

A week in the life of a watermaster



Amy Settemeyer, Manager
Watermaster Section



Watermasters ensure compliance with water rights

- Active water management
- Real-time-monitoring
- Site investigations
- Enforcement
- Scheduling diversions
- Allocating water among diverters

Existing Programs

- *Rio Grande*

- *Fort Quitman to the mouth of the Rio Grande River, excluding the Pecos and Devils Rivers; and including the portion of the Nueces-Rio Grande Costal Basin in Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy, and Starr Counties*

- *South Texas*

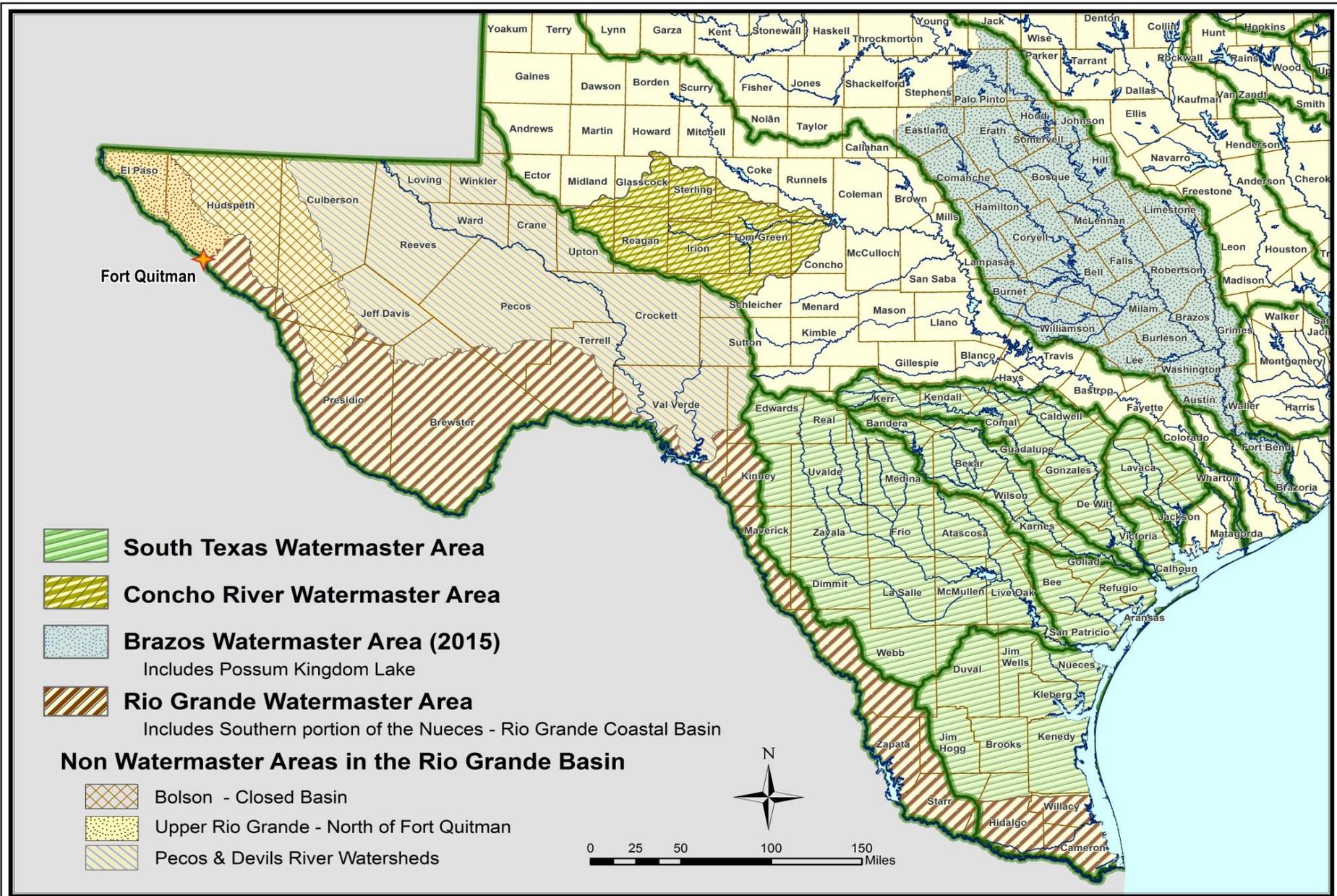
- *Nueces, San Antonio, Guadalupe, and Lavaca river basins, plus adjacent coastal basins.*

- *Concho River*

- *Concho River segment of the Colorado River Basin*

- *Brazos*

- *Brazos River Below and Including Lake Possum Kingdom*



Texas Watermaster Areas

Common Permitted Uses



Exempt Uses

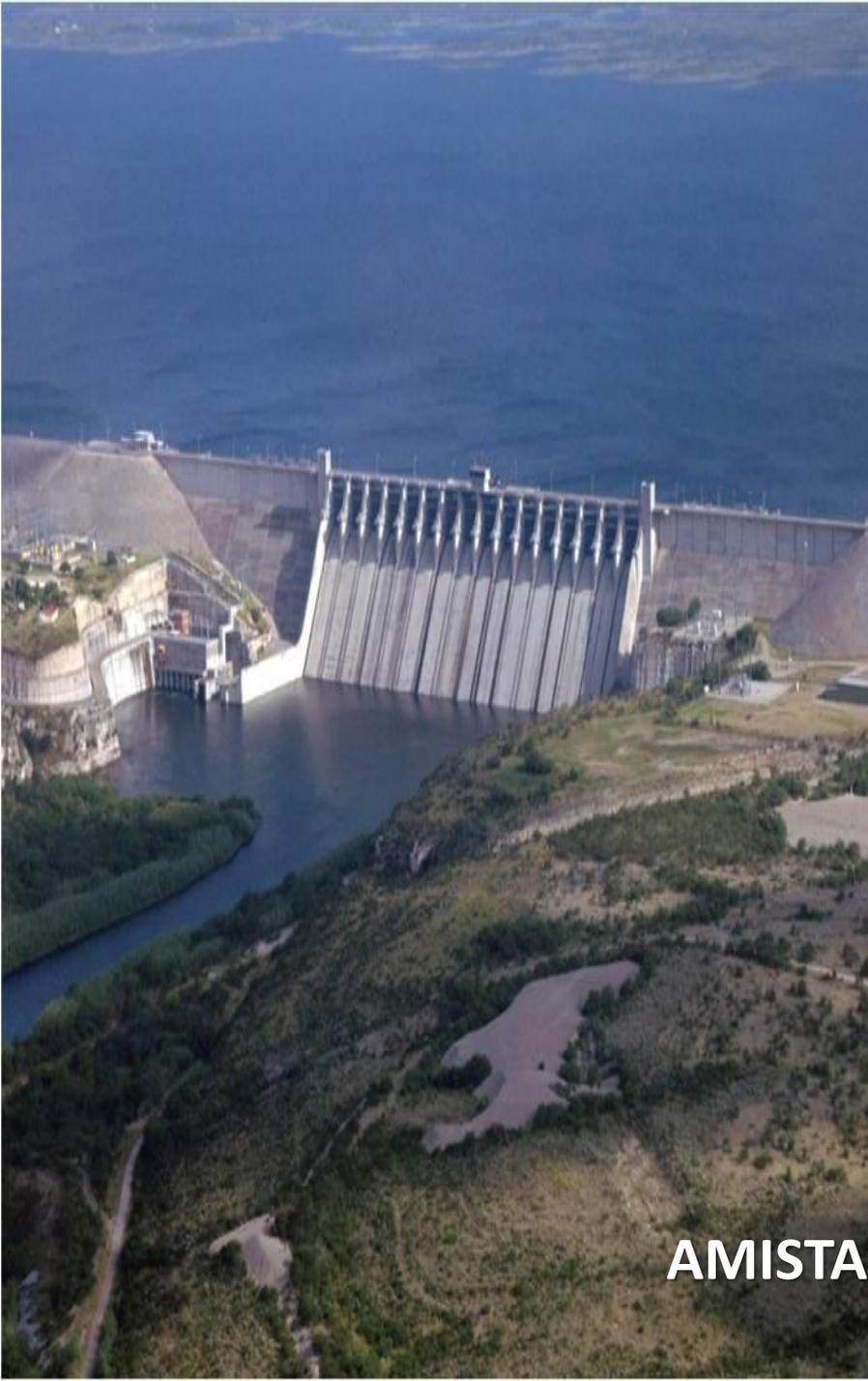


Differences in Programs

- **South Texas / Concho / Brazos / Upper Rio Grande**
 - *“Run of the River”* - Water right holders take their permitted diversions or impound water as it flows along the watercourse.
 - *“First in time is first in right.”*
- **Lower and Middle Rio Grande**
 - *Lower Rio Grande (below Lake Amistad)* – water is stored in Amistad and Falcon Reservoirs, then released downstream when requested by water right holders based on their available balances.
 - Allocations made to irrigation accounts if water is available.
 - Municipal accounts reset to max AWR each year.

Watermasters allocate water between users

- Maximize beneficial use of water
- Diverters must call the watermaster before diverting water
 - Watermaster will evaluate and either approve, adjust, or deny request.
- In times of shortage watermaster may limit diversions:
 - Suspensions, curtailments, schedules
 - In RGWM, no allocations



AMISTAD RESERVOIR



FALCON RESERVOIR

Duties of a Watermaster

- Conduct river investigations
- Monitor stream flow, reservoir levels, and water use.
- Enforce compliance with water rights.
- Respond to complaints and inquiries.
- Establish a watermaster advisory committee.

“Conduct River Investigations”

- Day-to-day investigations
- Respond to complaints



“Monitor stream flows”



Conduct flow measurements in the field



Utilize USGS gages

Setting a stream flow marker:



Verify pumps and meters

- Meter must be inspected and verified by the watermaster before it may be used to divert water.





Click to add header

PUMP/METER INFORMATION SHEET

Permit #		Date	
Owner Name:		Phone:	Business
Diverter/Agent:			Home
			Cell
Current Address:			
E-mail Address:			
Area Surrounding:		Meter:	
Beginning Date		Ending Date	
Start Time		Ending Time	
Pump Information:		Pump #	
Serial #			
Max Meter Reading			
Beg. Meter Reading			
Type:	GPM	CFS	AF
Factor:	x.01	x.001	x.0001
	x10	x100	x1000
	Other:		
Max Rate			
LAT		LONG	

Revised: 4/20/11



Meters



Pumps



Enforce Compliance

- Ensure water right holders comply with terms of their permits and adjudications
- Address non-permitted diversions
 - Issue Notices of Violation
 - In some cases, Notices of Enforcement
 - If applicable, issue a Field Citation
 - Refer to Small Business & Local Government Assistance program
- Respond to complaints

Examples of Violations



Watermaster Advisory Committee



- ***9 to 15 members serve a 2-year term***
 - Water right holders, such as water authorities/districts, cities, industries, and agriculture
- ***Meet at least 1/year to provide input on the annual budget.***
- Provide recommendations to the E.D. regarding water administration and distribution activities that would benefit water rights holders.
- Perform other duties requested by the E.D. regarding watermaster operations, or by water rights holders that the WAC determines would benefit water rights administration.

Communication

- In-person questions during investigations
 - Deputies often meet with diverters during day-to-day activities.
- Respond to complaints and inquiries
- Scheduled meetings with water right holders and interested people

Training / Continuing Education



Requirements for Diverters

- Comply with the water right
- Divert water according to watermaster rules
 - Install an accurate measuring device.
 - Before diverting, contact and receive approval from the watermaster.
 - After pumping, submit a report.
- Pay annual fees based on authorized water right amount and use.

DOI required



Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
DECLARATION OF INTENT TO DIVERT

Received by		
Time	<input type="checkbox"/> am <input type="checkbox"/> pm	Date
Permit/Certificate number		

Owner
Agent
Address

is authorized to divert _____ acre-feet of water with pump number _____ for the period and rates shown below.

DATE	FROM	TO

GPM	CFS

Deputy/Area _____ Watermaster _____

TCEQ-06527 (Rev. 2/82)



Funding a Watermaster Program

- Watermasters operate only from fees paid by the water right holders in the watermaster area.
 - The program's WAC must review the proposed annual budget.
 - TCEQ's Commission must approve amount to assess.

TXWAS

- *Texas Watermaster Accounting System*
 - Database with information regarding water rights their water use.
 - Pump Operation Reports (POR)
 - Declarations of Intent (DOI)
 - Used for generating annual fee assessments that are mailed to the owner of each water right in the program.



TX Watermaster Accounting System

Quick Cert

Quick POR

Quick Meter:

Quick Search



Daily Activities Menu

- Enter Account Number ▾
- New Diversion
 - Browse Diversion
 - View Account
 - Edit Account
 - Edit Client
 - Audit

- Enter Cert Number ▾
- View Diversion
 - Edit Diversion
 - Process POR
 - Cancel Cert

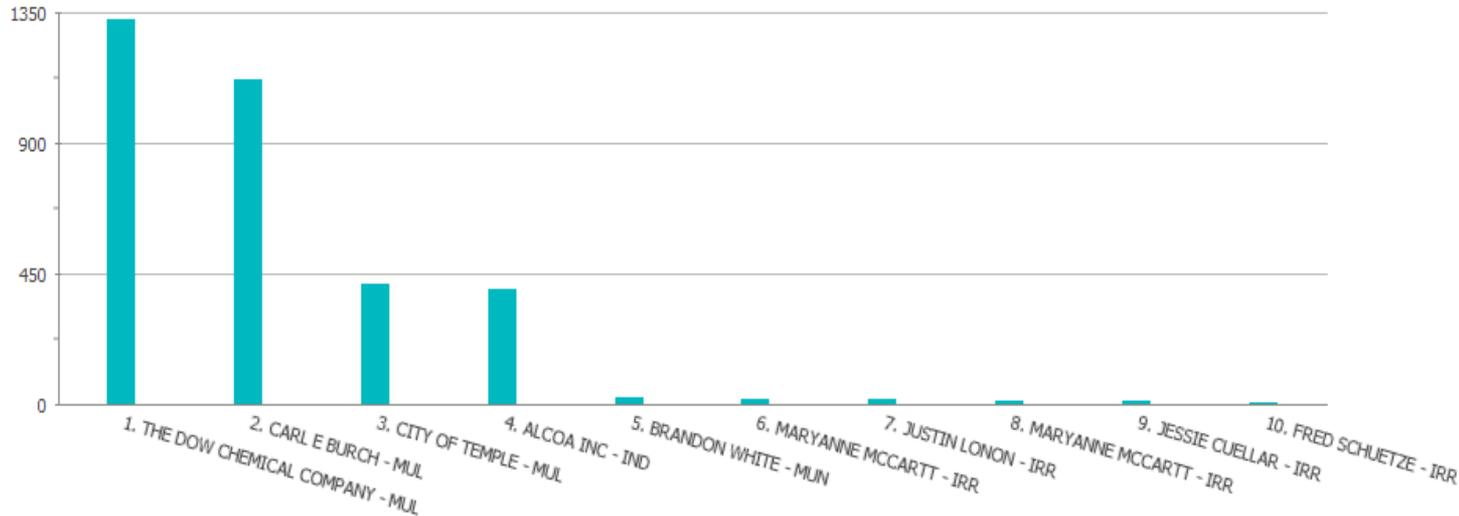
- [Billing](#)
- [Outstanding POR's](#)
- [Active Diversions](#)
- [Open Diversions](#)
- [BRA Diversions](#)
- [Diversion Approval Report](#)

[Search Latitude/Longitude](#)
 (0) contract(s) expiring in the next 60 days.

Daily Statistics

Certs Outstanding: 262 Pending PORs: 248	Certs Received To Date: 1006 POR's Closed To Date: 744	Certs Received Current Period: 19 POR's Closed Current Period: 81	Certs Received Previous Period: 191 POR's Closed Previous Period: 312	Total AF Diverting: 3,361.6124
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Top Ten Diversions



Questions?

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General Questions:

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