



## Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan Implementation: Septic System Inventory

**River Basin:** Nueces-Rio Grande Coastal

**Water Body:** Arroyo Colorado (Segments 2201 and 2202)

**Location:** Cameron and Hidalgo Counties

### Background

The Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership developed the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) in 2007 to address low dissolved oxygen and high bacteria. Because of the high likelihood of septic system failure within the watershed and the large number of stakeholders affected by these failures, the WPP identifies septic system management as a high priority. Creating a septic system inventory and tracking WPP implementation are critical in initiating coordinated WPP implementation efforts.

### Project Descriptions

Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) will access current and historical septic system permit records to develop a watershed-wide septic system database. The database will help identify areas that have a high probability of septic system failure. The geospatial data will be analyzed, mapped, and added to the Arroyo Colorado website. The information will be used to coordinate with wastewater treatment facility operators to plan for future inclusion of septic systems and colonia infrastructure.

TWRI will also develop education and outreach materials and host workshops on watershed and septic system management, specifically targeting homeowners. TWRI will also perform neighborhood surveys, septic system inspections, and pump outs. Educational materials will also be used to encourage continued stakeholder involvement in WPP implementation. Stakeholder involvement will ensure successful implementation and tracking of the Arroyo Colorado WPP septic system management measures.



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### For More Information

#### Project Website

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

#### TCEQ NPS Program

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