

Use-Attainability Analyses for the Atascosa River

Dania Grundmann
Texas Commission for Environmental Quality
Water Quality Planning Division
Total Maximum Daily Load Program
August 30, 2012



Purpose of recent study

- n Evaluate if the current aquatic life use and recreational use for the Atascosa River are appropriate
- n **Why** are we conducting this study?
 - Depressed DO levels have been measured in the Atascosa since 1996.
 - Elevated bacteria levels have been measured in the Atascosa since 1996.
- n **How** will we evaluate the uses?
 - Use-attainability analyses

Use-Attainability Analysis

- n A use-attainability analysis (UAA) is an assessment of environmental and economic factors that affect the attainment of a use for a specific body of water.
- n The goal is to ensure that appropriate uses are assigned to a particular water body.
- n Conducting an UAA does **not** mean that a change in the water quality standard will/must occur.

Types of UAA studies

- n Aquatic Life Use-Attainability Analysis (ALUAA)

Two year study consisting of dissolved oxygen and streamflow measurements; fish and benthic macroinvertebrate surveys; and habitat assessments.

- n Recreational Use-Attainability Analysis (RUAA)

Warm weather study consisting of streamflow and stream measurements, observation of bank access and current and historical uses.

Project Participants

- n TCEQ TMDL Program – facilitating contracting and project management
- n TCEQ Water Quality Standards Group – determine appropriate water quality uses and criteria for Texas bodies of water
- n Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board – state agency with primary responsibility for programs to abate agricultural nonpoint sources of water pollution
- n Texas AgriLIFE Research – TCEQ contractor tasked with coordinating public outreach efforts in the Atascosa River watershed
- n Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research – TCEQ contractor tasked with collecting water quality data as assigned by TCEQ

Contact Information

Dania Grundmann

E-mail danial.gundmann@tceq.texas.gov

Telephone 512/239-3449

Fax 512/239-1414 fax

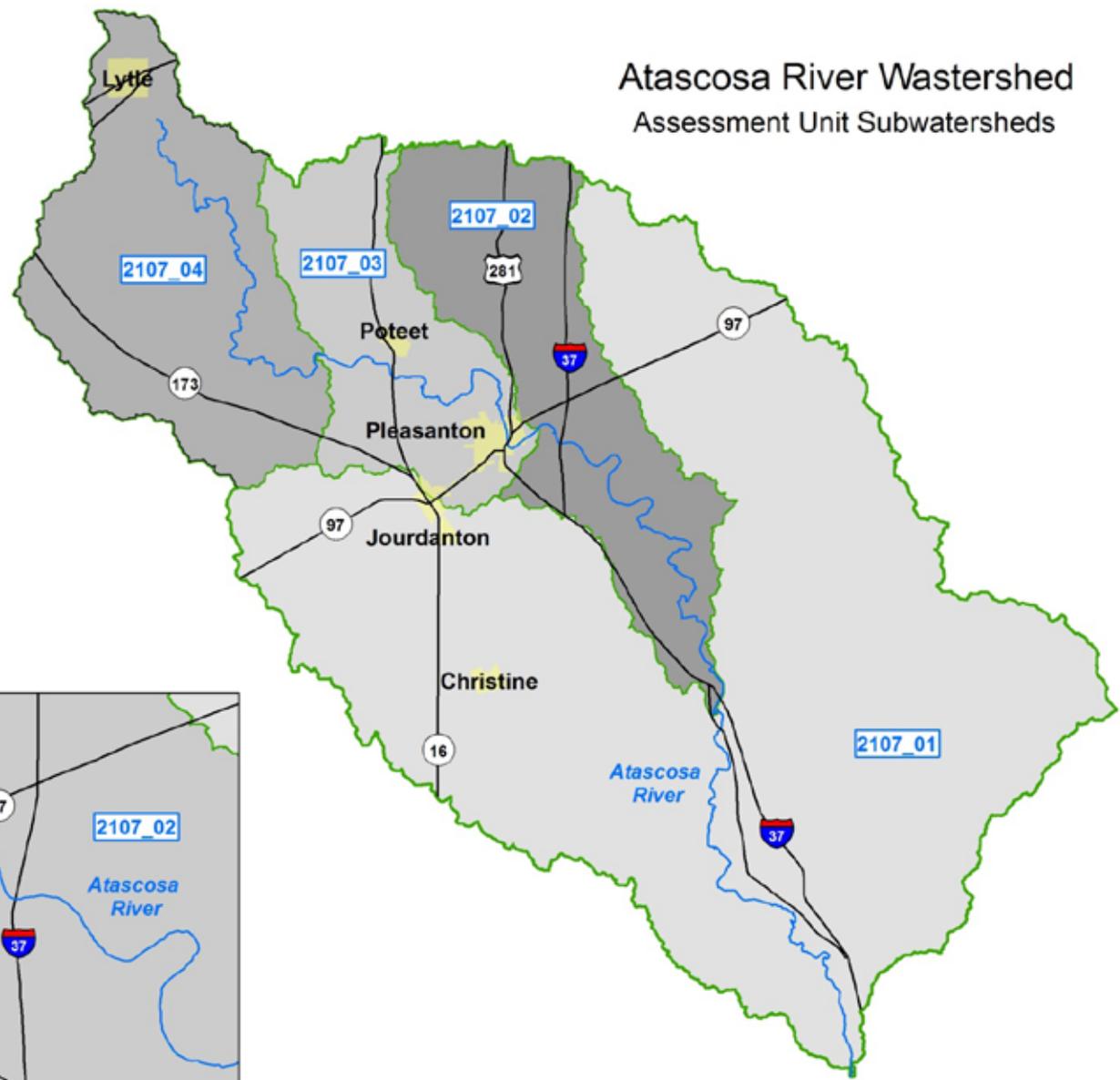
Mail PO Box 13087 (MC 203)

Austin, TX 78711-3087

Web www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/31-atascosa.html



Atascosa River Watershed Assessment Unit Subwatersheds



Pleasanton Area

