



Arroyo Colorado: Watershed Protection Plan Implementation

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| Water Body | Arroyo Colorado Tidal (Seg 2201), Arroyo Colorado Above Tidal (Seg 2202) |
| Location | Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties |
| River Basin | Nueces-Rio Grande Coastal (22) |
| Contractor | Texas Water Resources Institute |
| Project Period | September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2011 |
| Project Total | \$806,280 (Federal 60% and Local Match 40%) |

Project Description

The Arroyo Colorado flows through Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties in the Lower Rio Grande Valley into the Laguna Madre. Agriculture is the primary land use of the region, and it has one of the fastest growing populations in the nation. As a result of low dissolved oxygen levels, the tidal segment of the Arroyo Colorado (2201) does not currently meet water quality standards and has been listed on the Texas 303(d) List since 1996. There have also been concerns about high nutrient levels. In response to low dissolved oxygen levels, the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership was formed, and a Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) was created in 2007.

This project was initiated to assist in funding the implementation efforts of the WPP by funding the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Coordinator (ACWC) position. The ACWC facilitated the Quarterly Steering Committee and Work Group meetings of the Partnership. The ACWC also facilitated implementation of the WPP through education and outreach activities as well as other activities designed to promote private and public support. Over 30,000 watershed residents were educated about the Arroyo Colorado through various outreach activities. The ACWC worked to identify agencies with similar goals to the Partnership in order to coordinate and integrate the efforts of the Partnership with the activities of the groups identified. TWRI submitted 39 grant proposals and 12 were funded. A total of 22 road signs were installed to mark major entry points to the watershed.

Current Status

This contract ended August 31, 2011.

Public Participation

Many volunteer opportunities are available to the public such as water quality monitoring, clean-up events, and financially supporting the Partnership. Please visit the "How can you help?" section of the [Partnership's website](#) for more information.



For More Information

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Websites

www.arroyocolorado.org/

Project Highlights

- 04/2007 – Contract executed.
- 10/2007 – The Semi-Annual Newsletter was distributed to over 600 individuals.
- 04/2008 – The Semi-Annual Newsletter was distributed to over 700 individuals.
- 11/2008 – The Semi-Annual Newsletter was distributed to over 700 individuals.
- 11/2008 – 10 road signs were installed to mark major entry points to the Arroyo Colorado watershed.
- 03/2009 – Amendment 1 was executed to extend the contract through 02/28/2010.
- 04/2009 – Volunteers installed more than 1,000 storm drain markers in various cities.
- 06/2009 – The Semi-Annual Newsletter was distributed to over 700 individuals.
- 02/2010 – Amendment 2 was executed to extend the contract through 04/30/2010.
- 04/2010 – Amendment 3 was executed to extend the contract through 08/31/2010.
- 08/2010 – Amendment 4 added \$172,500 to the contract and extended it through 8/31/2011.
- 08/2010 – Wetlands maintenance training was held at the Estero Llano Grande State Park in Weslaco.
- 07/2011 – Amendment 5 was executed to adjust the water quality database task.
- 08/2011 – Water quality graphs were linked to monitoring sites on the Arroyo website.
- 08/2011 – The Semi-Annual Newsletter was completed.
- 08/2011 – Contract ended.
- 12/2011 – The WPP Progress Report was finalized.
- 12/2011 – The Project Final Report was finalized.