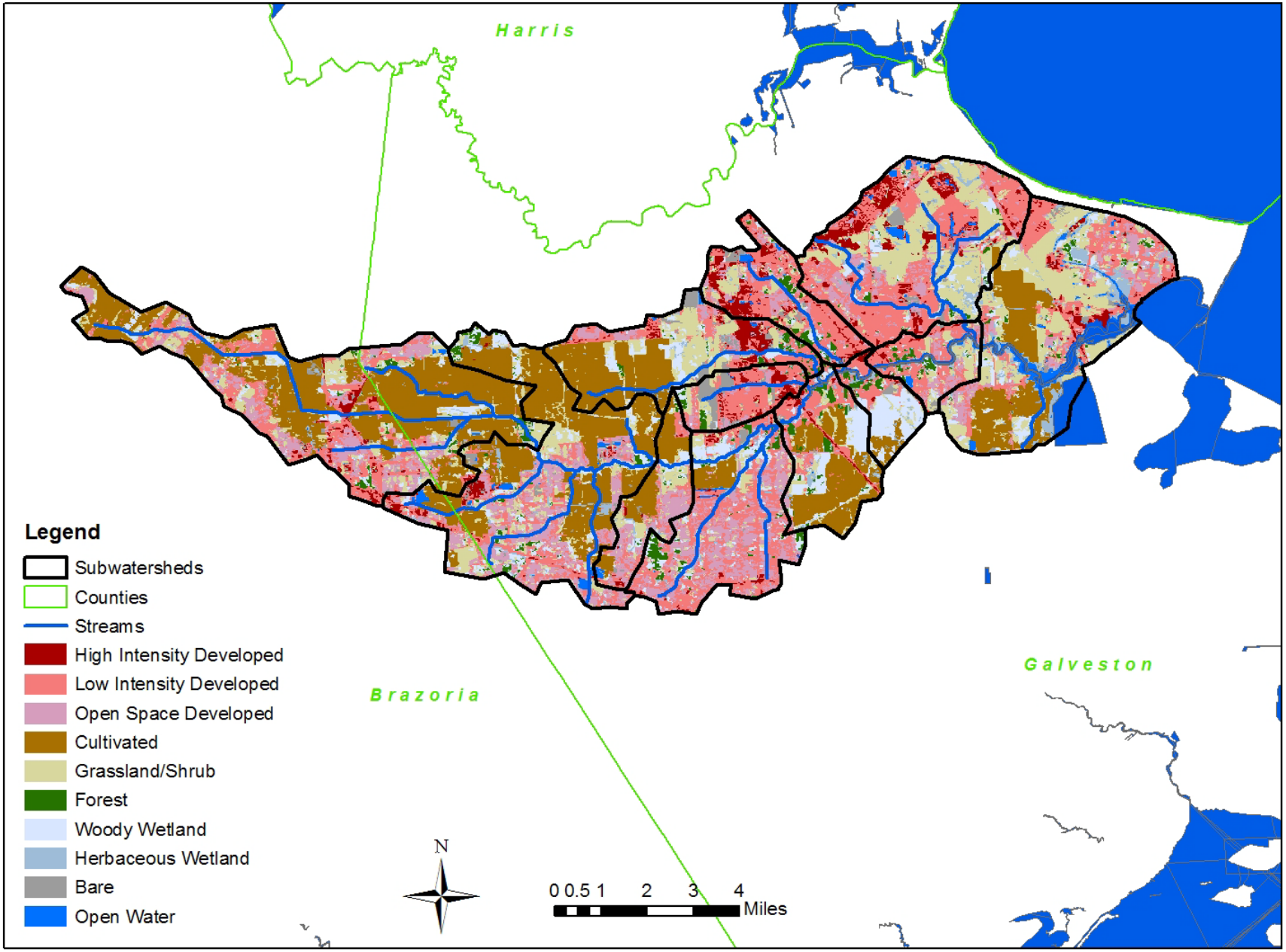

Figure 3. Land Use Map, Dickinson Bayou (2008 H-GAC Land Use)

Table 7. TMDL Wet Weather Monitoring Data for Bayou Wildlife Park

Event	Date	Site	Enterococci (MPN/ dL)	*E. coli* (MPN/ dL)
Event 1	10/7/2008	11467-1*	24,000	2,481
		11466-1*	77,010	120,330
		11467-2	38,730	17,329
		11466-2	18,600	1,553
Event 2	11/10/2008	11467-1*	NA	2,419
		11466-1*	16,070	19,863
	11/11/2008	11467-2	NA	17,329
		11466-2	12,997	17,329
		11467-3	NA	15,531
		11466-3	92,080	12,997
	11/12/2008	11466-4	23,100	10,462
		11467-4	NA	6,131
	11/13/2008	11467-5	NA	1,553
		11466-5	5,172	1,553
Geometric Mean - First Flush	10/7/2008 - 11/13/2008	11467 upstream of park	4,221	2,450
	10/7/2008 - 11/13/2008	11466 downstream of park	13,662	45,664

* First flush sample

Data from monitoring at the WWTFs are shown in Table 8. The WWTF monitoring focused on collecting samples during dry weather at the facility outfall, to minimize effects of infiltration and inflow on facility treatment capabilities. In addition, WWTF effluent for accessible facilities in the watershed was monitored, as were bacteria levels upstream and downstream of the effluent discharge location (when flow was present).

As shown in Table 8, *E. coli* levels downstream of the facilities ranged from 74 MPN/dL (at the Galveston County Water Control and Improvement District No.1 facility) to 866 MPN/dL (at the Pine Colony facility). Enterococci concentrations were noted to be 30 MPN/dL downstream of the Galveston County WCID No.1 facility. Effluent concentrations ranged from 155,310 MPN/dl measured at Pine Colony to greater than 241,920 MPN/dL at Meadowlands, demonstrating that these facilities were not adequately disinfecting effluent at the time of sample collection.

The Pine Colony facility was monitored again one month later. During the second visit, high levels of bacteria were still noted in the effluent and levels downstream of the effluent discharge point were measured at 866 MPN/dL. These data suggest that some

WWTFs can contribute significant bacteria loading to Dickinson Bayou; however, this is not true for all WWTFs in the watershed (e.g., Galveston County WCID No. 1). A list of WWTFs in the Dickinson Bayou watershed is provided in Table 9.

Both the Pine Colony and Meadowland Utilities facilities were assessed penalties in 2009 and 2010 by the TCEQ for effluent violations and other non-compliance issues. Additionally, the TCEQ's Small Business and Local Government Assistance Section and Texas AgriLife are working closely with the owners of these facilities to develop a plan for long-term compliance with their respective permit effluent limits.

Table 8. TMDL-Collected Monitoring Data for WWTFs

Date	Assessment Unit	Facility Name	Location	Enterococci (MPN/ 100ml)	*E. coli* (MPN/ 100ml)
7/21/2008	1103_02	Galveston County WCID No. 1[a]	Upstream	30	34
			Downstream	30	74
7/21/2008	1104_02	Pine Colony[b]	Effluent	141,360	241,920
8/27/2008	1104_02	Meadowland[b]	Effluent	NA[d]	>241,920
8/27/2008	1104_02	Pine Colony[c]	Effluent	NA[d]	155,310
			Downstream	NA[d]	866

[a] Effluent pipe submerged

[b] no upstream or downstream flow present

[c] no upstream flow present

[d] Enterococci data were not collected on this date

Endpoint Identification

TMDLs must identify a quantifiable water quality target that indicates the desired condition and provides a measurable goal for the TMDL. The TMDL endpoint also serves to focus the technical work and as a criterion against which to evaluate future conditions.

The endpoint for the two freshwater assessment units of Dickinson Bayou covered in this report is concentrations of *E. coli* below the geometric mean criterion of 126 MPN/100mL. The endpoint for the three tidal tributaries and the three tidal assessment units of Dickinson Bayou is concentrations of Enterococci below the geometric mean criterion of 35 MPN/100 mL.

Source Analysis

Pollutants may come from several sources, both point and nonpoint. "Point source" pollution comes from a single definable point, such as a pipe, and is regulated by permit under the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES). Wastewater and stormwater discharges from industries, construction, and the separate storm sewer systems of cities are considered point sources of pollution. Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution originates

from multiple locations, usually washed into surface waters by rainfall runoff. It is not regulated by permit unless it emanates from an urbanized area.

Table 9. Permitted Wastewater Discharges in the Dickinson Bayou Watershed

Segment Name	Assessment Unit	TPDES Number	NPDES Number	Facility Name	Discharge Type	Permitted Flow (MGD)
Dickinson Bayou Above Tidal	1104_01	03416-000	TX0119458	Waste Management of Texas	Groundwater	n/a[1]
	1104_02	12935-001	TX0095770	Pine Colony	Domestic Wastewater	0.05
		13632-001	TX0109886	Meadowland Utility	Domestic Wastewater	0.0234
		14440-001	TX0125873	Brazoria County MUD No. 24	Domestic Wastewater	0.95[3]
Dickinson Bayou Tidal	1103_01[2]	04086-000	TX0117757	Duratherm, Inc.	Process Wastewater	n/a[2]
		03749-000	TX0112861	Hillman Shrimp & Oyster Co.	Process Wastewater	0.07
		14326-001	TX01247614	Via Bayou RV Park	Domestic Wastewater	0.02
		03479-000	TX0108367	Sea Lion Technology, Inc.	Stormwater Comingled with Process Water	n/a[1, 3]
	1103_02	00377-000	TX0003727	Penreco	Process Wastewater, Stormwater	0.075
		10173-001	TX0023655	Galveston County WCID No. 1	Domestic Wastewater	4.8
	1103D_01[2]	14570-001	TX0127248	Marlin Atlantis White, Ltd.	Domestic Wastewater	0.5

[1] Permitted for intermittent flow

[2] Facilities discharge to segment that is not on the 2008 Texas 303(d) list

[3] Located outside the Dickinson Bayou watershed, but discharge goes to Dickinson Bayou Tidal (Segment 1103)

Abbreviations: MGD – million gallons per day; MUD – municipal utility district; WCID – water control and improvement district

Permitted Sources

Point source dischargers in the Dickinson Bayou watershed include domestic and industrial WWTFs, municipal solid waste facilities, and regulated stormwater discharges.

Wastewater Treatment Facilities

As of January 2011, 11 TPDES-permitted WWTFs had the potential to discharge to Dickinson Bayou. Their permits are described in Table 9 and shown in Figure 4. Of these permitted facilities, six are domestic treatment facilities, four treat industrial wastewater or industrial stormwater, and one treats groundwater extracted from a landfill. Only one facility, Galveston County WCID No.1 (TPDES ID 10173-001), has a permitted flow greater than 1 MGD and thus is considered a major facility.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows

Sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) are releases of untreated wastewater, including domestic, commercial, and industrial wastewater and are permit violations that must be addressed by the responsible TPDES permittee. These releases usually occur as the result of a break, stoppage, or exceedance of capacity in the sanitary sewer conveyance system. If not directly discharged into the bayou, the overflows typically drain to the stormwater conveyance system and are transported to the bayou.

SSOs were reported to the TCEQ only by one permitted entity in the Dickinson Watershed, GCWCID No.1 The SSO data are summarized by assessment unit in Table 10. SSO locations are presented in Figure 5. There were 28 SSOs reported during the period between May 17, 2002 and September 16, 2008 within the Dickinson Bayou watershed. Flows associated with these SSOs range from 200 gallons to 96,580 gallons. Typical causes for the SSOs included heavy rainfall, infiltration and inflow (I/I), and lift station (LS) malfunction or failure.

To better evaluate the SSOs, the individual events were classified as “Wet” or “Dry” based on the prior 3-day rainfall in the area. If the 3-day antecedent rainfall was greater than 0.1 inches, the SSO was considered associated with a rainfall event; otherwise, the SSO was considered a dry weather SSO. Two SSOs occurred because of Hurricane Ike in September 2008. These were classified as wet weather SSOs, even though antecedent rainfall conditions were consistent with dry weather, because the precipitating cause of the SSO was power failure associated with Hurricane Ike.

Based on the weather classification, the majority of the SSOs reported by Galveston County are those associated with wet weather conditions. However, dry weather SSOs may also affect bayou water quality, especially during “base flow” situations. For the impaired assessment units addressed in this TMDL document, SSOs were only reported in Assessment Units 1103_02, 1103C_01 and 1103A_01.

TPDES-Regulated Stormwater

Phase II of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater program was implemented in 1999. This program requires regulated small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) discharges in urbanized areas, as well as small MS4s outside the urbanized areas that are designated by the permitting authority, to obtain NPDES coverage for their stormwater discharges. A small MS4 is considered any MS4 not already covered by the Phase I stormwater program. Phase I of the stormwater program addressed urbanized areas with a population greater than 100,000.

In the Dickinson Bayou watershed, eight Phase II MS4 permittees are covered under the TPDES general permit. These are shown in Table 11 and the permitted regions associated with them are shown in Figure 6. The permittees include three cities, one county, and four drainage districts. Note that only certain portions of the Dickinson Bayou watershed are covered by urbanized areas (UA) as designated by the EPA. Only the areas of the watershed designated as UAs are subject to MS4 stormwater permits.

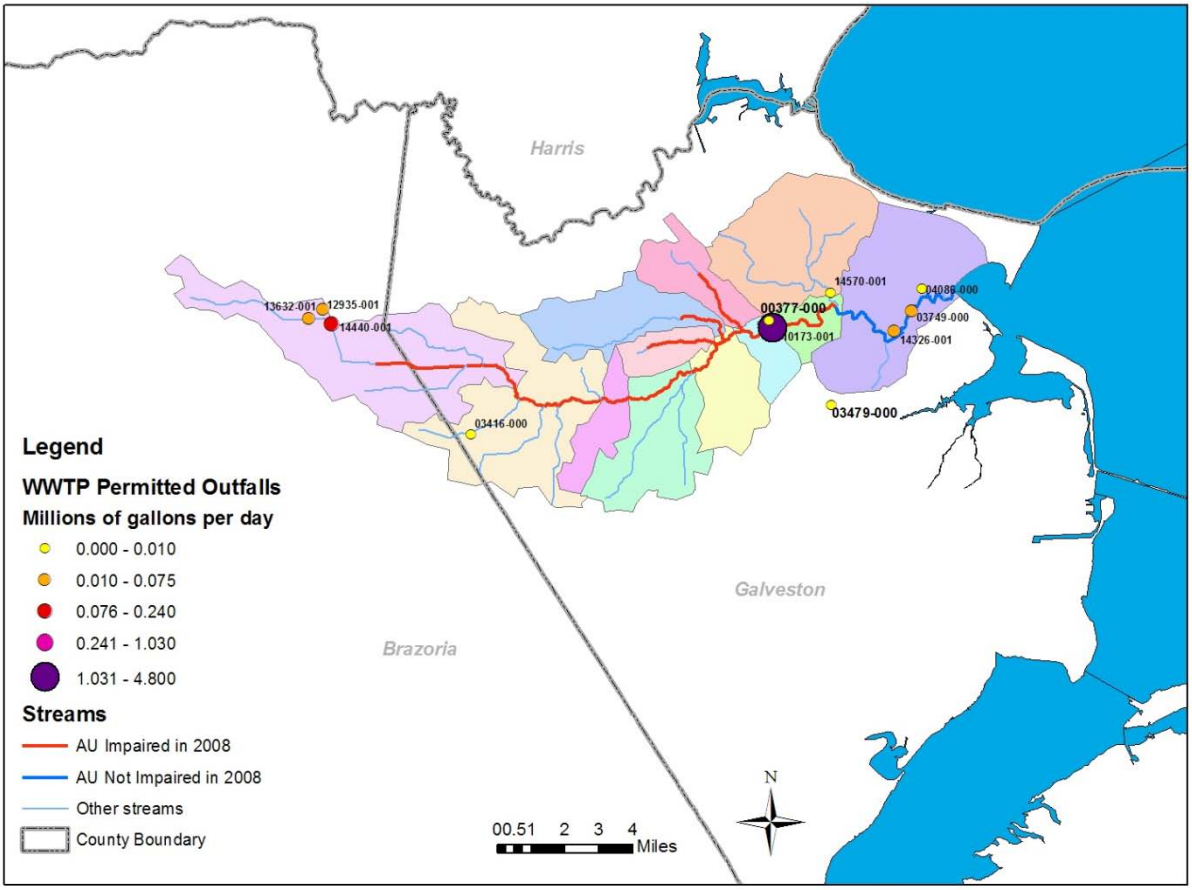

Figure 4. TPDES-Permitted Facilities in the Dickinson Bayou Watershed

Table 10. Summary of Sanitary Sewer Discharges in the Dickinson Bayou Watershed

Assess-ment Unit	Wet Weather Overflows	Dry Weather Overflows	Date of Minimum	Date of Maximum	Min. Amount (gallons)	Max. Amount (gallons)	Total Gallons
1103_02	16	5	5/17/02	9/16/08	200	96,580	362,200
1103A_01	2	4	10/30/02	3/14/07	500	9,000	24,200
1103C_01	0	1	10/30/02	3/14/07	500	9,000	24,200

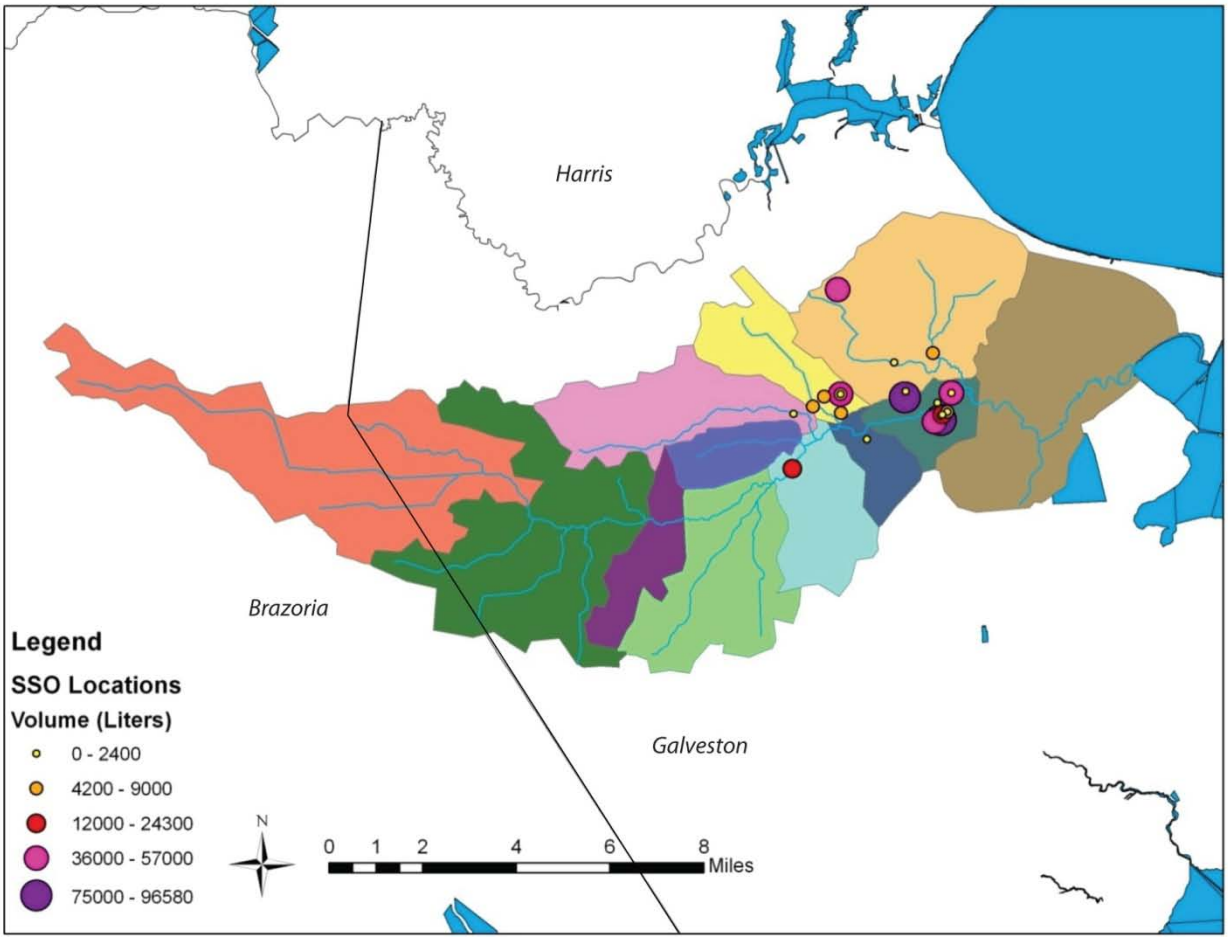

Figure 5. Sanitary Sewer Overflows in Dickinson Bayou Watershed

Table 11. Stormwater Permittees in Dickinson Bayou Watershed

Permit Number	Permittee	Area (acres)
TXR040148	Brazoria County Conservation and Reclamation No. 3	9,462
TXR040271	City of Dickinson	4,158
TXR040249	City of League City	14,435
TXR040024	City of Texas City	4,631
TXR040364	Galveston County	5,494
TXR040067	Galveston County Consolidated Drainage District	6,022
TXR040203	Galveston County Drainage District No. 1	18,547
TXR040203	Galveston Country Drainage District No. 2	5,448

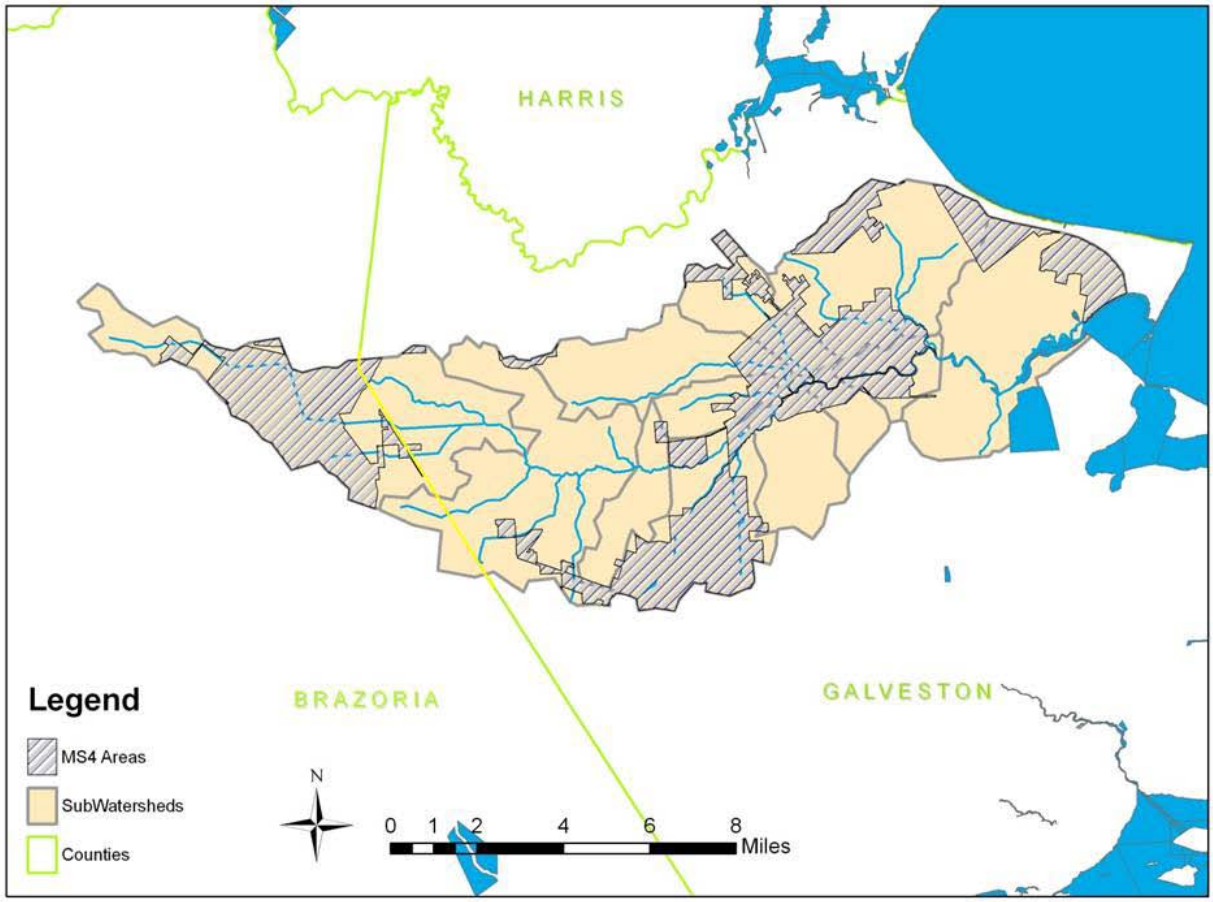

Figure 6. MS4 Permitted Regions in Dickinson Bayou Watershed

Illicit Discharges

Bacteria loads from stormwater can enter streams from permitted outfalls and illicit discharges under both dry and wet weather conditions. The term "illicit discharge" is defined in EPA's Phase II stormwater regulations as "any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer that is not composed entirely of stormwater, except discharges pursuant to an NPDES permit and discharges resulting from fire-fighting activities" (NEIWPCC 2003).

Dry weather discharges might include allowable discharges such as runoff from lawn watering in addition to illicit discharges. Illicit discharges are categorized as either direct or indirect contributions. Examples identified in the *Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Manual: A Handbook for Municipalities* (NEIWPCC 2003) include:

Direct illicit discharges:

- sanitary wastewater piping that is directly connected from a home to the storm sewer;
- materials (e.g., used motor oil) that have been dumped illegally into a storm drain catch basin;

- a shop floor drain that is connected to the storm sewer; and
- a cross-connection between the municipal sewer and storm sewer systems.

Indirect illicit discharges:

- an old and damaged sanitary sewer line that is leaking fluids into a cracked storm sewer line; and
- a failing septic system that is leaking into a cracked storm sewer line or causing surface discharge into the storm sewer.

As part of this TMDL project, stormwater outfall locations were inspected during dry weather conditions to identify illicit discharges. Eleven outfalls were noted for illicit discharges during the reconnaissance survey. Eight of these were submerged or partially submerged, preventing an assessment of dry weather discharges. The remaining three outfalls did not exhibit dry weather discharges on the day of the survey. Investigation of illicit discharges to Dickinson Bayou continue under the requirements of Phase II TPDES Stormwater Management Program for each individual permit holder.

Unregulated Sources

Nonpoint source (NPS) loading enters waterways through distributed, nonspecific locations, and is not regulated. Nonpoint sources may include urban runoff not covered by a permit as well as failing on-site sewage facilities (OSSFs), unregulated agricultural activities, wildlife and domesticated animals.

On-Site Sewage Facilities

Failing OSSFs can be a source of fecal pathogens and indicator bacteria loading to streams and rivers. Indicator bacteria loading from failing OSSFs can be transported to streams in a variety of ways, including runoff from surface discharge or from transport by stormwater runoff. While most septic systems are located outside city and drainage district boundaries, there are several older neighborhoods in the Dickinson Bayou watershed that remain on septic systems. It is important to note that malfunctioning septic systems are unauthorized discharges—*not* unregulated sources.

The number of OSSFs in the sub-watersheds associated with each assessment unit was determined based on the following information: (1) a survey of OSSF permits in the greater Houston-Galveston area conducted by H-GAC in 2008-2009, (2) OSSF estimates derived from 1990 Census data, and permitted septic systems reported in the On-line Activity Reporting System (OARS) reported between 1991 and 2008. The H-GAC dataset was supplemented with data from the 1990 census and OARS to reflect the estimated total number of OSSFs installed and permitted in the watershed between 1990 and 2010. These OSSFs are shown in Figure 7 and summarized in Table 12. A failure rate of 25% was applied to OSSFs newer than the year 2000 and 35% was applied for OSSFs older than 2000. Based on these calculations, a total of 1,546 failing OSSFs were estimated for the entire Dickinson Bayou watershed as of 2010.

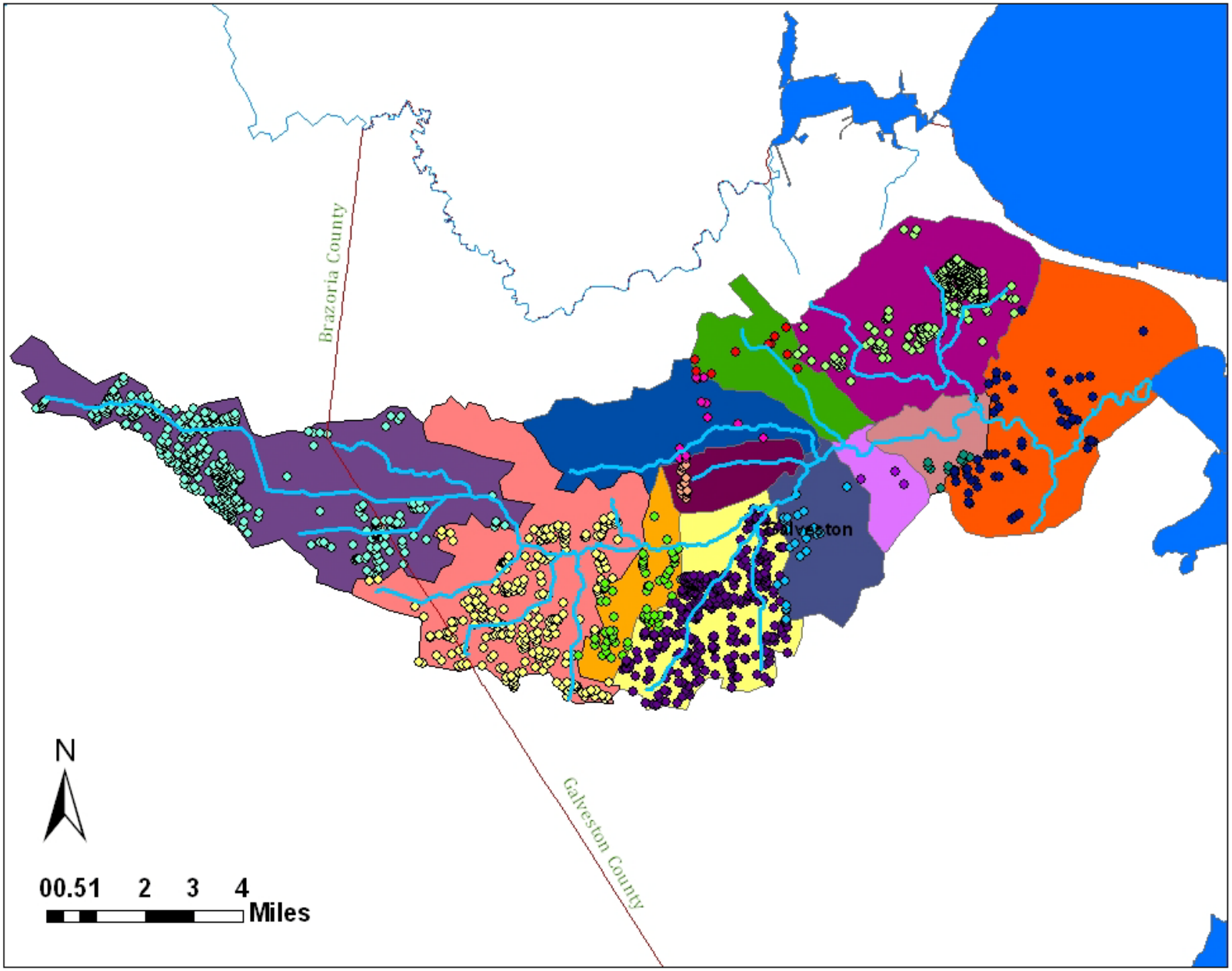

Figure 7. On-Site Sewage Facilities in Dickinson Bayou Watershed

Table 12. Estimated Number of Failing OSSFs by Assessment Unit

Assessment Unit	Number of OSSFs	Number of Failing OSSFs
1103_01	155	49
1103_02	973	310
1103_03	13	4
1103_04	1,495	476
1103A_01	48	15
1103B_01	51	16
1103C_01	44	14
1104_01	754	240
1104_02	1,324	422

Livestock Contributions

Livestock can be a source of bacteria to surface water bodies. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) conducts a county-level Census of Agriculture every 5 years and these data provided the basis of the livestock population estimates used in this TMDL study (USDA, 2002). Using 2005 land use maps from the Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium (MRLC), the total area of pastureland was calculated in the watershed, as well as for Brazoria and Galveston County. The number of animals per unit area of pasture and grassland for Brazoria and Galveston Counties was determined and applied to the area of the pastureland and grassland in the watershed within the respective counties. This produced the livestock population estimates used for the study area.

Livestock population estimates are listed in Table 13a. As the table shows, a direct comparison of per capita numbers indicates the largest livestock animal type is poultry, specifically those kept for egg laying (i.e., layers). Cattle and calves, followed by horses and ponies, make up the next largest per capita animal types. However, a per capita comparison of animal types has limited utility. It is more useful to convert per capita numbers into animal units using animal unit equivalents, which are simply the animal population numbers multiplied by the ratio of the mean animal weights for each animal type to the mean weight of cattle (Animal Equivalents = Animal Population * Mean Animal Weight / Mean Weight of Cattle).

Using this method, cattle make up about 63% of animal units in the watershed with horses another 26% of animal units; all 7 poultry types combined only make up less than 1% of animal units in the watershed. The subwatershed for Assessment Unit 1104_02 was estimated to have the highest number of livestock (per capita and in animal units), with the dominant per capita animal being layers (i.e., chickens) and the dominant type by animal units being cattle. The animal equivalent estimates are included in Table 13b.

While the overall largest per capita livestock animal type is poultry layers, it is important to note that TCEQ concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) permit records and Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) Water Quality Management Plan records do not show there are any poultry animal feeding operations, (AFOs)/CAFOs in Galveston or Brazoria Counties. As such, it is reasonable to conclude that all of the poultry identified in Table 13a (7 different types) are associated with "backyard" poultry and egg producing operations. These types of operations fill niche markets not serviced by the large-scale commercial poultry industry and include efforts by hobby/pet enthusiasts, 4-H and FFA programs, farmers markets and small organic free-range producers, heir-loom/heritage breeders, and producers that sell to cultural/ethnic markets.

Fecal coliform loadings from livestock were calculated based on estimates from literature sources, including EPA (2000), American Society of Agricultural Engineers (1998, 2003), Zeckoski *et al*. (2005), and Benham *et al*. (2005). The resulting fecal coliform values were converted to *E. coli* values using a conversion factor based on the criteria found in the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (126 MPN/dL to 200 cfu/dL). Table 13c shows the estimated number of fecal coliform (cfu) generated per day per animal type.

The precision of these bacteria estimates is dependent on the accuracy of the information available, which is often collected at the county level, and on the assumptions necessary to derive estimates at the watershed level. The information, nevertheless demonstrates that livestock is a potential source of bacteria in the Dickinson Bayou watershed.

Table 13a. Livestock Population Estimates by Assessment Unit

Type of Animal	AU 1103_02	AU 1103_03	AU 1103_04	AU 1103A_01	AU 1103B_01	AU 1103C_01	AU 1104_01	AU 1104_02	Total Animals
Cattle and Calves	350	15	394	35	22	78	283	788	**1,965**
Layers	596	25	671	60	37	132	482	1,343	**3,346**
Horses and Ponies	143	6	161	14	9	32	115	322	**802**
Goats	104	4	117	11	7	23	84	235	**585**
Hogs and Pigs	37	2	41	4	2	8	30	83	**207**
Sheep and Lambs	14	1	16	1	1	3	12	32	**80**
Pullets	52	2	58	5	3	11	42	116	**289**
Broilers	10	0	11	1	1	2	8	22	**55**
Turkeys	12	1	14	1	1	3	10	27	**69**
Ducks	17	1	19	2	1	4	14	38	**96**
Geese	6	0	7	1	0	1	5	13	**33**
Other Poultry	57	2	64	6	4	13	46	128	**320**
Bison	4	0	4	0	0	1	3	9	**21**

Type of Animal	AU 1103_02	AU 1103_03	AU 1103_04	AU 1103A_01	AU 1103B_01	AU 1103C_01	AU 1104_01	AU 1104_02	Total Animals
Captive Deer	7	0	7	1	0	1	5	15	**36**
Donkey	12	1	13	1	1	3	10	27	**68**
Rabbits	17	1	19	2	1	4	14	38	**96**
Total Animals	**1,438**	**61**	**1,616**	**145**	**90**	**319**	**1,163**	**3,236**	**8,068**

Table 13b. Livestock Animal Equivalents by Assessment Unit

Type of Animal	AU 1103_02	AU 1103_03	AU 1103_04	AU 1103A_01	AU 1103B_01	AU 1103C_01	AU 1104_01	AU 1104_02	Conver-sion Factor	Total Animal Equiva-lents
Cattle and Calves	350	15	394	35	22	78	283	788	1.000	**1,965**
Layers	2.4	0.1	2.7	0.2	0.1	0.5	1.9	5.3	0.004	**13**
Horses and Ponies	142	5.9	160	14	9	32	114	319	0.991	**795**
Goats	15	0.6	16	1.6	1.0	3.2	12	33	0.141	**82**
Hogs and Pigs	26	1.4	29	2.8	1.4	5.6	21	58	0.698	**145**
Sheep and Lambs	1	0.1	1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.7	1.9	0.059	**4.8**
Pullets	0.4	0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.8	0.007	**2.0**
Broilers	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.002	**0.1**
Turkeys	0.2	0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.015	**1.0**
Ducks	0.1	0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.003	**0.3**
Geese	0.2	0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.030	**1.0**
Other Poultry	0.3	0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.7	0.006	**1.8**
Bison	8.8	0	8.8	0.0	0.0	2.2	6.6	20	2.203	**46**
Captive Deer	1.9	0	1.9	0.3	0.0	0.3	1.3	4.0	0.264	**10**
Donkey	6.9	0.6	7.4	0.6	0.6	1.7	5.7	15	0.573	**39**
Rabbits	0.1	0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.004	**0.4**
Total Animal Equivalent	**554**	**24**	**621**	**55**	**34**	**124**	**447**	**1246**	**-**	**3,105**

Table 13c. Livestock Bacteria by Assessment Unit

(FC production counts/animal/day)

Type of Animal	AU 1103_02	AU 1103_03	AU 1103_04	AU 1103A_01	AU 1103B_01	AU 1103C_01	AU 1104_01	AU 1104_02	Fecal Coliform Production	*E. Coli* Production	Total EC Produced (MPN/ day)
Cattle and Calves	4.38E+13	1.88E+12	4.93E+13	4.38E+12	2.75E+12	9.75E+12	3.54E+13	9.85E+13	1.25E+11	7.88E+10	**1.55E+14**
Layers	8.34E+10	3.50E+09	9.39E+10	8.40E+09	5.18E+09	1.85E+10	6.75E+10	1.88E+11	1.40E+08	8.82E+07	**2.95E+11**
Horses and Ponies	6.01E+10	2.52E+09	6.76E+10	5.88E+09	3.78E+09	1.34E+10	4.83E+10	1.35E+11	4.20E+08	2.65E+08	**2.12E+11**
Goats	1.25E+12	4.80E+10	1.40E+12	1.32E+11	8.40E+10	2.76E+11	1.01E+12	2.82E+12	1.20E+10	7.56E+09	**4.42E+12**
Hogs and Pigs	4.00E+11	2.16E+10	4.43E+11	4.32E+10	2.16E+10	8.64E+10	3.24E+11	8.96E+11	1.08E+10	6.80E+09	**1.41E+12**
Sheep and Lambs	1.68E+11	1.20E+10	1.92E+11	1.20E+10	1.20E+10	3.60E+10	1.44E+11	3.84E+11	1.20E+10	7.56E+09	**6.05E+11**
Pullets	1.35E+10	5.19E+08	1.50E+10	1.30E+09	7.78E+08	2.85E+09	1.09E+10	3.01E+10	2.59E+08	1.63E+08	**4.72E+10**
Broilers	8.90E+08	0.00E+00	9.79E+08	8.90E+07	8.90E+07	1.78E+08	7.12E+08	1.96E+09	8.90E+07	5.61E+07	**3.08E+09**
Turkeys	1.12E+09	9.30E+07	1.30E+09	9.30E+07	9.30E+07	2.79E+08	9.30E+08	2.51E+09	9.30E+07	5.86E+07	**4.04E+09**
Ducks	4.13E+10	2.43E+09	4.62E+10	4.86E+09	2.43E+09	9.72E+09	3.40E+10	9.23E+10	2.43E+09	1.53E+09	**1.47E+11**
Geese	2.94E+11	0.00E+00	3.43E+11	4.90E+10	0.00E+00	4.90E+10	2.45E+11	6.37E+11	4.90E+10	3.09E+10	**1.02E+12**
Other Poultry	7.75E+09	2.72E+08	8.70E+09	8.16E+08	5.44E+08	1.77E+09	6.26E+09	1.74E+10	1.36E+08	8.57E+07	**2.74E+10**
Bison	5.00E+11	0.00E+00	5.00E+11	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	1.25E+11	3.75E+11	1.13E+12	1.25E+11	7.88E+10	**1.65E+12**
Captive Deer	3.50E+09	0.00E+00	3.50E+09	5.00E+08	0.00E+00	5.00E+08	2.50E+09	7.50E+09	5.00E+08	3.15E+08	**1.13E+10**
Donkey	5.04E+09	4.20E+08	5.46E+09	4.20E+08	4.20E+08	1.26E+09	4.20E+09	1.13E+10	4.20E+08	2.65E+08	**1.80E+10**
Rabbits	4.13E+10	2.43E+09	4.62E+10	4.86E+09	2.43E+09	9.72E+09	3.40E+10	9.23E+10	2.43E+09	1.53E+09	**1.47E+11**
Total	**4.66E+13**	**1.97E+12**	**5.24E+13**	**4.64E+12**	**2.88E+12**	**1.04E+13**	**3.77E+13**	**1.05E+14**	**1.25E+11**	**7.88E+10**	**1.65E+14**

Wildlife and Exotic Animal Contributions

Wildlife census figures were not available for the Dickinson Bayou watershed (e.g., from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department). However, an analysis of land use patterns in the watershed suggests wildlife is a probable source of fecal bacteria to Dickinson Bayou, especially in the far western and southeastern portions of the watershed.

The Texas coast serves as a primary breeding ground for myriad species of colonial birds. An aquatic habitat is essential for a complete life cycle of these birds. These species may be a source of bacteria loading to the Dickinson Bayou watershed. Population estimates of colonial water birds in the Dickinson watershed were derived from the Texas Coastal Interactive Mapping application (National Biological Information Infrastructure, 2011) and include eight species for the Dickinson Bayou watershed.

Wild deer (*Odocoileus virginianus texana*) are the most numerous big game animal in Texas and the United States (Cook, 1992). The State of Texas has more wild deer than any other state, with state-wide populations ranging from three to four million. Based on the Quality Deer Management Association's deer density map (2011), Dickinson Bayou watershed deer populations are estimated to range from less than 15 deer /square mile to 30-45 deer/square mile. These densities are consistent with those reported in the Bacteria TMDLs for the Adams Bayou and Cow Bayou Watersheds, which reported 20 to 50 deer per square mile in that TMDL study area.

Invasive and exotic animals have also been identified in the Dickinson Bayou watershed. The following discusses several of the key invasive and exotic species in the watershed. Feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*) are a nuisance species with populations of more than 2 million across Texas, about 50 percent of all feral hogs in the United States. Feral hog populations have expanded dramatically because of their adaptability and high reproductive rate (Mapston, 2004).

The Texas Agrilife Extension Service has an ongoing Feral Hog Abatement Program that aims to reduce the population of feral hogs primarily through trapping programs. Feral hog population estimates are available for Brazoria and Galveston Counties from the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service for the year 2002. For this TMDL study, the total population of feral hogs was divided by the area of the counties to yield a density of 1.49 per square mile. Estimates for Dickinson Bayou watershed were estimated by multiplying the feral hog density by the subwatershed area of each assessment unit.

Nutria (*Myocastor coypus*) are large South American rodents that were imported in 1899 for fur production. Nutria are known to reside in coastal areas from Texas to Delaware and can be observed in the forested riparian zones upstream and downstream of urbanized areas in the Dickinson Bayou watershed. A TMDL study for fecal coliform bacteria conducted in Terrebonne Basin, Louisiana identified nutria as a significant source of fecal coliform to Bayou Pointe au Chien (subsegment 120605) and Lost Lake/Four League Bay (subsegment 120708) (EPA 2007), however no estimates on nutria population or their fecal coliform production are available for the Dickinson Bayou watershed.

Capybara (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*) is a large South American rodent and is primarily a grazer with a digestive capacity similar to that of a sheep. These rodents are believed to have once escaped from a local petting zoo located in the watershed, but have since been recaptured. The presence of capybara in the Dickinson watershed has been reported periodically in the past; however, there is no reliable quantitative source of information about their population, which if existent, is thought to be low. Hence, the contribution of fecal bacteria from capybara was considered negligible in Dickinson Bayou.

Finally, a number of exotic animals are present at the Bayou Wildlife Park, an 81-acre, privately-owned, animal wildlife park located approximately 2.5 miles upstream of the tidal boundary. The preserve receives over 35,000 visitors annually, who tour the facility via specially built trams that drive around the park. The park houses approximately 400 exotic animals, including ostrich, emu, camels, rhinoceros, giraffe, buffalo, zebra, water buffalo, and wildebeest. Exotic animal estimates used in the TMDL analysis were based on animal totals reported during a site visit to the wildlife preserve.

Table 13d shows the estimated number of colonial birds, feral hogs, wild deer, and exotic animals in the subwatersheds associated with each assessment unit. Table 13e shows the amount of *E. coli* (MPN) generated per day by animal type for each assessment Unit.

Table 13d. Wildlife, Invasive and Exotic Animal Populations by Assessment Unit

Type of Animal	AU 1103_02	AU 1103_03	AU 1103_04	AU 1103A_01	AU 1103B_01	AU 1103C_01	AU 1104_01	AU 1104_02	Total Animals
Snowy Egret	10	1	12	3	1	2	6	10	**45**
Tricolored Heron	9	1	12	2	1	2	6	9	**42**
White Ibis	72	6	89	19	7	13	42	72	**320**
White-faced Ibis	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	**3**
Brown Pelican	4	0	5	1	0	1	2	4	**17**
Least Tern	4	0	5	1	0	1	2	4	**17**
Royal Tern	75	6	92	20	8	13	43	74	**331**
Sandwich Tern	13	1	16	3	1	2	8	13	**57**
Wild Deer	392	35	490	122	47	81	290	709	**2,166**
Feral Hog	31	2	38	8	3	5	18	30	**135**
Other exotic species	0	0	0	0	0	0	400	0	**400**
Total Animals	**219**	**17**	**270**	**57**	**21**	**39**	**527**	**217**	**1,367**

Table 13e. Wildlife, Invasive and Exotic Animal Bacteria Production by Assessment Unit

Type of Animal	AU 1103_02	AU 1103_03	AU 1103_04	AU 1103A_01	AU 1103B_01	AU 1103C_01	AU 1104_01	AU 1104_02	FC Production (count/ animal/day)	EC Production (count/ animal/day)	Total EC Produced (MPN/ day)
Snowy Egret	1.29E+11	1.00E+10	1.59E+11	3.38E+10	1.31E+10	2.26E+10	7.51E+10	1.28E+11	1.29E+10	8.14E+09	**3.59E+11**
Tricolored Heron	1.22E+11	9.54E+09	1.51E+11	3.22E+10	1.25E+10	2.15E+10	7.14E+10	1.21E+11	1.29E+10	8.14E+09	**3.42E+11**
White Ibis	9.33E+11	7.27E+10	1.15E+12	2.45E+11	9.52E+10	1.64E+11	5.44E+11	9.25E+11	1.29E+10	8.14E+09	**2.60E+12**
White-faced Ibis	6.69E+09	5.21E+08	8.26E+09	1.76E+09	6.83E+08	1.17E+09	3.90E+09	6.63E+09	1.29E+10	8.14E+09	**1.87E+10**
Brown Pelican	5.25E+10	4.09E+09	6.48E+10	1.38E+10	5.35E+09	9.21E+09	3.06E+10	5.20E+10	1.29E+10	8.14E+09	**1.46E+11**
Least Tern	5.46E+10	4.26E+09	6.75E+10	1.44E+10	5.57E+09	9.59E+09	3.19E+10	5.41E+10	1.29E+10	8.14E+09	**1.52E+11**
Royal Tern	9.63E+11	7.50E+10	1.19E+12	2.53E+11	9.82E+10	1.69E+11	5.61E+11	9.54E+11	1.29E+10	8.14E+09	**2.68E+12**
Sandwich Tern	1.68E+11	1.31E+10	2.08E+11	4.42E+10	1.72E+10	2.95E+10	9.81E+10	1.67E+11	1.29E+10	8.14E+09	**4.69E+11**
Wild Deer	5.06E+12	4.48E+11	6.33E+12	1.57E+12	6.11E+11	1.05E+12	3.75E+12	9.15E+12	5.00E+08	8.14E+09	**1.76E+13**
Feral Hog	3.96E+11	3.08E+10	4.89E+11	1.04E+11	4.04E+10	6.95E+10	2.31E+11	3.92E+11	1.08E+10	6.80E+09	**1.10E+12**
Bayou Wildlife Park	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	5.17E+12	0.00E+00	1.20E+10	7.56E+09	**3.25E+12**
Total	**2.82E+12**	**2.20E+11**	**3.49E+12**	**7.42E+11**	**2.88E+11**	**4.96E+11**	**6.81E+12**	**2.80E+12**	**-**	**-**	**1.11E+13**

Table 14a. Domestic Pet Daily *E. coli* Production by Assessment Unit

Type of Animal	AU 1103_02	AU 1103_03	AU 1103_04	AU 1103A_01	AU 1103B_01	AU 1103C_01	AU 1104_01	AU 1104_02	FC Production (count/ animal/day)	EC Production (count/ animal/day)	Total EC Produced (MPN/ day)
Dogs	1.21E+12	9.79E+12	1.41E+13	6.18E+12	1.08E+12	2.92E+12	4.58E+12	7.71E+12	3.30E+09	2.08E+09	**3.00E+13**
Cats	2.24E+11	1.81E+12	2.60E+12	1.14E+12	2.00E+11	5.38E+11	8.46E+11	1.42E+12	5.40E+08	3.40E+08	**5.53E+12**
Total Pets	**1.44E+12**	**1.16E+13**	**1.67E+13**	**7.32E+12**	**1.28E+12**	**3.46E+12**	**5.43E+12**	**9.14E+12**	**-**	**-**	**3.55E+13**

Domestic Pets

Domesticated animals and pets, namely dogs and cats, are potential sources of indicator bacteria to Dickinson Bayou. The number of dogs and cats in the study area was estimated by assuming a density of dogs and cats per household, with 0.632 dogs per household and 0.713 cats per household (American Veterinary Medical Association, 2007).

The number of households in the watershed was determined from the US Census housing projections for 2000 at the tract level (US Census, 2000). As shown in Table 14b, the estimated number of dogs ranges from 328 in Assessment Unit 1103B_01 to 4,262 in Assessment Unit 1103_03. For cats, the estimated totals range from 371 in Assessment Unit 1103B_01 to 4,809 in Assessment Unit 1103_03. Table 14a shows the amount of *E. coli* (MPN) generated per day by animal type for each assessment unit.

Table 14b. Domestic Pet Populations by Assessment Unit

Type of Animal	AU 1103_02	AU 1103_03	AU 1103_04	AU 1103A_01	AU 1103B_01	AU 1103C_01	AU 1104_01	AU 1104_02	Total Animals
Dogs	368	2,966	4,262	1,872	328	884	1,389	2,337	**14,406**
Cats	415	3,347	4,809	2,112	371	997	1,567	2,637	**16,255**
Total Pets	**783**	**6,312**	**9.071**	**3.984**	**699**	**1,881**	**2,956**	**4,974**	**30,661**

Linkage Analysis

Establishing the relationship between instream water quality and the sources of pollutant loadings is an important component in developing a TMDL. This component allows for the evaluation of management options that will achieve the desired endpoint. The relationship may be established through a variety of techniques.

In the case of Dickinson Bayou, two methods were used for establishing the relationship between instream water quality and pollutant source loadings. Load duration curve (LDC) analyses were used to specify loading in Segment 1104 (Dickinson Bayou Above Tidal) while a tidal mass balance model was used in Segments 1103 (Dickinson Bayou Tidal), 1103A (Bensons Bayou), 1103B (Bordens Gully), and 1103C (Giesler Bayou).

Load Duration Curve Analysis

LDCs are graphs of the frequency distribution of loads of pollutants in a stream. In the case of these TMDLs, the loads shown are of *E. coli* bacteria in MPN/day. LDCs are derived from Flow Duration Curves (FDC). A detailed discussion of FDCs and LDCs is included in Appendix A of this document. The LDCs shown in the following figures represent the maximum acceptable load in the stream that will result in the achievement of the TMDL water quality target.

The basic steps to generate LDCs involve:

- Preparing flow duration curves (FDC)—the Hydrologic Simulation Program-Fortran (HSPF) model was used to generate flow values that have incorporated the full permitted flow for WWTFs at the monitoring stations chosen for analysis;
- Identifying the critical flow range from the FDCs to define the loading reductions necessary to attain the appropriate TMDL water quality target—the mid-range flow regime (20th-80th percentile range) was chosen as most representative and protective of the contact recreation use in Dickinson Bayou Above Tidal (swimming is not expected to occur at high flows due to safety concerns nor at very low flows due to a lack of sufficient depth in the above-tidal portion of the bayou);
- Converting the FDCs to LDCs;
- Estimating existing indicator bacteria loading in the receiving water, using ambient water quality data collected at the stations selected for analysis;
- Interpreting LDCs to derive TMDL elements—Wasteload Allocation (WLA), Load Allocation (LA), Margin of Safety (MOS), and load reduction goals.

A brief description of the LDC methodology is provided below; for a more detailed description of the flow simulation and LDC methodology, please refer to Appendix A.

Because a continuous historical flow record is not available to calculate the flow duration curve for Dickinson Bayou (due to a lack of flow gauging stations in the bayou), historical flows were simulated using a watershed model. The model was calibrated using physical information about the bayou and its watershed and meteorological data collected between June 1, 1999 and December 31, 2004. It is important to note that, in accordance with accepted practice, the simulated flows used in the LDC analysis reflect contributions from WWTFs using full permitted flow.

The modeled flows for the two monitoring stations chosen for LDC analysis (based on HSPF simulations using full permitted WWTF flows*)* were separated into three flow regimes, with the highest flows defined as being between the 0 and 20th percentiles, mid-range flows between the 20th and 80th percentiles, and the lowest flows as the 80th percentile or higher.

The LDC was calculated using a water quality target for the *E. coli* geometric mean water quality criterion. An explicit MOS was incorporated into the analysis by reducing the assimilative capacity of the stream by 5%; hence, the overall water quality target shown in the LDC is 120 MPN/dL rather than the geometric mean criterion of 126 MPN/dL. The LDCs express this *E. coli* concentration criterion in terms of loads through multiplication by the range of flows occurring at each of the water quality monitoring stations selected for analysis.

The WLA for WWTFs was derived using the permitted flows (or average flow if permitted flows were unavailable) multiplied by 63 MPN/dL (i.e., one-half of the water quality criterion of 126 MPN/dL). Where load values on the LDC fall below the WWTF allocation (i.e.,

the stream is effluent dominated), the WWTF load is plotted in place of the lower LDC load. Under these conditions, it is assumed that the WWTFs are compliant with permit requirements and, therefore, their discharges will not result in exceedances of the contact recreation use criteria.

Also included on the LDC are observed bacteria loads. To calculate these loads, historical observations of indicator bacteria concentrations (obtained from the TCEQ's SWQMIS database) were paired with the simulated flow occurring in the stream at the same location and day the sample was collected. The observed indicator bacteria load is calculated by multiplying the observed indicator bacteria concentration (in MPN/dL) by the simulated flow (in cubic feet per second) on the day of sample collection and plotting this value on the LDC with appropriate volumetric and time unit conversions.

Indicator bacteria loads that exceed water quality criteria fall above the LDC line. The medians of the observed loads were calculated for each of the three flow regimes and plotted on the LDCs as a dotted red line.

Load Duration Curve Analysis Results

The following section provides a summary of LDC analysis results for the two fresh water assessment units in Dickinson Bayou, 1104_01 and 1104_02.

Assessment Unit 1104_01

Shown in Figure 8 is the LDC developed for Assessment Unit 1104_01. The indicator bacteria data plotted in Figure 8 were obtained from the TCEQ monitoring station located nearest to the outlet of Assessment Unit 1104_01, station 11465 (Dickinson Bayou at Jack Beaver Rd.), using data collected by the TCEQ during routine monitoring from July 10, 2000 through May 17, 2001. More recent data are not available for this station; the TCEQ will resume water quality monitoring at this location in 2011.

One permitted WWTF, TPDES permit number 03416-000 (Waste Management of Texas), is included in this segment. Thus, a wasteload allocation WLA was included for this facility, which is located near a tributary contributing to the Above Tidal segment of Dickinson Bayou. Since this facility is permitted to discharge intermittently, with no specific flow limit, the WLA was derived using the average discharge flow multiplied by 63 MPN/dL (i.e., one-half of the water quality criterion of 126 MPN/dL).

The LDC indicates that *E. coli* concentrations typically exceed the geometric mean water quality criterion in this assessment unit in the high-flow range.

The estimated load reductions, based on a comparison of the observed load and calculated LDC, are presented in Table 15 and range from 0.00+00 under the lowest flow conditions to 1.47E+13 MPN/day under the highest flow condition. These results are in keeping with the most recent assessment of water quality for this assessment unit of Dickinson Bayou, which is delisted for bacteria in 2010 (TCEQ 2010).

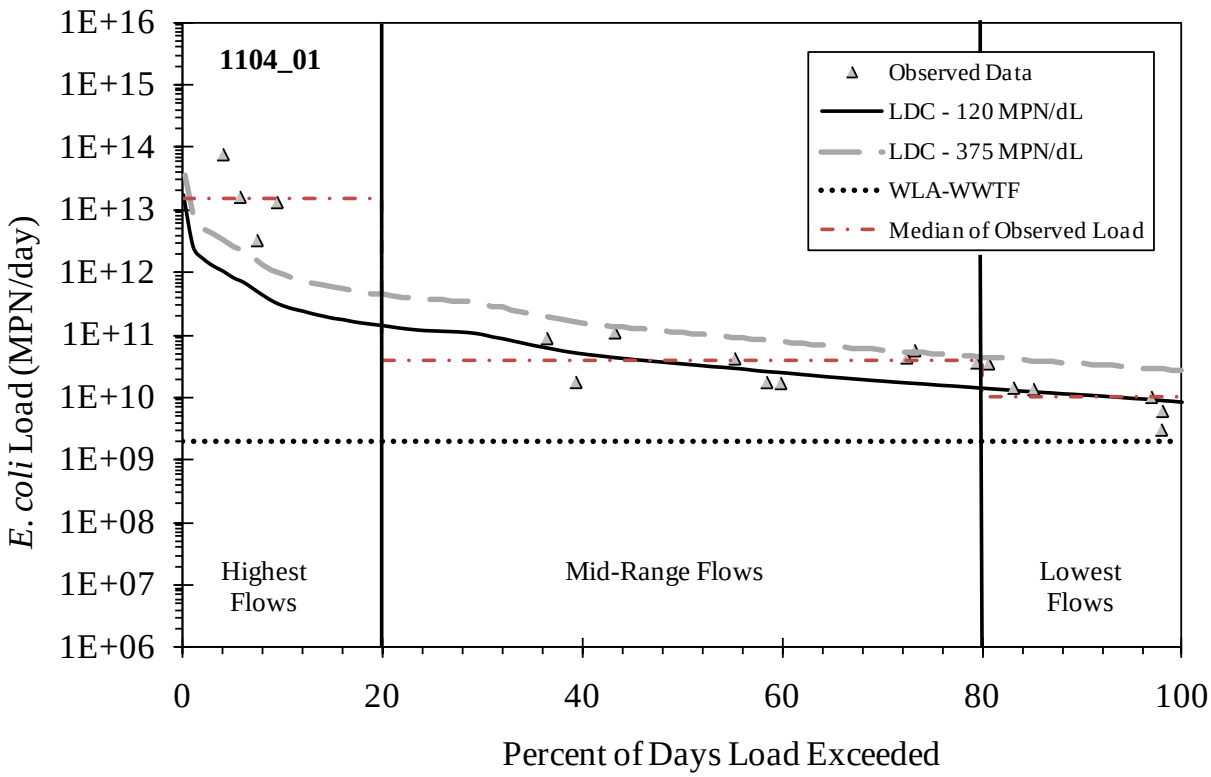

Figure 8. Load Duration Curve for *E. coli* in Assessment Unit 1104_01

Table 15. LDC and Observed Loads for Assessment Unit 1104_01

Flow Condition		Median Flow (cfs)	LDC (MPN/day)	Observed (MPN/day)	Reduction Required (MPN/day)
>80	Lowest Flow	3.74	1.10E+10	1.01E+10	0.00E+00
20-80	Mid-Range Flows	11.83	3.46E+10	3.90E+10	4.37E+09
<20	Highest Flows	109.49	3.21E+11	1.50E+13	1.47E+13

Assessment Unit 1104_02

The LDC for Assessment Unit 1104_02 is presented in Figure 9. The indicator bacteria data plotted in Figure 9 were obtained from the TCEQ monitoring station located nearest to the outlet of Assessment Unit 1104_02, station 11467 (Dickinson Bayou at FM 517), and includes data collected by the TCEQ during routine monitoring from June 16, 2001 through December 2, 2008. Three permitted WWTFs, TPDES permit numbers 12935-001, 13632-001 and 14440-001, are included in this assessment unit. Thus, a WLA was included for these facilities in the TMDL for this assessment unit. The WLA was derived using the permitted discharge flow multiplied by 63 MPN/dL (i.e., one-half of the water quality criterion of 126 MPN/dL).

Figure 9 indicates that observed *E. coli* loads are primarily distributed above the LDC in the lowest and highest flow regimes, indicating that frequent exceedances of the contact recreation criterion occur in the low and high flow conditions.

The estimated load reductions, based on a comparison of the observed load and calculated LDC, are presented in Table 16 and range from 0.00E+00 MPN/day under the mid-range flow condition to 6.34E+10 MPN/day under the highest flow condition. The mid-range flow was used to calculate the TMDL, as it represents the average conditions in the watershed and the conditions most likely to support contact recreation.

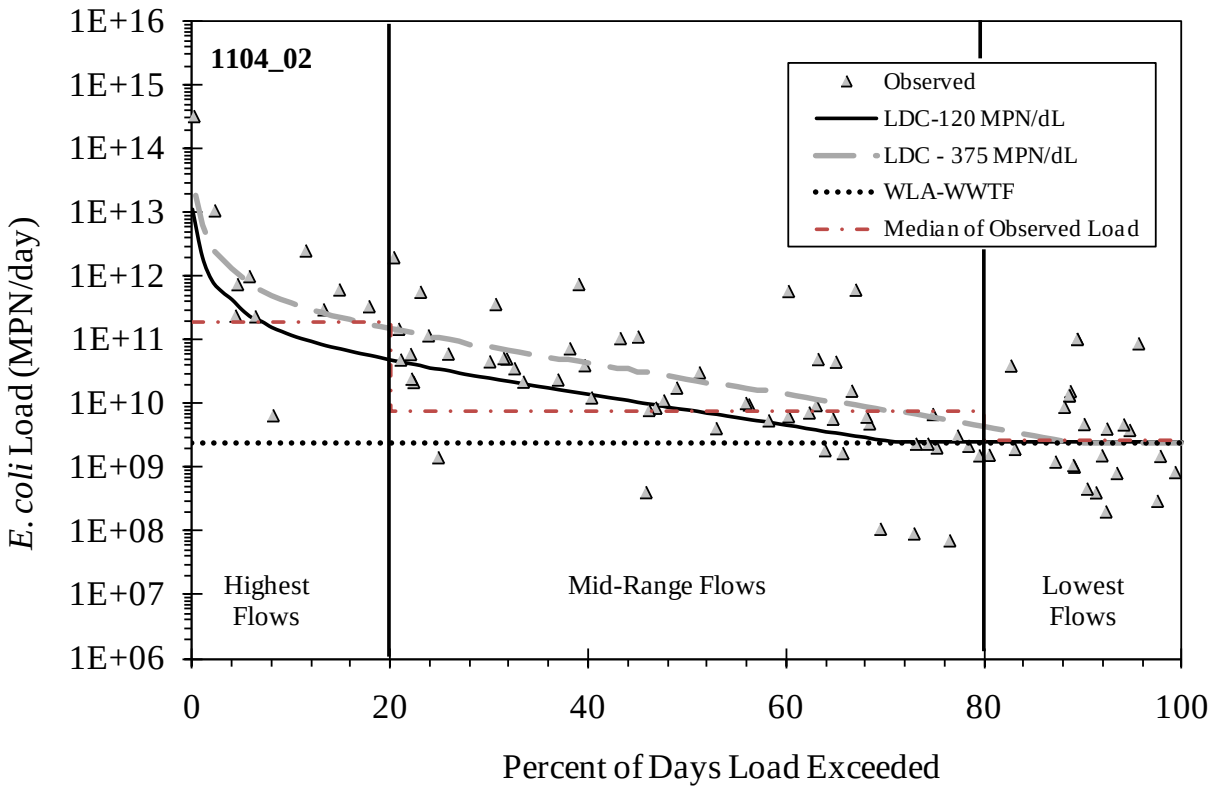

Figure 9. Load Duration Curve for *E. coli* in Assessment Unit 1104_02

Table 16. LDC and Observed Loads for Assessment Unit 1104_02

Flow Condition		Median Flow (cfs)	LDC (MPN/day)	Observed (MPN/day)	Reduction Required (MPN/day)
>80	Lowest Flow	0.24	2.44E+09	2.71E+09	2.65E+08
20-80	Mid-Range Flows	2.67	7.81E+09	7.60E+09	0.00E+00
<20	Highest Flows	43.35	1.27E+11	1.90E+11	6.34E+10

Mass Balance Analysis – Tidal Prism Model

Tidal prism models, or box models, are one-dimensional steady-state receiving water models that utilize the concept of "tidal flushing" to simulate the physical transport of pollutants in a tidal basin over time. The theory of tidal flushing was originally developed by Ketchum (1951). Several tidal prism models have been developed and refined to apply the concept towards water quality modeling of a variety of constituents, including bacteria (Kuo *et al*, 1988; Shen *et al*., 2005; Kuo *et al*., 2005). Tidal prism models, in conjunction with a watershed model, have also been successfully used for bacteria and nutrient TMDLs for coastal embayments in Virginia and North Carolina (Kuo *et al*, 1988; Shen *et al*., 2005; Kuo *et al*., 2005; Wang *et al*., 2005).

To simulate Enterococci in the tidal portion of the watershed, a time-variable tidal prism box model was developed using Microsoft Excel. The period of June 1, 1999 through November 5, 2001 was used for the TMDL calculations presented in this document. A conceptual model of the tidal prism box model is shown in Figure 10. In general, the mass balance for a bayou segment can be defined as the difference between: 1) the storage within the bayou segment, along with any additional flow and load contributed from upstream segments, and 2) the load that result from flow and tidal exchange with downstream segments. The mass balance also accounts for inputs of bacteria and flow from watershed runoff, WWTFs and SSOs. Die-off and tidal exchange represent the two potential sinks of Enterococci in the tidal prism model.

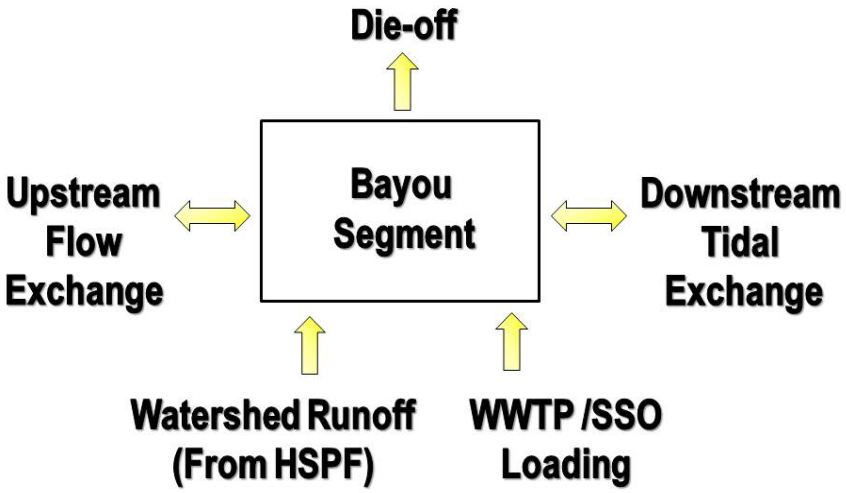

Figure 10. Conceptual Model for Enterococci in Tidal Segments

A watershed model developed using the Hydrologic Simulation Program in Fortran (HSPF) was used to simulate the watershed build-up/wash-off process for the tidal segments and to provide loading to the upstream portion of the tidal watershed. The runoff simulation focused on first estimating the magnitude of different types of bacteria sources in the watershed (i.e., the number of animals, leaking septic systems, etc.) in the watershed and their associated bacteria loading rates from literature values. The loading es-

timates were then adjusted within the range of values reported in the literature to match the edge-of-field runoff concentrations for each land use type or bacteria source (Baird *et al.*, 1996, Pitt *et al.*, 2004, McCarthy *et al.*, 2006, Stormwater Joint Task Force, 2002).

The tidal prism model was tested against observed Enterococci concentrations at TCEQ monitoring stations for the period June 1, 1999 through November 5, 2001. To match modeled concentrations to observations, the bacteria decay rates were adjusted between 0.25 and 2.0 per day, which is within typical literature values (Bowie *et al.*, 1985; Beaudeau *et al.*, 2001; Liu et al., 2006). Although SSOs were not available for this time period, SSO loading was also included in one segment where frequent SSOs were observed between 2002 and 2008 to match instream loading at that reach. A detailed description of the tidal prism method is included in Appendix B.

The results of the tidal prism model were compared against observed Enterococci at all locations where TCEQ monitoring data were available along the main stem of the bayou as well as at tributary outlets. A longitudinal plot of the calibrated model and observed concentrations was prepared using the geometric means and is presented in Figure 11**.** The plot demonstrates that there is generally very good agreement throughout most of the watershed between the modeled and observed values.

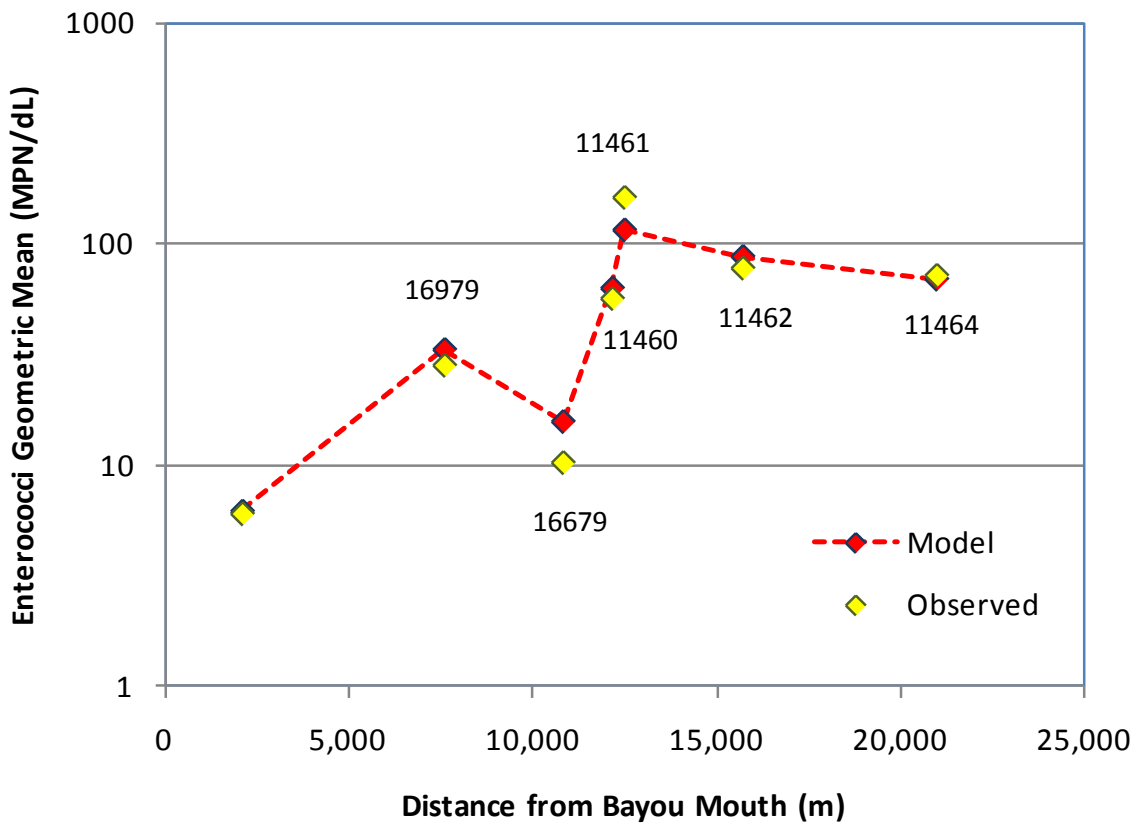

Figure 11. Longitudinal Profile of the Tidal Prism Model Enterococci Calibration in the Tidal Segment of Dickinson Bayou (1999-2001)
(Labels indicate TCEQ station numbers.)

To meet the TMDL in the tidal segments, reductions in source loadings are required. The required reductions for the tidal segments are presented in Table 17 and range from 0.00E+00 in 1103_02 to 1.14E+12 in 1103_04. The median load for each segment was used to specify the TMDLs.

Table 17. TMDL Loads: Estimated and Actual Loads for the Impaired Assessment Units in Segment 1103

Stream Name	Assessment Unit	TMDL (MPN/day)	Observed Load (MPN/day)	Reduction Required(MPN/day)
Dickinson Bayou Tidal	1103_04	6.74E+10	1.21E+12	1.14E+12
	1103_03	9.41E+10	1.31E+11	3.72E+10
	1103_02	2.41E+11	1.11E+11	0.00E+00
Bensons Bayou	1103A_01	9.26E+09	1.54E+10	6.14E+09
Bordens Gully	1103B_01	1.65E+09	2.14E+09	4.95E+08
Geisler Bayou	1103C_01	4.14E+09	6.00E+09	1.85E+09

Margin of Safety

A margin of safety (MOS) should account for uncertainty in the analysis used to develop the TMDL and thus provide a higher level of assurance that the goals of the TMDL will be met. According to EPA guidance (EPA 1991), the MOS can be incorporated into the TMDL using two methods:

- Implicitly incorporating the MOS using conservative model assumptions to develop allocations; or
- Explicitly specifying a portion of the TMDL as the MOS and using the remainder for allocations.

The MOS is designed to account for any uncertainty that may arise in specifying water quality control strategies for the complex environmental processes that affect water quality. Compensating for this uncertainty, to the extent possible, is the basis for assigning a MOS.

In this TMDL, an explicit MOS has been incorporated into both the LDCs and tidal prism modeling efforts. The TMDL for the freshwater segment used a 5% MOS because of the limited amount of data for some sampling locations as well as the lack of measured flow data within the watershed. For contact recreation, this equates to a geometric mean concentration of 120 MPN/dL for *E. coli*. For the tidal streams, the MOS was based on the allowable loading for the segment, meaning that 5% of the TMDL was assigned as the MOS for the tidal segment.

Pollutant Load Allocation

The TMDL represents the maximum amount of a pollutant that the stream can receive in a single day without exceeding the water quality standard. The load allocations for this TMDL were calculated using the following equation:

Equation 1

$$TMDL = WLA + LA + MOS$$

Where:

WLA = wasteload allocation (point source contributions)

LA = load allocation (nonpoint source contributions)

MOS = margin of safety

Typically, several possible allocation strategies will achieve the TMDL endpoint and water quality standards. Available control options depend on the number, location, and character of pollutant sources. For the Dickinson Bayou watershed, two methodologies were used to quantify the assimilative capacity of the bayou, define overall reduction goals, and specify TMDL allocations for point and nonpoint sources:

1) The LDC method for Dickinson Bayou Above Tidal.
2) The mass balance method using a tidal prism/box model for Dickinson Bayou Tidal, Bensons Bayou, Bordens Gully, and Giesler Bayou.

Bacteria sources in the Dickinson Bayou watershed are diverse and can occur in combination; as such, bacteria can be discharged at different flow rates during different time periods, resulting in varied critical conditions. The LDC approach calculates the maximum allowable load over the complete range of flow conditions for each assessment unit. Thus, this approach can account for both low flow conditions where point sources would be expected to dominate, high flow conditions where nonpoint and stormwater sources are the primary loading source, as well as the mid-range flows where point and nonpoint sources could exert influence.

In the tidal prism/box model approach, the dynamic, continuous simulation model considers an approximately 2.5 year period between June 1, 1999 and November 11, 2001 to establish the TMDL. This multiple year period was chosen because it exhibited the most observed water quality to represent critical conditions likely to occur, such as wet and dry periods and a multiple-year period to account for meteorological and source variation. Thus, both approaches consider critical conditions for the TMDL.

Wasteload Allocation

Wasteload allocations (WLA) were established for point sources, such as WWTFs using Equation 2. As shown in the equation, the WLA for dischargers in the non-tidal portion of the watershed was calculated using one-half of the *E. coli* concentration of 126 MPN/dL (i.e., 63 MPN/dL) multiplied by the permitted flow. For the tidal portion of the watershed,

one-half the Enterococci concentration of 35 MPN/dL (i.e., 17 MPN/dL) was used to calculate the WLA. For WWTFs without permitted flow data (i.e., 03416-000 and 03479-000), the average reported flow for the WWTFs was used to calculate and assign a WLA.

Equation 2

$$WLA_{WWTF} = \frac{1}{2} * swqs * flow * \text{unit conversion factor}$$

where:

swqs (surface water quality standard) = 126 MPN/100mL *E. coli* or 35 MPN/100 mL Enterococci;

flow (10^6 gal/day) = permitted flow; and

unit conversion factor = 37,854,120 100mL/10^6gal.

Table 18 presents a summary of the WWTFs in the Dickinson Bayou watershed as well as their flow characteristics and bacteria allocations. Consideration of future growth and its impacts on the WLA are discussed in a later section.

Stormwater discharges from MS4 areas are considered permitted point sources. Therefore, the WLA calculations must also include an allocation for permitted stormwater discharges. The stormwater component of the WLAs, also known as $WLA_{Stormwater}$, is calculated using the percentage of each assessment unit's sub-watershed that is designated an urbanized area by the EPA (see Figure 6).

Table 19 summarizes the percentage of each assessment unit's subwatershed that is designated as an urbanized area. The proportions of the assessment unit subwatershed areas included in urbanized areas range from 2% to 48%.

The percentages shown in Table 19 are used to derive the $WLA_{Stormwater}$ values as shown in Equation 3.

Equation 3

$$WLA_{stormwater} = (TMDL - \Sigma WLA_{WWTF} - MOS - FG) * PctMS4$$

where:

$WLA_{stormwater}$ (MPN/day) = permitted stormwater WLA;

TMDL (MPN/day) = maximum allowable load (MPN/day);

ΣWLA_{WWTF} (MPN/day) = permitted WWTF WLA;

FG (MPN/day) = WWTF future growth WLA;

PctMS4 (%) = Percentage of the assessment unit permitted for MS4 Stormwater;

MOS (MPN/day) = 5% margin of safety.

Table 18. Wasteload Allocation for WWTFs in Dickinson Bayou Watershed

Assess-ment Unit	TPDES ID	Facility name	Permitted Flow (MGD)	Average Self-Reported Flow (MGD)	*E. coli* Load (MPN/day)	Enterococci Load (MPN/day)
1104_01	03416-000	Waste Management Of Texas	n/a[1]	0.829[1]	1.97E+09	n/a[2]
1104_02	13632-001	Meadowland Utility	0.023	0.009	5.48E+07	n/a[2]
1104_02	14440-001	Brazoria County MUD No. 24	0.95	n/a[4]	2.26E+09	n/a[2]
1104_02	12935-001	Pine Colony	0.05	0.026	1.19E+08	n/a[2]
1103_02	00377-000	Penreco	0.075	0.057	n/a[2]	4.96E+07
1103_02	10173-001	Galveston County WCID No. 1	4.8	2.759	n/a[2]	3.18E+09
1103D_01	14570-001	Marlin Atlantis White, Ltd.	0.5	n/a[4]	n/a[2]	3.31E+08
1103_01	03749-001	Hillman Shrimp & Oyster Co.	0.07	0.005	n/a[2]	4.63E+07
1103_01	04086-001	Duratherm Inc.	n/a[3]	0.091	n/a[3]	n/a[3]
1103_01	14326-001	Via Bayou RV Park	0.02	0.002	n/a[2]	1.32E+07
1103_01	03479-000	Sea Lion Technology, Inc.	n/a[3]	0.058	n/a[3]	n/a[3]

[1] No permitted flow specified; average daily flow from monthly self-reports was used to calculate WLA; average flow reported between November 1999 and February 2007

2 Load calculated only for E. coli (in Segment 1104) or Enterococci (in Segment 1103)

3 The industrial process associated with facilities is not considered a source of indicator bacteria warranting a WLA

4 Flows not reported in period that was evaluated for averaging

Abbreviations: MGD – million gallons per day; MPN – most probable number; MUD – municipal utility district; TPDES – Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System; WCID – water control and improvement district

The TCEQ intends to implement the individual WLAs through the permitting process as monitoring requirements and/or effluent limitations as required by the amendment of 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 319 which became effective November 26, 2009. WWTFs discharging to the TMDL segment assessment units will be assigned an effluent limit based on the TMDL. Monitoring requirements are based on permitted flow rates and are listed in 30 TAC §319.9. The permit requirements will be implemented during the routine permit renewal process. However, there may be a more economical or technically feasible means of achieving the goal of improved water quality and circumstances may warrant changes in individual WLAs after this TMDL is adopted. Therefore, the individual WLAs, as well as the WLAs for stormwater, are non-binding until implemented via a separate TPDES permitting action, which may involve preparation of an update to the state's WQMP. Regardless, all permitting actions will demonstrate compliance with the TMDL.

The executive director or commission may establish interim effluent limits and/or monitoring-only requirements during a permit amendment or permit renewal. These interim limits will allow a permittee time to modify effluent quality in order to attain the final ef-

fluent limits necessary to meet the TCEQ and EPA-approved TMDL allocations. The duration of any interim effluent limits may not be any longer than three years from the date of permit re-issuance. New permits will not contain interim effluent limits because compliance schedules are not allowed for new permits.

Table 19. Percentages of Each Assessment Unit Designated as an Urbanized Area

Assessment Unit	Area under MS4 (acres)	Total sub-watershed area (acres)	Percentage of Assessment Unit Permitted for Stormwater
1104_01	485	7,689	6%
1104_02	5,378	13,065	41%
1103_04	5,232	16,295	32%
1103_03	26	986	27%
1103_02	4,524	13,192	34%
1103_01	181	9,806	2%
1103A_01	1,675	3,466	48%
1103B_01	484	1,346	36%
1103C_01	613	2,315	26%
Total	**18,837**	**68,160**	**28%**

Where a TMDL has been approved, domestic WWTF TPDES permits will require conditions consistent with the requirements and assumptions of the WLAs. For NPDES/ TPDES-regulated municipal, construction stormwater discharges, and industrial stormwater discharges, water quality-based effluent limits that implement the WLA for stormwater may be expressed as best management practices (BMPs) or other similar requirements, rather than as numeric effluent limits (November 12, 2010, memorandum from EPA relating to establishing WLAs for stormwater sources). The EPA memo states that:

> "The CWA provides that stormwater permits for MS4 discharges shall contain controls to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the "maximum extent practicable" and such other provisions as the Administrator or the State determines appropriate for the control of such pollutants [CWA section 402(p)(3)(8)(iii)]. Under this provision, the NPDES permitting authority has the discretion to include requirements for reducing pollutants in stormwater discharges as necessary for compliance with water quality standards [Defenders of Wildlife v. Browner, 191 F.3d 1159, 1166 (9th Cir. 1999)].
>
> The permitting authority's decision about how to express the water quality-based effluent limitations (WQBELs)—either as numeric effluent limitations or BMPs, including BMPs accompanied by numeric benchmarks—should be based on an analysis of the facts and circumstances surrounding the permit, and/or the un-

> derlying WLA. The decision should include factors such as the nature of the stormwater discharge, available data, modeling results or other relevant information. As discussed in the 2002 memorandum, the permit's administrative record needs to provide an adequate demonstration that, where a BMP-based approach to permit limitations is selected, the BMPs required by the permit will be sufficient to implement applicable WLAs. Improved knowledge of BMP effectiveness gained since 2002 should be reflected in the demonstration and supporting rationale that implementation of the BMPs will attain water quality standards and WLAs."

The November 22, 2002, memorandum from EPA relating to establishing WLAs for stormwater sources states that:

> "...the Interim Permitting Approach Policy recognizes the need for an iterative approach to control pollutants in stormwater discharges...[s]pecifically, the policy anticipates that a suite of BMPs will be used in the initial rounds of permits and that these BMPs will be tailored in subsequent rounds."

Using this iterative adaptive approach, to the maximum extent practicable, is appropriate to address the stormwater component of this TMDL.

This TMDL is, by definition, the total of the sum of the WLA, the sum of the LA, and the MOS. Changes to individual WLAs may be necessary in the future in order to accommodate changing conditions within the watershed. These changes to individual WLAs do not ordinarily require a revision of the TMDL document; instead, changes will be made through updates to the TCEQ's WQMP. Any future changes to effluent limitations will be addressed through the permitting process and by updating the WQMP.

Load Allocation

The Load Allocation (LA) is the sum of loading from all nonpoint sources. The LAs for each stream segment are calculated as the difference between the TMDL, MOS, WLA for WWTFs, and WLA for stormwater. It is calculated as shown in Equation 4.

Equation 4

$$LA = TMDL - \Sigma WLA_{WWTF} - \Sigma WLA_{stormwater} - MOS$$

where:

LA (MPN/day) = load allocation;

TMDL (MPN/day) = maximum allowable daily load;

ΣWLA_{WWTF} (MPN/day) = permitted WWTF WLA;

$\Sigma WLA_{stormwater}$ (MPN/day) = permitted stormwater WLA;

MOS (MPN/day) = 5% margin of safety.

Allowance for Future Growth

Compliance with these TMDLs is based on keeping the bacteria concentrations in the impaired assessment units below the limits that were set as criteria for the individual segments. Future growth of existing or new point sources is not limited by these TMDLs as long as the sources do not cause bacteria levels to exceed the limits. The assimilative capacity of streams increases as the amount of flow volume increases. Consequently, increases in flow allow for increased loadings. The LDC and tables in this TMDL will guide determination of the assimilative capacity of the stream under changing conditions, including future growth.

Future growth for this TMDL was determined based on 2050 population estimates from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB, 2002). A summary of the future growth methodology is presented in Appendix C. The allowance for future growth is defined as the difference between future permitted WWTF flows and currently permitted WWTF flows. For the above-tidal segments of Dickinson Bayou, the allowance for future growth in WWTF permitted flows was added to the flows used to calculate the flow duration curve. This accounts for the increase in permitted flow over all flow conditions. For the tidally influenced segments, the future growth allowance for each facility was incorporated into the tidal prism/box model. Allocations for future growth were calculated only for assessment units currently receiving wastewater from permitted outfalls.

Future growth also affects nonpoint sources as land use in the watershed changes. As future growth occurs, development and the regulated MS4 areas will expand. The expansion of MS4s redistributes the pollutant load allocation, shifting from current LA to future $WLA_{stormwater}$. However, increases in urban development and re-development can lead to increased impervious cover and commensurate increases in NPS pollutant loads. Stormwater BMPs can be used to mitigate NPS pollutant load increases attributed to development, redevelopment and increased impervious cover,

Additional stormwater dischargers represent additional flow that is not accounted for in the current allocations. Changes in MS4 jurisdiction or additional development associated with population increases in the watershed can be accommodated by shifting allotments between the WLA and the LA. This can be done without the need to reserve future capacity. In non-urbanized areas, growth can be accommodated by shifting loads between the LA and the $WLA_{stormwater}$.

The three-tiered anti-degradation policy in the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards prohibits an increase in loading that would cause or contribute to degradation of an existing use. The Antidegradation Policy applies to both point and nonpoint source pollutant discharges. In general, antidegradation procedures establish a process for reviewing individual proposed actions to determine if the activity will degrade water quality. The TMDLs in this document will result in protection of existing beneficial uses and conform to Texas's antidegradation policy.

TMDL Calculations

A bacteria TMDL represents the capacity of a water body to assimilate indicator bacteria. The TMDL equation, modified to accommodate additional factors, is expressed as shown

in Equation 5. The TMDL, ΣWLA_{WWTF}, FG, and MOS allocations are set by flow, the contact recreation criterion, permitted wastewater flow, estimates of future wastewater flow and an explicit MOS allocation (5%) to account for uncertainty in the analysis. The load that remains after subtracting ΣWLA_{WWTF}, MOS, and FG is allocated to the $\Sigma WLA_{Stormwater}$ and LA. Permitted stormwater sources ($\Sigma WLA_{Stormwater}$) are allocated according to the proportion of the assessment unit's subwatershed designated as an urbanized area, as previously described, and the remaining load is allocated to the LA.

Equation 5

$$TMDL = \Sigma WLA_{WWTF} + \Sigma WLA_{stormwater} + LA + MOS + FG$$

where:

ΣWLA_{WWTF} = wasteload allocation (permitted WWTF);

$\Sigma WLA_{stormwater}$ = wasteload allocation (permitted stormwater);

LA = load allocation (unregulated nonpoint source contributions);

MOS = margin of safety; and

FG = future growth.

TMDL calculations for *E. coli* in the non-tidal segments of Dickinson Bayou, and Enterococci in the tidal segments of Dickinson Bayou, are presented in Table 20 segregated by assessment unit.

As shown in Table 20, for the assessment units of the above-tidal portion of Dickinson Bayou (1104_01 and 1104_02), the calculated *E. coli* TMDL ranged from 1.04E+10 MPN/day to 3.70E+10 MPN/day. The WLA ranged from 1.97E+09 to 2.44E+09 MPN/day for WWTFs and 2.06E+09 to 2.21E+09 MPN/day for permitted stormwater. The LAs for sub-watersheds associated with Assessment Units 1104_01 and 1104_02 ranged from 3.06E+09 to 3.16E+09 MPN/day.

For the tidal assessment units, which include 1103A_01, 1103B_01, 1103C_01, 1103_02, 1103_03, and 1103_04 the Enterococci TMDL ranged from 1.65E+09 to 2.41E+11 MPN/day. WLAs for assessment units in the tidal segment and tidal tributaries were established at 3.22E+ 09MPN/day. Permitted stormwater WLAs for assessment units in the tidal segment and in tidal tributaries ranged from 5.64E+08 to 3.06E+10 MPN/day and LAs for these assessment units ranged from 1.00E+09 to 2.21E+11 MPN/day.

In 2010, the TCEQ conducted a recreational use attainability analysis (RUAA) of Dickinson Bayou Above Tidal. This RUAA could result in a change in the criterion used to assess recreational uses in this portion of the bayou. Appendix D presents a method that can be used to calculate revised TMDL allocations for the freshwater segments and includes graphs showing the relationship between the revised freshwater criterion, the TMDL allocations, and the equations that can be used to calculate the revised TMDL allocations.

Table 20. TMDL Allocation for Dickinson Bayou Watershed (in MPN/day)

Stream Name	Assess-ment Unit	Indicator Bacteria	TMDL[1]	WLA_{WWTF}[2]	$WLA_{Storm-water}$[3]	LA[4]	MOS[5]	Future Growth (FG)[6]
Dickinson Bayou Above Tidal	1104_01	*E. coli*	3.70E+10	1.97E+09	2.06E+09	3.06E+10	1.82E+09	5.28E+08
	1104_02	*E. coli*	1.04E+10	2.44E+09	2.21E+09	3.16E+09	4.11E+08	2.19E+09
Bensons Bayou	1103A_01	Enterococci	9.26E+09	0.00E+00	4.25E+09	4.55E+09	4.63E+08	0.00E+00
Bordens Gully	1103B_01	Enterococci	1.65E+09	0.00E+00	5.64E+08	1.00E+09	8.25E+07	0.00E+00
Geislers Bayou	1103C_01	Enterococci	4.14E+09	0.00E+00	1.04E+09	2.89E+09	2.07E+08	0.00E+00
Dickinson Bayou Ti-dal[7]	1103_02	Enterococci	2.41E+11	3.22E+09	4.17E+09	2.21E+11	1.21E+10	8.03E+08
	1103_03	Enterococci	9.41E+10	0.00E+00	3.06E+10	5.87E+10	4.70E+09	0.00E+00
	1103_04	Enterococci	6.74E+10	0.00E+00	1.72E+10	4.68E+10	3.37E+09	0.00E+00

[1] TMDL calculated as sum of WLA_{WWTF}, $WLA_{Stormwater}$, LA, MOS and future growth (includes full permitted flow and no margin of safety); for above tidal segments, the TMDL was calculated by summing the median value of the LDC from the mid-range flow (between 20-80th percentile), MOS and future growth.

[2] WLA_{WWTF} is sum of permitted loads discharging to impaired assessment units

[3] $WLA_{Stormwater}$ is TMDL minus the sum of WLA_{WWTF}, MOS and future growth multiplied by the percentage of the assessment unit watershed covered by MS4 permits

[4] LA is TMDL minus the sum of WLA_{WWTF}, $WLA_{Stormwater}$, MOS, and future growth

[5] MOS is a 5% margin of safety which is applied to the TMDL

[6] Future growth accounts for population growth through 2050 in permitted WWTF discharges

[7] Because it is not included on the *1998 Section 303(d) List*, a TMDL is not specified for AU 1103_01

Seasonal Variation

Federal regulations in volume 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 130.7(c)(1) require that TMDLs account for seasonal variation in watershed conditions and pollutant loading. An analysis of all *E. coli* data showed no significant seasonal variations. However, seasonal variation was accounted for in these TMDLs as follows. For the load duration curve analysis, the seasonal variation was accounted for by using all available water quality data and by using nine years of modeled flows to develop flow exceedance percentiles. For the mass balance analysis, the seasonal variation was accounted for by use of a continuous simulation model over a 2.5-year period that accounts for a range of seasonal and flow conditions.

Public Participation

The TCEQ maintains an inclusive public participation process. From the inception of the TMDL study, the TCEQ project team sought to ensure that stakeholders were informed and involved. Communication and comments from the stakeholders in the watershed strengthen TMDL projects and their implementation.

Over the course of the Dickinson Bayou TMDL study, public participation has been an important component of the project. Members of the project stakeholder group represent government, permitted facilities, agriculture, businesses, environmental interests, and community interests in the Dickinson Bayou watershed. The TCEQ and the Dickinson Bayou Watershed Partnership held a series of meetings with stakeholders to solicit their advice on elements of the project and to keep stakeholders informed of progress. Notices of meetings were posted on the project web page, the Dickinson Bayou Watershed Partnership web page, and the TCEQ's TMDL program online calendar.

Additionally, websites hosted by the TCEQ <www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/80-dickinsonbayoubacteria.html> and the Texas AgriLife Extension's Texas Coastal Watershed Program <www.urban-nature.org> or <www.dickinsonbayou.org> provided access to meeting summaries, presentations, ground rules, and the list of stakeholder group members. The websites were frequently updated to ensure that all stakeholders and the public were informed of meetings and findings.

Three meetings were held in December 2007, April 2008, and October 2009, to present both project status reports from the TCEQ as well as updates on the technical aspects of the project. A fourth public meeting was held in March 2010 and stakeholders were provided an update on the Bacteria TMDL. Finally, a fifth public meeting was held in February 2011 to initiate the Implementation Planning process. The meetings were held at project milestones and were used to solicit input and feedback from the stakeholders. Stakeholder input was invaluable as it provided local insight to the TMDL project staff.

Implementation and Reasonable Assurance

The issuance of permits consistent with TMDLs through the TPDES provides reasonable assurance that the WLAs in this TMDL report will be achieved. Consistent with federal requirements, each adopted TMDL is a plan element of an update to the TCEQ's WQMP.

The TCEQ's WQMP coordinates and directs the state's efforts to manage water quality and maintain or restore designated uses of water bodies throughout Texas. The WQMP is continually updated with new, more specifically focused plan elements, as identified in federal regulations (40 CFR 130.6(c)). Commission adoption of a TMDL is the state's certification of the associated WQMP update.

Because the TMDL does not reflect or direct specific implementation by any single pollutant discharger, the TCEQ certifies additional elements to the WQMP after the Implementation Plan (I-Plan) is approved by the commission. Based on the TMDL and I-Plan, the TCEQ will propose and certify WQMP updates to establish required water-quality-based effluent limitations necessary for specific TPDES wastewater discharge permits.

For MS4 permits, the TCEQ will normally establish BMPs. BMPs are a substitute for effluent limitations, as allowed by federal rules, where numeric effluent limitations are infeasible. When such practices are established in an MS4 permit, the TCEQ will not identify specific implementation requirements applicable to a specific TPDES stormwater permit through an effluent limitation update. Rather, the TCEQ might revise a stormwater permit, require a revised Stormwater Management Program or Pollution Prevention Plan,

or implement other specific revisions affecting stormwater dischargers in accordance with an adopted I-Plan.

Strategies for achieving pollutant loads in TMDLs from both point and nonpoint sources are reasonably assured by the state's use of an I-Plan. The TCEQ is committed to supporting implementation of all TMDLs adopted by the commission.

I-Plans for Texas TMDLs use an adaptive management approach that allows for refinement or addition of methods to achieve environmental goals. This adaptive approach reasonably assures that the necessary regulatory and voluntary activities to achieve pollutant reductions will be implemented. Periodic, repeated evaluations of the effectiveness of implementation methods ascertain whether progress is occurring, and may show that the original distribution of loading among sources should be modified to increase efficiency. I-Plans will be adapted as necessary to reflect needs identified in evaluations of progress.

Key Elements of an I-Plan

An I-Plan includes a detailed description and schedule of the regulatory and voluntary management measures to implement the WLAs and LAs of particular TMDLs within a reasonable time. I-Plans also identify the organizations responsible for carrying out load reductions and management measures, and a plan for periodic evaluation of the progress achieved. The EPA is not required, and is not authorized, to approve or disapprove I-plans for TMDLs.

Strategies to optimize compliance and oversight are identified in an I-Plan when necessary. Such strategies may include additional monitoring and reporting of effluent discharge quality to evaluate and verify loading trends, adjustment of an inspection frequency or a response protocol to public complaints, and escalation of an enforcement remedy to require corrective action of a regulated entity contributing to an impairment.

The TCEQ works with stakeholders and interested governmental agencies to develop and support I-Plans and track their progress. Work on the I-Plan begins during development of TMDLs. The cooperation required to develop an I-Plan for approval by the commission becomes a cornerstone for the shared responsibility necessary for carrying out the plan.

Ultimately, the I-Plan will identify the commitments and requirements to be implemented through specific permit actions and other means. For these reasons, the I-Plan that is approved may not approximate the predicted loadings identified category-by-category in the TMDL and its underlying assessment. The I-Plan is adaptive for this very reason; it allows for continuous update and improvement.

In most cases, it is not practical or feasible to approach all TMDL implementation as a one-time, short-term restoration effort. This is particularly true when a challenging wasteload reduction or load reduction is required by the TMDL, there is high uncertainty with the TMDL analysis, there is a need to reconsider or revise the established water quality standard, or the pollutant load reduction would require costly infrastructure and capital improvements.

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Appendix A.
Load Duration Curve Approach

This Appendix provides background on:

- Flow and load duration curves;
- Load duration curve analysis; and
- Results of load duration curve analysis for Assessment Units 1104_01 and 1104_02.

Flow Duration Curves

A continuous historical flow record is not available for Dickinson Bayou due to a lack of flow gaging stations in the bayou. Hence, historical flows were simulated using a watershed model, the Hydrologic Simulation Program –Fortran (HSPF). The model was calibrated using physical information about the bayou and its watershed and meteorological data collected between June 1, 1999 and December 31, 2004. The calibration process for the HSPF model, as it is normally understood, was not possible for Dickinson Bayou as flow gage data were not available; therefore, a synthetic flow time series based on flow from a nearby stream (Chocolate bayou) was substituted and used for model calibration. The HSPF model of the Dickinson Bayou watershed was also used to support the tidal prism/mass balance model discussed in more detail in Appendix B.

It is important to note that, in accordance with accepted practice, the simulated flows for the LDC analysis reflect contributions from WWTFs. In the Above Tidal portion of Dickinson Bayou, there are a total of three WWTFs and one industrial facility as shown in Table 9. The flows simulated in the model for 1104_02 include full permitted flow from three WWTFs. Simulated flows for 1104_01, on the other hand, include a single WWTF (TPDES permit number 03416-000) that is permitted to discharge intermittently and therefore does not have a permitted flow limit. As such, the model flows account for the average flow from the facility instead.

The simulated hourly flows from the model were converted to daily values to calculate a Flow Duration Curve (FDC) at the outlet of each assessment unit. FDCs are graphs of the frequency distribution of flow in streams. The flow exceedance frequency (x-value of each point) is obtained by determining the percent of flow that equals or exceeds the measured or estimated flow associated with a specific location in a stream. The generated FDCs are shown in Figures A-1 and A-2. The historical flow was separated into three flow regimes:

- 0 to 20th percentile: Highest flows
- 20th to 80th percentile: Mid-range flows
- 80th to 100th percentile: Lowest flows

For this analysis, the mid-range flow regime was chosen as the critical range for calculation of the TMDLs. It is the most representative and protective of the contact recreation use in Dickinson Bayou Above Tidal, since the average water depth in this part of the bayou is less than half of a meter during low flows (80th-100th percentile range). Contact recreation is not advisable due to safety concerns at the highest flow (0-20th percentile flow regime).

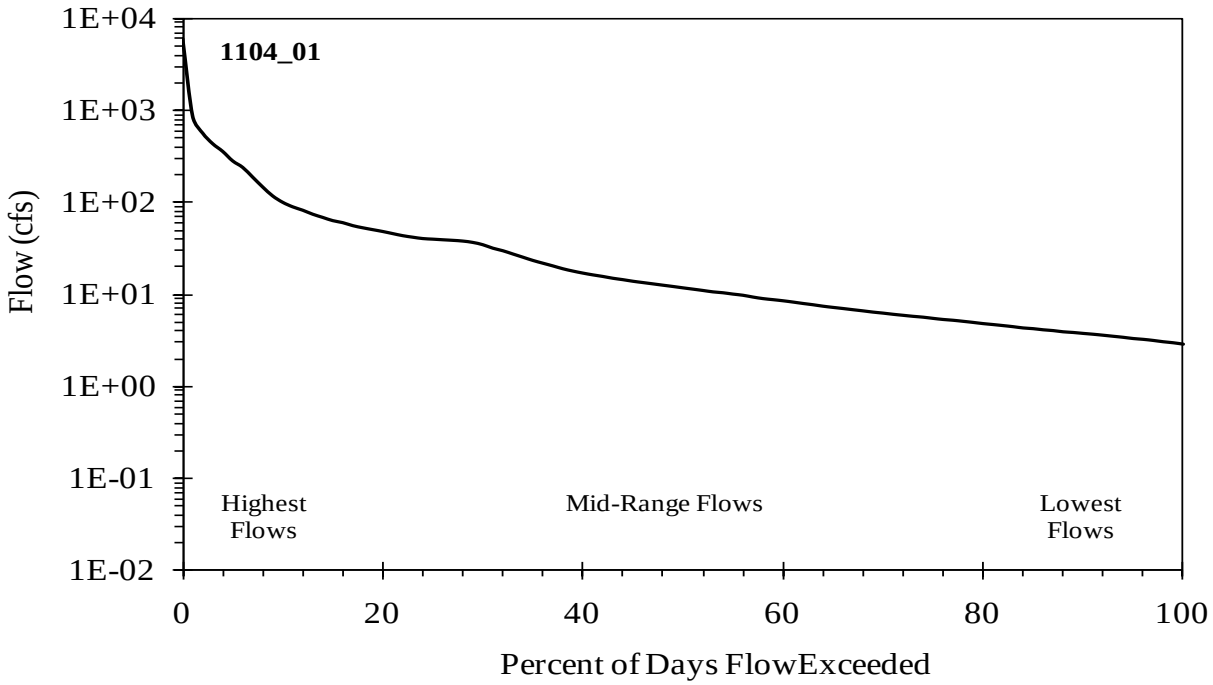


Figure A-1. Flow Duration Curve for Assessment Unit 1104_01

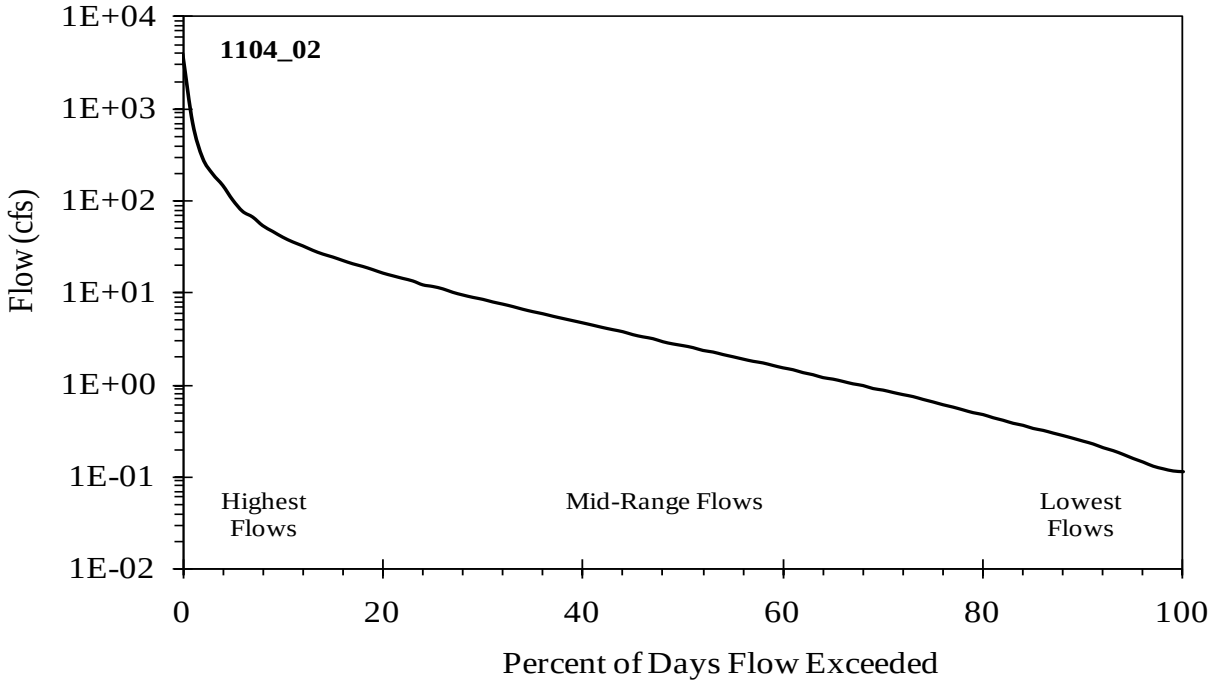


Figure A-2. Flow Duration Curve for Assessment Unit 1104_02

Once the FDCs were prepared, the next step in the TMDL process was to develop LDCs.

Load Duration Curve Analysis

FDCs are similar in appearance to LDCs; however, instead of flows, values on the curve are expressed in terms of an indicator bacteria load in MPN/day. The flow for each percentile between 0 and 100 (at 1 percentile intervals) was multiplied by the water quality standard, as shown in Equation A-1, to derive the load duration curve (LDC). As previously described, flow values used in the LDC analysis are based on HSPF simulations that incorporate the full permitted flow for WWTFs in the segment. For these LDCs, the water quality target was set at the *E. coli* geometric mean water quality criterion. An explicit margin of safety was incorporated into the analysis by reducing the assimilative capacity of the stream by 5%, hence the overall water quality target shown in the LDC is 120 MPN/dL rather than the geometric mean criterion of 126 MPN/dL. The calculated LDC is then used to specify the total maximum daily load (TMDL) at any given flow condition.

Equation A-1

$$LDC = swqs * (1\text{-}MOS) * flow * \text{unit conversion factor}$$

where:

swqs (surface water quality standard) = 126 MPN/100mL *E. coli*

flow (cfs) = flow at each percentile

MOS = 0.05; and

unit conversion factor = 24,465,758 100mL/10^6gal.

Observed loads for bacteria were calculated and plotted on Figures 8 and 9 in the main body of this document. These loads were based on measured data from the two sampling locations in the watershed closest to the terminus of each of the assessment units, TCEQ station 11465 for 1104_01 and station TCEQ 11467 for 1104_02. *E. coli* monitoring at station 11467 has occurred 92 times between March 9, 1999 and December 2, 2008. For station 11465, a total of 19 *E. coli* samples have been collected between July 10, 2000 and May 17, 2001.

No additional data were available for this station beyond 2001 in the TCEQ Surface Water Quality Monitoring Information System (SWQMIS). However, routine monitoring is scheduled to resume in 2011.

The measured *E. coli* values were paired with the instream flow value for the time of sample collection (derived using the HSPF model with full permitted WWTF flow) to calculate an instantaneous bacteria load (*E. coli* concentration * instantaneous flow). The instantaneous bacteria loads were then plotted on the LDC.

The permitted flows for each WWTF were used to calculate the wasteload allocations (WLAs) for WWTFs in the non-tidal assessment units. The WLAs for these facilities were calculated using Equation A-2.

Equation A-2

$$WLA_{WWTF} = ½ * swqs * flow * unit\ conversion\ factor$$

where:

swqs (surface water quality standard) = 126 MPN/100mL *E. coli*

flow (10^6 gal/day) = permitted WWTF flow; and

unit conversion factor = 37,854,120 100mL/10^6gal.

The WLA_{WWTF} does not include wastewater loads associated with anticipated future growth. The future growth WWTF loads are calculated separately (as described in the main body of the TMDL document) and are added to the LDC load to derive the TMDL.

In the lower percentile flow range, Segment 1104_02 can become effluent dominated. When this happens, the maximum LDC load falls below the WLA_{WWTF} (see Figure 9). In these situations, the WWTF load is plotted in place of the lower LDC load. It is assumed that the WWTFs are compliant with permit requirements, and therefore, their discharges will not result in exceedances of the contact recreation standard.

Load Duration Curve Analysis Results

The following section provides additional information regarding the LDC results for the two freshwater assessment units in Dickinson Bayou, 1104_01 and 1104_02 in tabular format.

Assessment Unit 1104_01

Table A-1 is a summary of flow, existing loads, LDC, and margin of safety for Assessment Unit 1104_01 for all three flow conditions. The existing *E. coli* loads in the bayou ranged from 1.01E+10, under the lowest flow regime, to 1.50E+13 MPN/day, under the highest flow regime. The calculated LDC ranged from 1.10E+10 MPN/day to 3.21E+11 MPN/day.

Table A-1. Load duration curve calculations for Segment 1104_01

Condition	0-20%	20-80%	80-100%
Median Flow (cfs)	109.49	11.83	3.74
Target Concentration (MPN/dL)[1]	119.7	119.7	119.7
Existing Load, Median (MPN/day)	1.50E+13	3.90E+10	1.01E+10
LDC, Median (MPN/day)	3.21E+11	3.46E+10	1.10E+10
Margin of Safety Load, Median (MPN/day)	1.69E+10	1.82E+09	5.76E+08

[1] Reflects a 5% margin of safety on the 126 MPN/dL contact recreation standard

Assessment Unit 1104_02

Table A-2 is a summary of flow, existing loads, LDC, and margin of safety for Assessment Unit 1104_02 for all three flow conditions. The existing *E. coli* loads in the bayou ranged from 2.71E+09, under the lowest flow regime, to 1.90E+11, under the highest flow regime. The calculated LDC ranged from 2.44E+09 MPN/day to 1.27E+11 MPN/day. Because 1104_02 is effluent dominated in the lowest flow regime (80-100%), the median LDC value reflects the previously described methodology that was applied for effluent dominated flow conditions. Thus, the median load for that flow regime reflects the WLA_{WWTF} and the flow reported for that regime cannot be used to directly calculate the LDC or margin of safety using Equation A-1.

Table A-2. Load duration curve calculations for Segment 1104_02

Condition	0-20%	20-80%	80-100%
Median Flow (cfs)	43.35	2.67	0.24
Target Concentration (MPN/dL)[1]	119.7	119.7	119.7
Existing Load, Median (MPN/day)	1.90E+11	7.60E+09	2.71E+09
LDC, Median (MPN/day)	1.27E+11	7.81E+09	2.44E+09[2]
Margin of Safety, Median (MPN/day)	6.68E+09	4.11E+08	3.64E+07

[1] Reflects a 5% margin of safety on the 126 MPN/dL contact recreation standard

[2] effluent dominated condition and therefore, equation A-1 cannot be used to calculate LDC directly from presented median flow

Appendix B.
Tidal Prism Model Approach

One essential component of a TMDL is to establish a linkage, or relationship, between pollutant sources and the water quality standard. Using this linkage, it is possible to determine the capacity of the water body to assimilate bacteria loadings while still supporting its designated uses. Historically a wide range of modeling approaches and tools have been implemented to assess TMDL endpoints and required wasteload and load allocation reductions.

Most models have similar capabilities but are suited to evaluating different types of watersheds, depending upon the water quality parameters to be evaluated, time, and spatial scales of interest, extent of available data and other site-specific conditions. In addition, model applications vary significantly in terms of the economic expense and technical complexity required to adequately determine a scientifically defensible TMDL.

Among the tools selected for use in this TMDL project was a coupled watershed/receiving water modeling strategy using HSPF combined with a tidal prism model for the tidal segments. The tidal prism model was used in the EPA-approved Clear Creek TMDL for the tidal portion of Clear Creek.

Hydrological Simulation Program–Fortran

Hydrological Simulation Program–Fortran (HSPF) is a highly regarded and widely used watershed model. First developed in the 1970s, it is now in its twelfth version (Bicknell et al., 2001). HSPF offers deterministic, continuous modeling of runoff and pollutant mobilization using a large array of lumped parameters such as land use, subwatershed area, rainfall, stream geometry and capacity, bacteria loading, and bacteria die-off rates. HSPF is designed as a spatially and temporally variable model with results generated on timesteps specified by the user, generally on an hourly or daily basis. HSPF also offers a simple one-dimensional receiving water model to simulate instream processes such as sediment resuspension and die-off.

The HSPF model developed for these TMDLs serves two purposes:

1) It supplies instream flows for the non-tidal portion of Dickinson Bayou, which supports development of LDCs for Segments 1104_01 and 1104_02 and
2) It provides runoff loads and upstream boundary conditions for flow and water quality from tidal subwatersheds, for use in the tidal prism box model.

The HSPF model requires a significant amount of input data and also requires information that describes the Dickinson Bayou watershed, including:

- Delineation of subwatersheds
- Meteorological and watershed data
- Hydrologic characteristics
- Bacteria loading for various sources within the watershed

A plot of the subwatersheds used in the TMDL study is presented in Figure B-1. As shown in the figure, twelve sub-basins were simulated in HSPF. Sub-basin 12 and a portion of Sub-basin 11, correspond to the non-tidal portion of Dickinson Bayou (Segment 1104).

The remaining sub-basins were used to provide input into the tidal model described later in this Appendix.

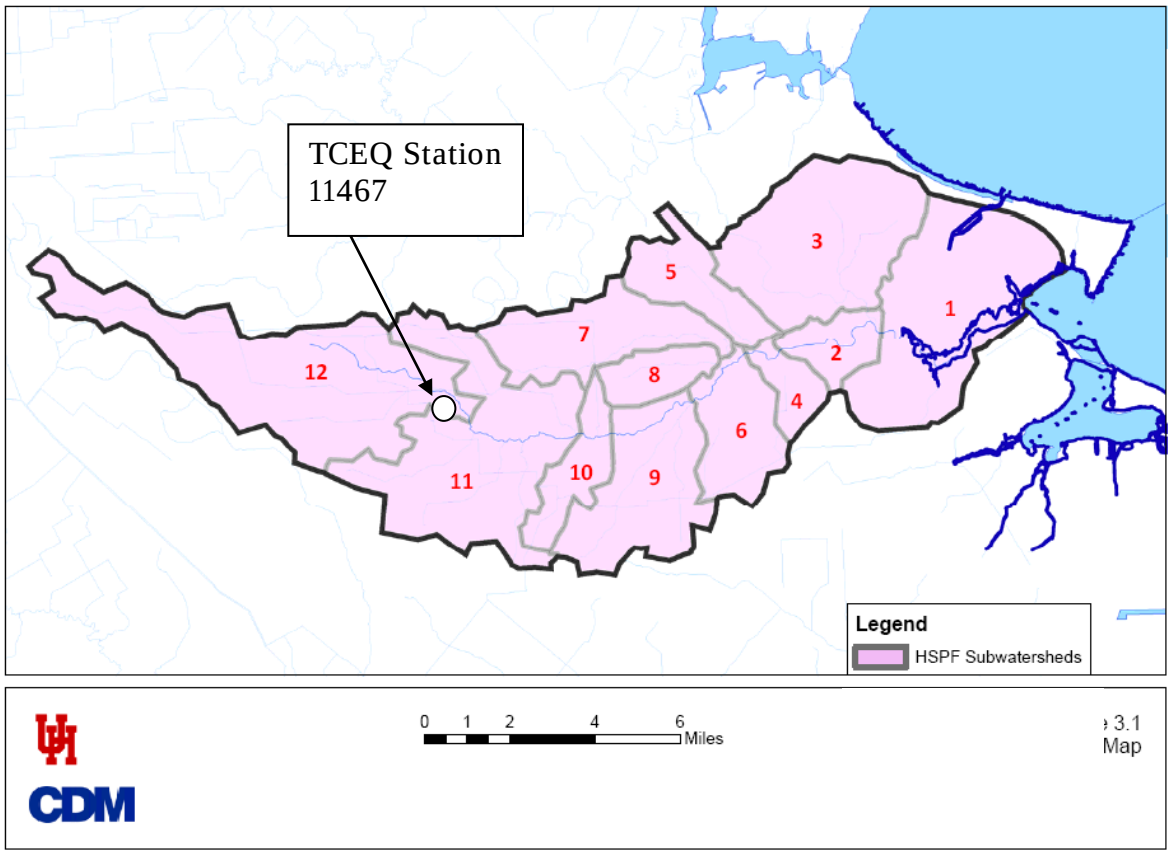


Figure B-1. HSPF Subwatersheds

HSPF requires a large number of meteorological inputs in order to execute accurate simulations, including precipitation, potential evapotranspiration, air temperature, dew point, solar radiation, cloud cover, and wind speed. Three meteorological stations were used for these data, including Houston National Weather Service Office (Houston NWSO – Cooperative Station #414333), Houston Clover Field (Weather Bureau Army-Navy [WBAN] #12975, and Galveston Scholes Field (Cooperative #413430). The simulation period of the HSPF model is from June 1, 1999 through December 31, 2008. A map of the rain gage coverage for the watershed is shown in Figure B-2. The map demonstrates that only one subwatershed, Sub-basin 12, relies on Houston Clover Field for rainfall data. All other sub-basins use the Houston NWSO gage.

Other watershed information that was used in the setup of the HSPF model included soil type and land use. Land use data, presented in Table 6 of this TMDL document, provide the basis for nonpoint source loading information included in the model.

Hydrologic setup and calibration for HSPF relies on a large amount of data to specify stream characteristics as well as on the matching of the water balance simulated in the model with measurements observed in the stream. Much of the hydrology and hydraulics

for the Dickinson Bayou HSPF model were determined from data available from the United States Geological Survey, including stream lengths, stream storage-outflow tables, and stream and watershed slopes.

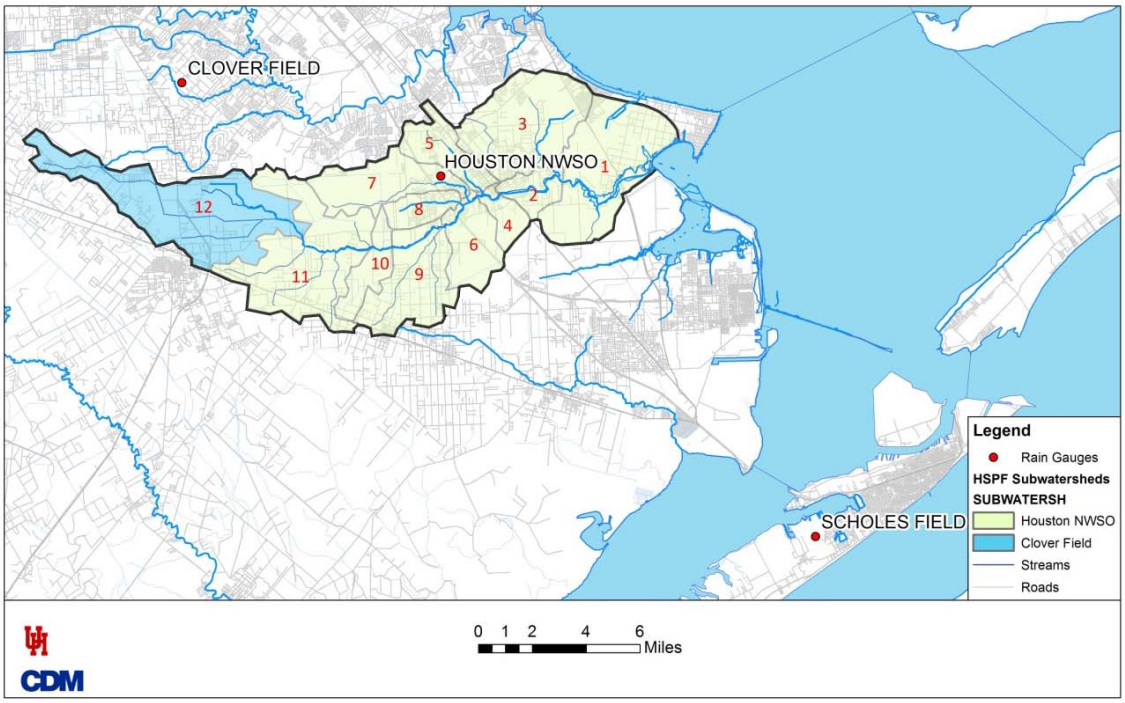


Figure B-2. Rain Gauge Assignment for Dickinson Bayou Model Subwatersheds

The Dickinson Bayou watershed does not have a continuous stream gage to use for calibration. Instead, flow from a nearby stream, Chocolate Bayou, was transformed by adjusting for differences in WWTF discharges and drainage areas to create a synthetic flow time series for Dickinson Bayou. A map showing the location of the Chocolate Bayou watershed is presented in Figure B-3 and the resulting synthetic flow time series for Sub-basin 11 is presented in Figure B-4.

Due to the absence of gaged flow , the typical calibration process for the HSPF model was not possible for Dickinson Bayou. Nonetheless, the Dickinson Bayou HSPF model was tested against the synthetic flow time series to obtain the best fit possible in Sub-basin 11. The model was tested against the synthetic data from June 1, 1999 through December 31, 2004 with the validation period of January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2008.

An example of the model calibration is presented in Figures B-5 and B-6. Although some discrepancies are evident from use of synthetic flow data, a comparison of flow duration curves for modeled and synthetic flows in Reach 11, shown in Figure B-6, demonstrates that, overall, the modeled and synthetic flow distributions are similar in nature.

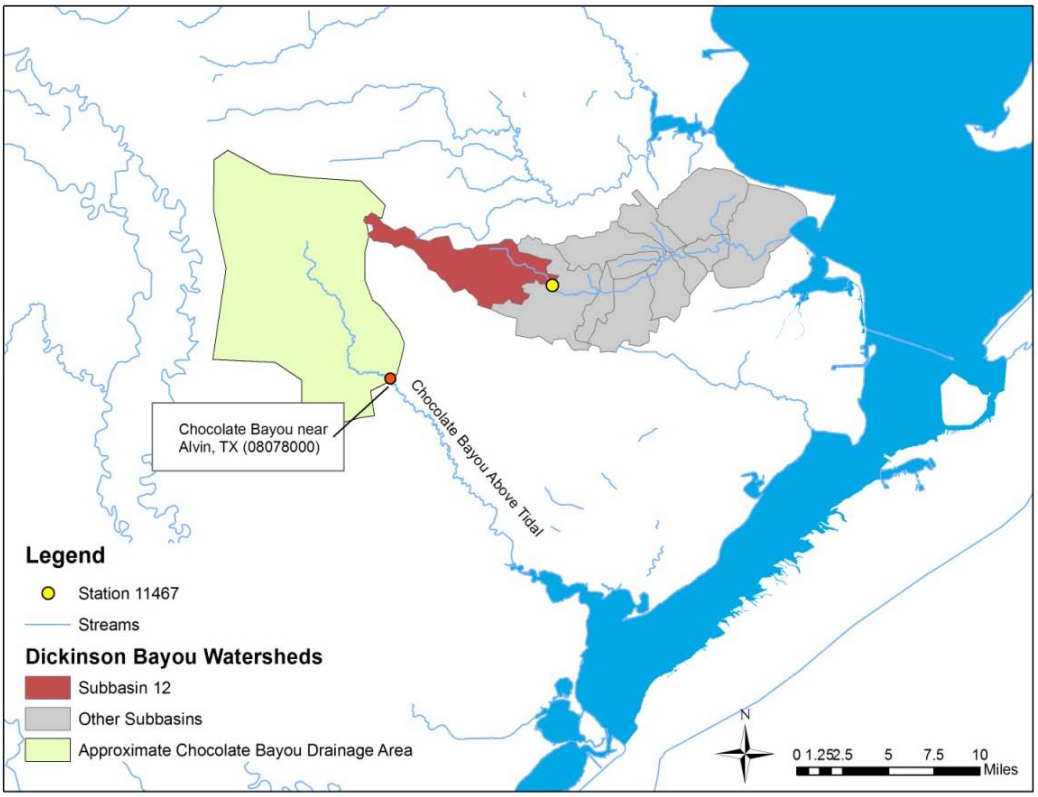


Figure B-3. Chocolate Bayou Drainage Area Location

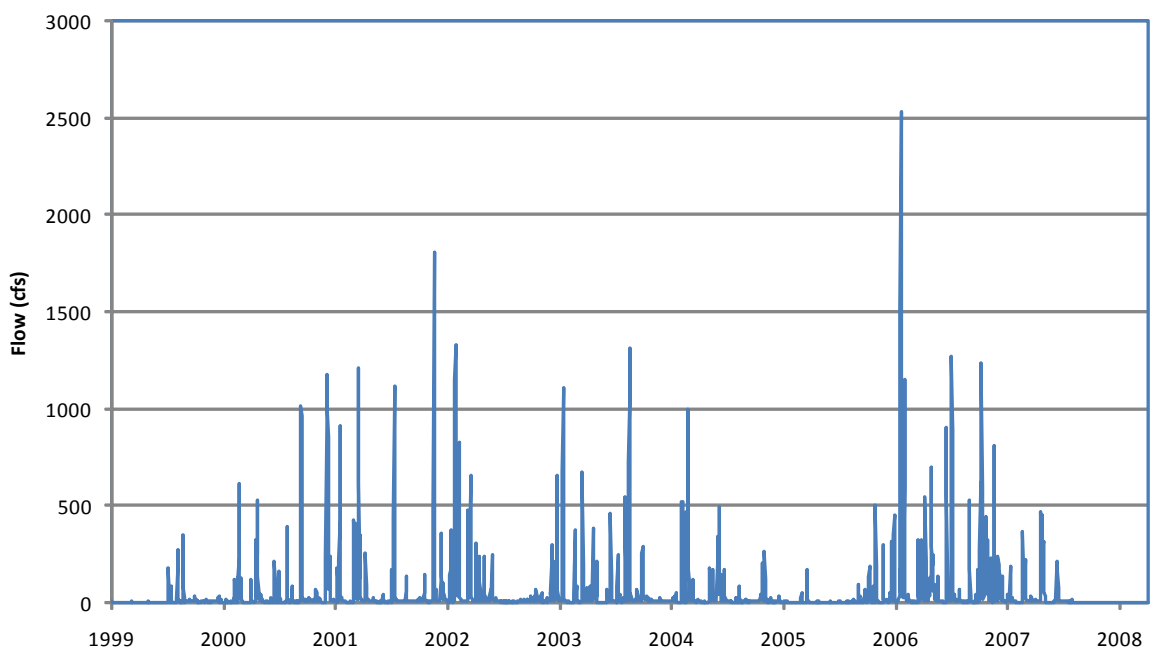


Figure B-4. Synthetic Flow Data for Reach 11

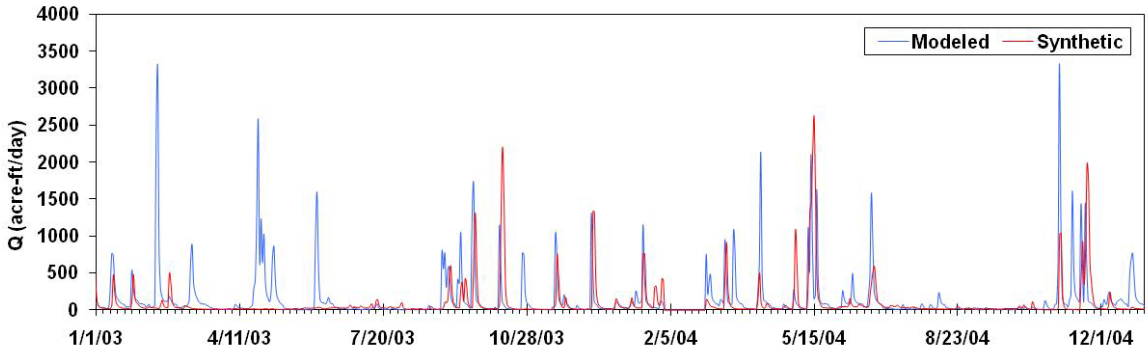


Figure B-5. Flow Comparison for 2004

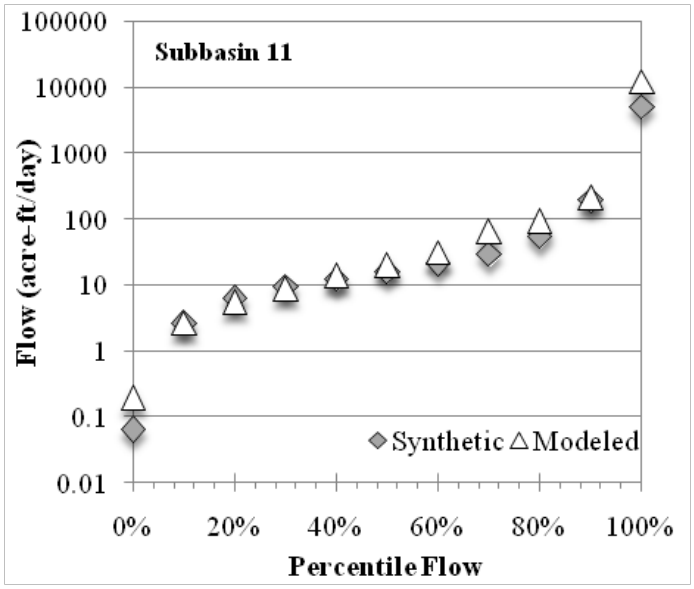


Figure B-6. Flow Duration Curve for Synthetic and Modeled Flows, Reach 11

The simulation of water quality, specifically bacteria concentrations, was included in the HPSF model to provide runoff loads to the tidal prism model. A key calibration parameter was accumulation (build-up) and wash-off from the watershed. These surface loadings were calibrated to event mean concentrations (EMCs) from local sources and literature values.

Another key calibration process focused on matching instream concentrations at TCEQ monitoring station 11467, located at the outlet of Reach 12 and shown on Figure B-1. The resulting instream calibration is shown in Figure B-7. Limited data were available for calibration at TCEQ monitoring station 11467; only 48 data points were available between December 2001 and November 2008. Because of this limited data availability, calibration focused on the entire period of record at Station 11467. The HSPF model reproduces the

range of bacteria concentrations observed during the period of record at the station. It is important to note that although the HSPF model was tested and adjusted using observed instream bacteria concentrations, the TMDL and TMDL load allocations are determined using the LDC method and tidal prism model.

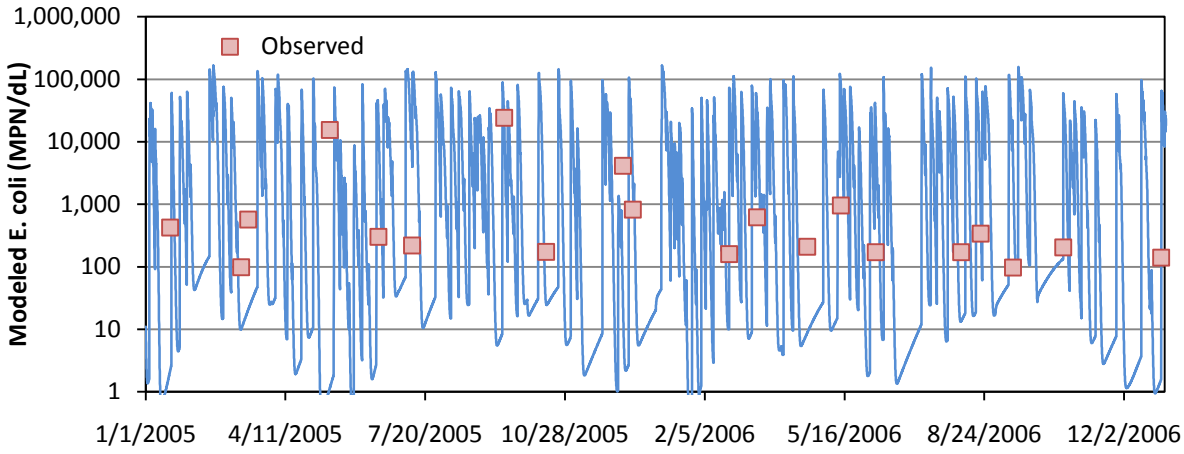


Figure B-7. Bacteria Calibration Plot at station 11467

Tidal Prism Modeling

To simulate Enterococci in the tidal portion of the watershed, a time-variable tidal prism box model was developed using Microsoft Excel for the same simulation period as the HSPF model, June 1, 1999 through December 31, 2008. The period of June 1, 1999 through November 5, 2001 was used for the calculations presented in this report because the land use, bathymetry, and boundary condition data are representative of that same period.

The tidal prism box model was developed to simulate instream loading in the tidal portion of Dickinson Bayou by taking into account the volume of water that is carried upstream by the tidal fluctuations. A conceptual model of the tidal prism box model is shown in Figure B-8.

The model segmentation in the tidal prism box model was determined based on three criteria:

1) The presence of a TCEQ monitoring station;
2) The presence of an assessment unit boundary; or
3) The presence of a reach boundary in HSPF.

Maintaining similar lengths of the segment was also a consideration but did not supersede the three criteria previously mentioned. The model segmentation is presented in Figure

B-9. As shown in the figure, there are 18 model segments in the tidal prism box model, with five segments associated with tributaries.

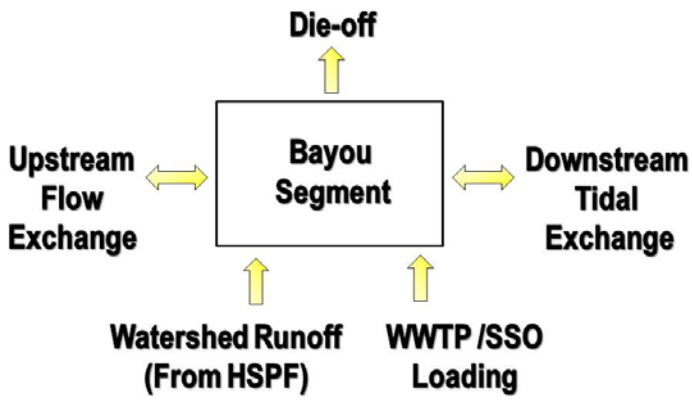


Figure B-8. Tidal Prism Box Model Conceptual Model

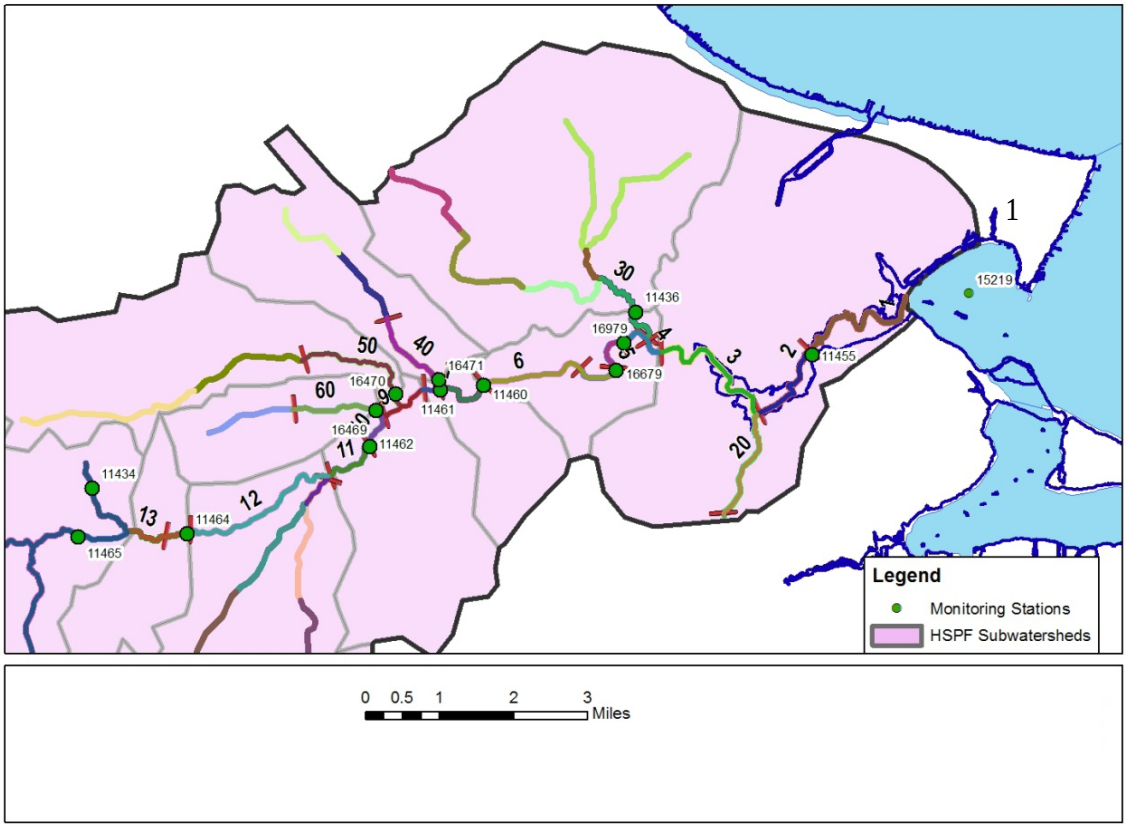


Figure B-9. Tidal Prism Box Model Segmentation

The changes in volume associated with changes in water level due to tidal fluctuations are a critical component that must be accounted for in the tidal prism box model. Data used

to specify the changes in water levels include stream cross-sections, tidal boundary conditions at Eagle Point (NOAA station 8771013), as well as inputs of WWTPs, SSOs, and the upstream boundary condition from the non-tidal portion of the watershed (from the HSPF model). Watershed runoff from tidal subwatersheds, simulated using the HSPF model was also an important component of the tidal prism box model.

The Enterococci concentration assigned to each facility was 8.3 MPN/dL, which is a value derived from *E. coli* sampling conducted at the Galveston County WCID No. 1 Plant. The *E. coli* value was transformed using the ratio of the *E. coli* recreational use geometric mean criteria to the Enterococci recreational use geometric mean criteria. Similarly, the SSO discharges were assigned typical Enterococci concentrations associated with SSOs of 3.1×10^5 MPN/dL (TCEQ, 2008) reduced by 72% to reflect a delivery ratio as specified in the EPA Report on Combined and Sanitary Sewer Overflows (2004). A summary of WWTP and SSO discharges for baseline/calibrated conditions is provided in Table B-1.

Table B-1. Summary of WWTF and Sanitary Sewer Overflow Discharges in the Tidal Prism Model

Model Segment	Source	Self-Reported Average WWTF Flow (MGD)[2]	SSO Flow (m^3/hr)	Assigned Concentra-tion (MPN/dL)	Average Load (MPN/day)
1	Duratherm Asset Acquisition Corp	0.091	-	8.3	3.01E+08
	Hillman Shrimp & Oyster Co.	0.005	-	8.3	6.28E+05
2	Via Bayou RV Park	0.002	-	8.3	6.28E+05
4	Sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs)	-	3.01E-05	310,840	2.24E+06
5	SSOs	-	7.22E-04	310,840	0.00E+00
6	Galveston County WCID #1	2.759	-	8.3	1.74E+09
	Penreco - Dickinson TX Plant	0.057	-	8.3	1.79E+07
	SSOs	-	7.47E-04	310,840	5.57E+07
7	SSOs	-	3.04E-03	310,840	2.27E+08
11	SSOs	-	3.04E-03	310,840	2.27E+08
20	Sea Lion Technology	0.058	-	8.3	1.82E+07
30	Marlin Atlantis White	n/a[1]	-	n/a[1]	n/a[1]
	SSOs		13.1	310,840	9.77E+11
40	SSOs		6.86E-02	310,840	1.02E+09
50	SSOs		7.74E-03	310,840	2.89E+08

[1] The EPA PCS database does not report flow for this WWTP

[2] average flow reported between November 1999 and February 2007;

The tidal prism box model was tested using salinity values, which act as a conservative tracer to confirm the adequacy of the model hydraulics as well as the simulated freshwater

inflows and tidal exchange. Salinity data from TCEQ monitoring stations collected between June 16, 1999 and October 13, 2008 were used for the calibration effort.

A plot of the average salinity concentrations longitudinally along the bayou are presented in Figure B-10. The overall average error between observed and modeled salinities at all locations over the simulation period was 17%. Based on the salinity model runs, the model hydraulics are considered sufficient to simulate the hydrodynamics of the tidal segment of Dickinson Bayou with a satisfactory level of accuracy.

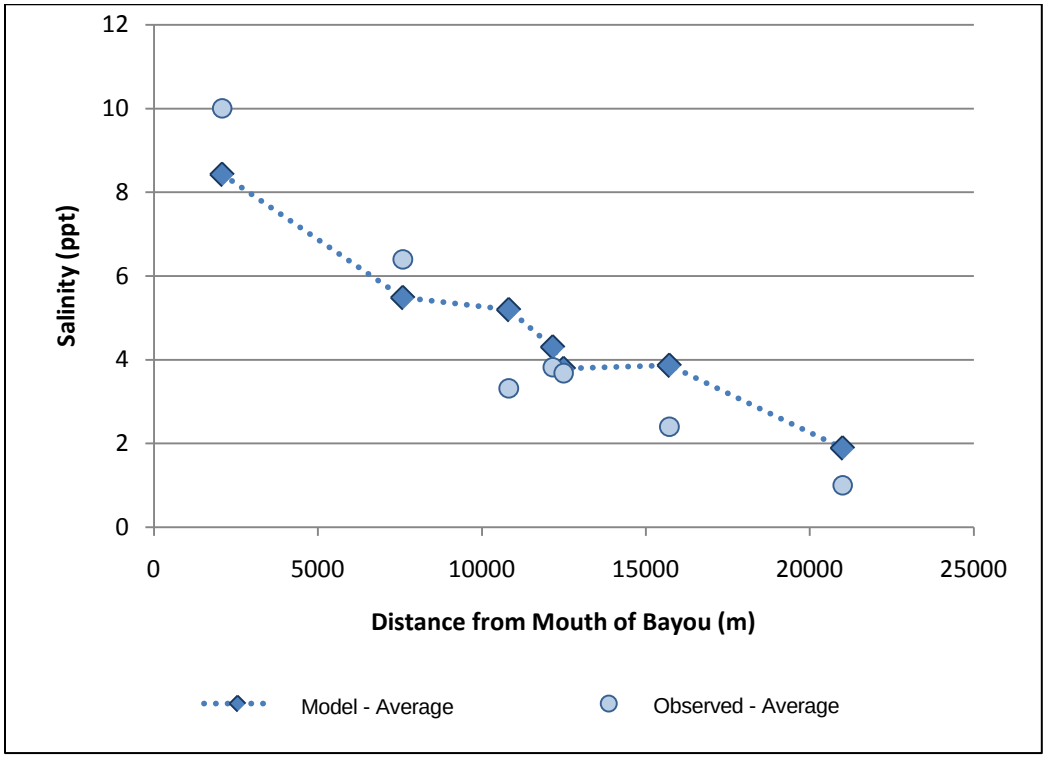


Figure B-10.Longitudinal Profile of Simulated and Observed Salinity in Dickinson Bayou

To simulate bacteria, the tidal prism box model must account for several sources of bacteria as detailed in the conceptual model. These Enterococci sources and sinks include WWTPs, SSOs, and HSPF inflows, as well as upstream boundary conditions, downstream boundary conditions and bacteria reductions due to die-off.

Boundary conditions are an important consideration in the tidal prism box model. The downstream boundary condition in the tidal prism box model was specified using observed data from TCEQ monitoring station 15219. This station is close to the outlet of Dickinson Bayou and generally has concentrations near the detection limit with an average concentration between 10 and 13 MPN/dL during the period it was monitored between May 8, 1997 and July 27, 2005.

The upstream boundary condition used for the tidal prism box model was defined using *E. coli* concentrations simulated by HSPF simulated flows entering the tidal portion of the Dickinson Bayou watershed; these *E. coli* concentrations were transformed into Enterococci concentrations using a ratio of the geometric mean criteria for contact recreation (35/126). Like the upstream boundary condition, all *E. coli* runoff concentrations simulated in the HSPF model were also transformed into Enterococci concentrations using this ratio. The transformed bacteria concentrations were input into the tidal prism box model as point sources for each model segment. The TMDL was calculated based on median flows for each assessment unit simulated in the tidal prism model for the period from June 1, 1999 through November 5, 2001.

Appendix C.
Future Growth Analysis

Methodology

The methodology used to predict future growth to 2050 is based on the approach used in the Clear Creek TMDL effort. This appendix describes the procedure used for the future growth prediction.

Municipal Wastewater Projections

Municipal wastewater flow projections are based on the population difference between the 2010 population estimate and the 2050 population estimates obtained from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). If a WWTF was located within a city, the population growth for that city was used to project future WWTF flows; otherwise, county population projections were used. Table C-1 presents the population estimates for 2010 and 2050 for cities and counties in the Dickinson Bayou watershed.

Next, the per capita permitted flow for each city in the watershed was determined for 2010. To do this, permitted flows were obtained for all WWTFs within the cities. A summary of the WWTFs used to calculate the total flow by city is shown in Table C-2 and a summary of the per capita flow by city is shown in Table C-3. The future permitted flow for 2050 was projected using the calculated per capita flow, and is included in Table C-3.

For WWTFs within city limits, the amount of the city's wastewater flow made up by the facility was determined and is shown in Table C-4. For example, at Galveston County WCID No.1, the permitted flow is 4.8 MGD in 2010. As shown in Table C-3, the total permitted flow in the City of Dickinson is 4.8 MGD and thus the facility comprises 100% of the City of Dickinson's permitted flow. Then, to arrive at the 2050 permitted flow for the facility, the estimated future permitted flow for the city was multiplied by the percentage of the city's wastewater flow handled by the WWTF.

Table C-1 . Summary of Population Estimates for Dickinson Bayou Watershed

City/County	2000 U.S. Census Population	2010 Population Estimate	2050 Population Estimate	Percent Increase (2000-2050)
Alvin	21,413	23,231	30,375	42%
Dickinson	17,093	19,955	24,921	46%
Friendswood	29,037	32,353	38,107	31%
League City	45,444	53,546	67,613	49%
Manvel	3,046	3,046	3,046	0%
Santa Fe	9,548	10,141	11,170	17%
Texas City	41,521	41,891	42,534	2%
Galveston County	250,158	268,714	300,915	20%
Brazoria County	241,767	285,850	459,078	90%

For WWTFs not located within a city, a slightly different approach was taken. In this case, the growth expected between 2010 and 2050 for the county was used to estimate the projected wastewater flows for the facility. For example, the Meadowland WWTF (TPDES ID 13632-001) is located in Brazoria County, which is expected to grow by 90% between 2010 and 2050. Therefore, the 2010 permitted flow was increased by 90% to reflect this growth, estimated to be 0.095 MGD.

Table C-2. Summary of Permitted Flows by City

City or County	TCEQ Permit ID	NPDES ID	Permittee	Assessment Unit	Permitted Flow (MGD)
Dickinson	14570-001	TX0127248	Marlin Atlantis White Ltd	1103_02	0.5
Dickinson	10173-001	TX0023655	Galveston County WCID 1	1103_02	4.8
Texas City	14326-001	TX0124761	Via Bayou RV Park	1103_02	0.02
Texas City	10375-001	TX0023949	City of Texas City	1103_04	12.4
Santa Fe	10174-001	TX0023671	Galveston County WCID No. 8	n/a	1.5
League City	10568-003	TX0071447	City of League City	n/a	0.66
League City	10568-005	TX0071447	City of League City	n/a	7.5
Santa Fe	10174-001	TX0023671	Galveston County WCID No. 8	n/a	1.5
Bacliff	10627-001	TX0021369	Bacliff MUD	1103_02	1.03

Table C-3. Per Capita Flow by City

City	Per capita Gallons Per Day	Total permitted flow (MGD) - 2010	Total permitted flow (MGD) - 2050
Dickinson	2.41E-04	4.80	5.99
League City	1.52E-04	8.16	10.30
Texas City	3.19E-04	13.37	13.58
Santa Fe	1.48E-04	1.50	1.65

Industrial Wastewater Projections

For industrial facilities, the expected increase in industrial water demand calculated by the TWDB between 2010 and 2050 was used to estimate future WWTF discharges. A summary of the water demands is presented in Table C-5 for Dickinson Bayou watershed. As shown in the table, increases of 27% to 36% are expected in the watershed.

Next, to determine the 2050 permitted flow, the permitted flow for each industrial facility was multiplied by the growth in industrial water demand expected for the county in which it is located; the values were obtained from TWDB. A summary of projected permitted

flows is presented in Table C-6. Permitted flows from industrial facilities are expected to range between 0.025 MGD to 1.051 MGD in 2050.

Table C-4. Summary of Future Permitted Flows by WWTF

TCEQ Permit	Permittee	City/Location of Outfall	2010 Permitted Flow (MGD)	Percent of city flow	Percent growth in county	2050 Permitted Flow - All
10173-001	GALVESTON COUNTY WCID No.1 -WWTP	Dickinson	4.800	100%	n/a[3]	5.995
14570-001	MARLIN ATLANTIS WHITE	Dickinson	0.5[2]	33%	n/a[3]	1.998
14326-001	VIA BAYOU RV PARK	Texas City	0.020	0.15%	n/a[3]	0.020
14440-001	BRAZORIA COUNTY MUD NO. 24	Brazoria Co.	0.95	n/a[1]	90%	1.804
12935-001	PINE COLONY WWTF	Brazoria Co.	0.050	n/a[1]	90%	0.095
13632-001	MEADOWLAND UTILITY WWTF	Brazoria Co.	0.023	n/a[1]	90%	0.044

[1] Facility not located within city limits

[2] Facility not yet in operation

[3] City flow used to predict population growth

Table C-5. Summary of Future Industrial Water Demands for Dickinson Bayou Watershed

County	2010 Water Demand (acre-ft)	2050 Water Demand (acre-ft)	Percent increase in industrial water use
Galveston	41,005	51,967	27%
Brazoria	260,239	354093	36%

Table C-6. Summary of Permitted Industrial WWTF Discharges in 2050

TCEQ ID	Facility name	County	Permitted Flow (MGD)	2050 Permitted Flow (MGD)
03416-000	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF TEXAS INC	Galveston	0.829[1]	1.051
03479-000	SEA LION TECHNOLOGY	Galveston	0.020	0.025
04086-001	DURATHERM ASSET ACQUISITION CORP	Galveston	0.091[1]	0.115
00377-000	PENRECO - DICKINSON TX PLANT	Galveston	0.075	0.095
03749-001	HILLMAN SHRIMP & OYSTER CO.	Galveston	0.070	0.089

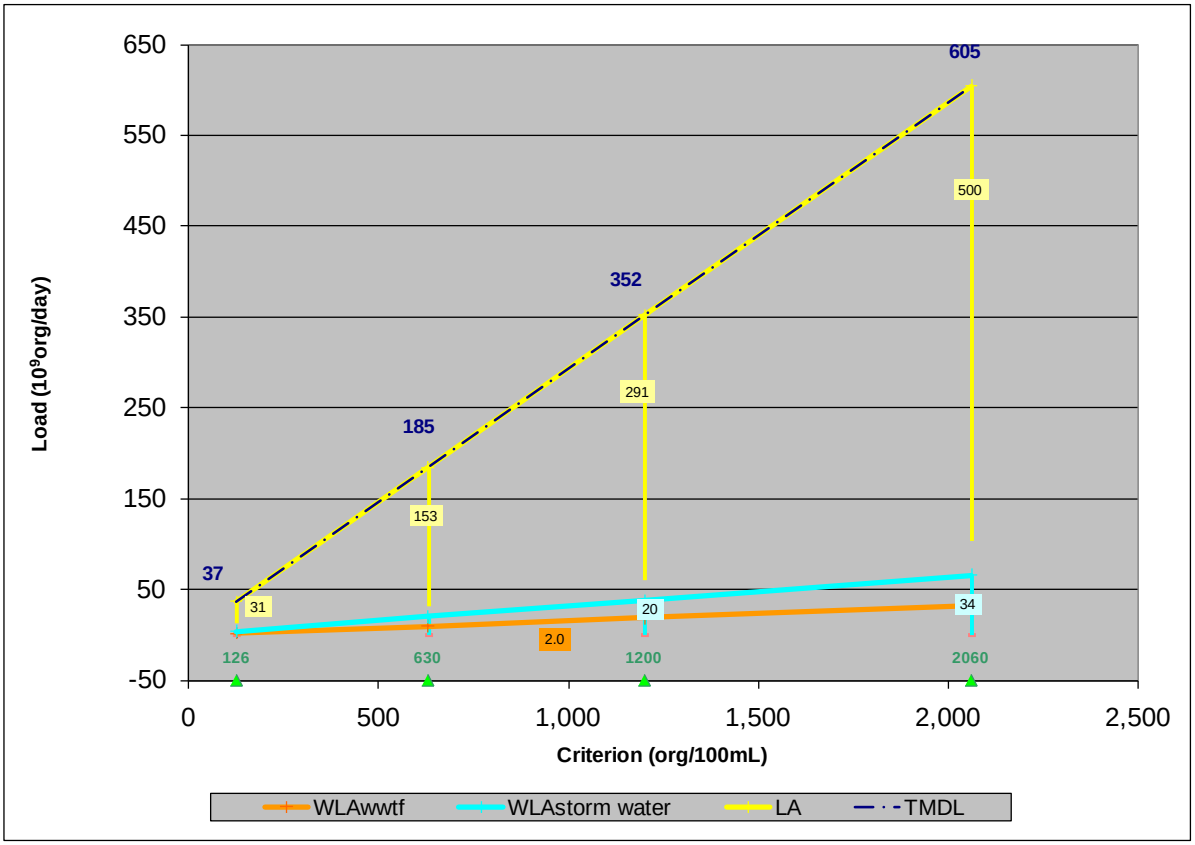
Intermittent flow, average reported flow used instead

Permitted flow not available

Appendix D.
Method for Calculating TMDL Allocations for Revised Contact Recreation Standards

The TCEQ is currently in the process of revising contact recreation criteria for fresh water bodies. The method described below details the equations and procedure that will be used for revising the TMDLs and associated wasteload allocations detailed in this document for the assessment units in the Above-tidal Segment of Dickinson Bayou (Segment 1104). Provisions for revising TMDL and TMDL allocations to reflect changes in criteria in the assessments units of Dickinson Bayou Tidal (1103) have not been developed at this time, as there are currently no contact recreation standard revisions under consideration for tidal segments in Texas.

Assessment Unit 1104_01



Equations for Calculating New TMDL and Allocations

$$TMDL = 0.2849 * Std + 2.17$$

$$LA = 0.2536 * Std + 0.19$$

$$WLA_{Stormwater} = 0.0171 * Std - 0.01$$

$$WLA_{WWTF} = 1.97$$

where:

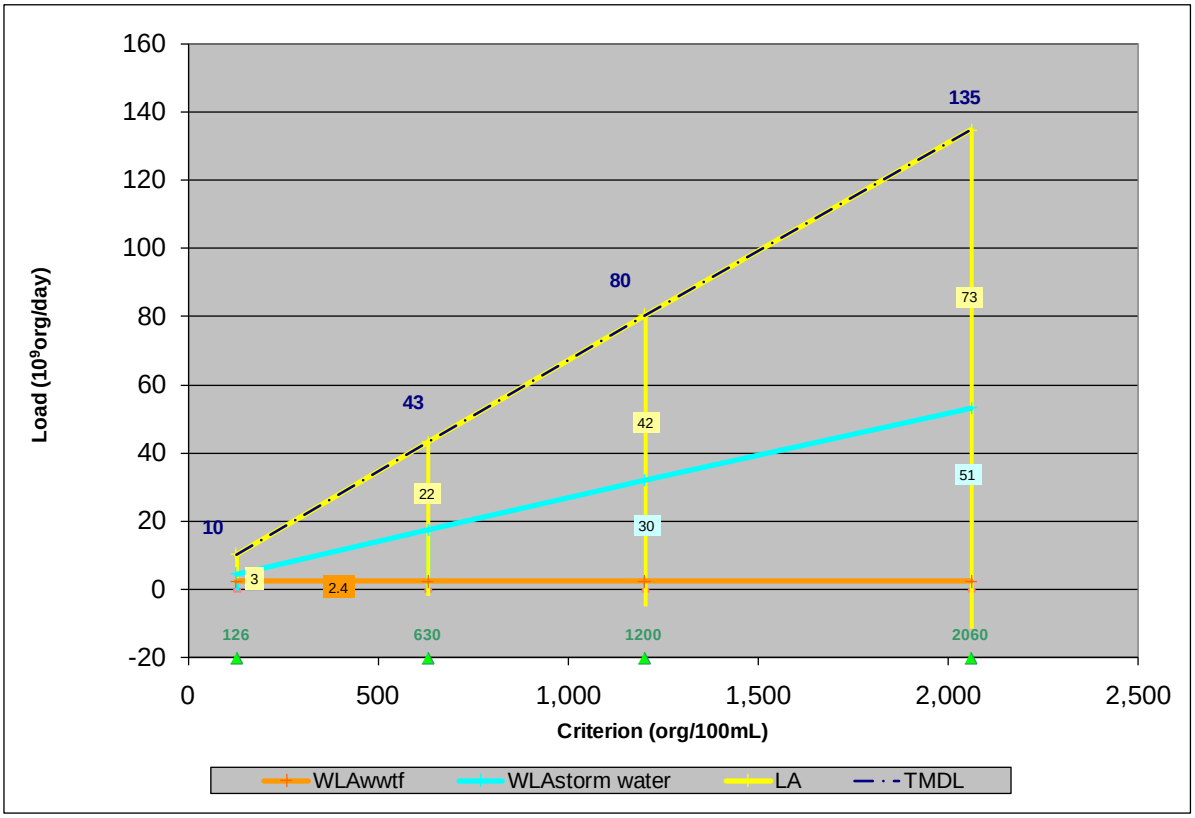
WLA_{WWTF} = wasteload allocation (permitted WWTF);

$WLA_{stormwater}$ = wasteload allocation (permitted stormwater);

LA = load allocation (unregulated source contributions);

Std = Revised Contact Recreation criteria.

Assessment Unit 1104_02



Equations for Calculating New TMDL and Allocations

TMDL = 0.643 * Std + 0.49

LA = 0.0359 * Std - 1.14

$WLA_{Stormwater}$ = 0.0251 * Std - 0.80

WLA_{WWTF} = 2.44

where:

WLA_{WWTF} = wasteload allocation (permitted WWTF);

$WLA_{Stormwater}$ = wasteload allocation (permitted stormwater);

LA = load allocation (unregulated source contributions);

Std = Revised Contact Recreation criteria