



Lower Laguna Madre Watershed Characterization

Water Body	Lower Laguna Madre Watershed
Location	Cameron County
River Basin	Nueces-Rio Grande Coastal Basin (22)
Contractor	Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI)
Project Period	February 12, 2014 to December 31, 2016
Project Total	\$358,960 (Federal 60% and Local Match 40%)

Background

The Lower Laguna Madre Watershed is located south of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed, north of the Rio Grande Watershed and contributes approximately 25 percent of the freshwater flow into the Lower Laguna Madre Bay. The watershed includes the City of Brownsville and numerous townships in the surrounding area. There is a lack of water quality data collection regarding the Resacas (ancient distributary channels of the Rio Grande River) and limited data has been collected to assess the watershed's impairments, concerns, and determining the contributing sources for these impairments.

Project Description

This project will identify existing data to characterize the land use, water quality, and hydrologic circumstances in the watershed. Data collection will be used to fill existing data gaps that are identified. The characterization is needed to identify a path forward in selecting an analytical method for estimating pollutant loads. Input from stakeholders will be used to determine the goals, objectives, and indicators for addressing the water quality impairments and concerns. Information and partnerships from this project will provide the foundation for future development of a watershed-based plan.

Current Status

Steering Committee has decided to develop a Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) in a proposed future project. An amendment to the existing contract is under development to extend the contract to allow for 2 years of water quality monitoring and to complete a few tasks prior to beginning modeling the watershed in the next project. Monitoring to begin in October 2016.



For More Information

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Project Highlights

- 02/2014 – Contract executed.
- 03/2014 – Project kick-off meeting held.
- 10/2014 – Secondary Data QAPP executed.
- 03/2015 – Initial stakeholder meeting held. A draft Public Participation Plan (PPP) was presented.
- 03/2015 – Draft Monitoring QAPP submitted to TCEQ.
- 07/2015 – Stakeholder meeting held. Partnership name changed to the Lower Laguna Madre. PPP finalized.
- 02/2016 – Stakeholder meeting held. Partnership decided to form a Steering Committee at the next meeting. Brownsville Ship Channel added to Partnership name.
- 05/2016 – Stakeholder meeting held.
- 06/2016 – Stakeholder meeting held.
- 07/2016 – Stakeholder meeting held.
- 07/2016 – Lower Laguna Madre Assessment Unit 2491_03 add to the Watershed Action Planning List as a Special Interest waterbody.
- 10/2016 – Monitoring QAPP executed.