



*Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan Implementation:
Low Impact Development Monitoring, Mapping, and Maintenance Training*

Water Body	Arroyo Colorado (Segments 2201 and 2202)
Location	Cameron and Hidalgo Counties
River Basin	Nueces-Rio Grande Coastal (22)
Contractor	Texas A&M University - Kingsville (TAMUK)
Project Period	September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2021
Project Total	\$278,740 (Federal 60% and Local Match 40%)

Background

The Arroyo Colorado flows through Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas into the Laguna Madre. Because of low dissolved oxygen levels, the tidal segment of the Arroyo Colorado (segment 2201), has not met the aquatic life use designated in the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards since 1996. A watershed protection plan was completed in 2007 to address the dissolved oxygen impairment and updated in 2017 to address new bacteria impairments. This project will implement portions of the updated WPP published in 2017.

Project Description

This project includes monitoring of bioswales and bioretention systems to determine the most effective filtering media applications for widespread adoption in the watershed. These data are essential for a simplified cost-benefit analysis to provide to planners, city managers, and county officials to bolster local ordinances and integrate low impact development (LID) into regional and local planning activities. This project also includes training for LID operation and maintenance, delineation of the area of uncertainty in the northern boundary of the watershed, development of the Arroyo Colorado watershed portion of a regional cyber-infrastructure database, and an optimization study for locating future best management practices within subwatersheds.



Current Status

This project began September 1, 2018 and the post-award meeting was held. The TCEQ project manager visited one of the sites. QAPPs are currently being developed.

For More Information

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Project Highlights

- 09/2018 – Project begins.
- 02/2019 – TCEQ Project Manager visited one of the monitoring sites.
- 03/2019 – Presentation on project given at the Arroyo Colorado Steering Committee meeting.