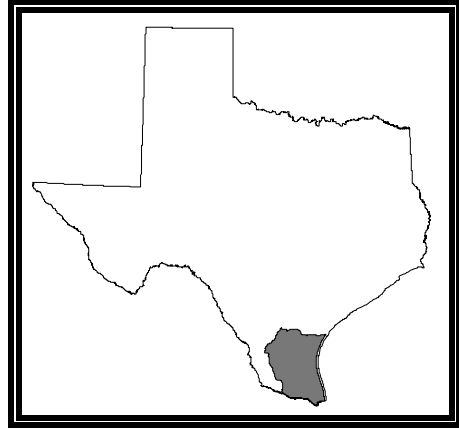


## Basin 22

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## Nueces–Rio Grande Coastal



## **Nueces–Rio Grande Coastal Basin Narrative Summary**

The Nueces–Rio Grande Coastal Basin lies on the coastal plain between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande, and drains into the Laguna Madre, Baffin Bay, and Oso Bay. The total drainage area is 10,442 square miles. The economy is based primarily on agriculture, oil and gas production, and tourism. Irrigated production of fruit and vegetables is a prominent industry.

The basin has been divided into four classified stream segments which encompass 147 stream miles, consisting of tidal and above-tidal reaches of the Arroyo Colorado and Petronila Creek. In addition, one unclassified reservoir encompassing 333 acres was evaluated for the year 2002 assessment. There are ten active monitoring stations in the basin.

The Arroyo Colorado provides most of the drainage in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and receives much of the municipal, industrial, and agricultural wastewater generated in the area. Flow in the Arroyo normally is sustained by irrigation return flows and municipal wastewater discharges.

Fecal coliform densities are elevated in the Arroyo Colorado above tidal (2202). General uses are not supported in Petronila Creek above tidal (2204) due to elevated chloride, sulfate, and total dissolved solids concentrations, or in Petronila Creek Tidal (2203) due to elevated temperature. Nutrient concentrations are elevated in Segments 2201 and 2202, and algal growth concerns exist for Segments 2202, 2203, and 2204. The Texas Department of Health has issued fish consumption advisories for the Arroyo Colorado above tidal (2202) due to elevated DDE and other organic compounds fish tissue, and for Donna Reservoir (2202A) due to elevated concentrations of PCBs in fish tissue.