



## Lower Nueces River Watershed Protection Plan Implementation: Septic System Remediation

**River Basin:** Nueces River

**Water Body:** Lower Nueces River (Segment 2102)

**Location:** Corpus Christi, Jim Wells, Nueces, San Patricio

### Background

The Nueces River below Lake Corpus Christi does not meet water quality standards for total dissolved solids, and although the river meets state bacteria standards for primary contact recreation, the Nueces River Authority (NRA) and Clean Rivers Program (CRP) identified a trend of increasing bacteria concentrations. The City of Corpus Christi and NRA developed the Lower Nueces River Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) which was accepted by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2016. WPP management measures include repair and replacement of septic systems to prevent bacteria levels from exceeding standards. Three concurrent projects have implemented septic system management measures.

### Project Descriptions

*February 2017 - February 2020*

NRA developed and promoted a voluntary system inspection program that offered technical and financial assistance to qualifying homeowners for the repair of 12 systems and the replacement of 19 others. In-stream water quality improvements as a result of this implementation will be assessed by CRP and NRA. Results will be provided via the Nueces River Partnership webpage and CRP Basin Highlights and Basin Summary reports.

*November 2017 - February 2020*

NRA evaluated the feasibility of connecting about 30 homes with septic systems to existing wastewater collection pipes or using alternative collection systems such as pressure sewers. These systems prevent groundwater infiltration from septic systems and standard collection systems, particularly in areas with high groundwater levels as in the project area. The study concluded that septic system repairs and replacements combined with connecting some of the higher elevation homes to wastewater collection pipes would improve water quality.

*October 2018 - August 2022*

NRA will continue to provide technical and financial assistance to qualifying homeowners for the repair/replacement of at least 15 septic systems. NRA will offer at least one workshop for homeowners on the importance of septic system maintenance and promote the assistance program. Promotional and educational materials will be distributed throughout the watershed.



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### For More Information

#### Project Website

[www.nuecesriverpartnership.org/](http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org/)

#### TCEQ NPS Program

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