



Recreational Use Attainability Analysis for the Arroyo Colorado Above Tidal Segment 2202

Public Meeting
July 22, 2010

July 22, 2010

Nueces River Authority



What is an RUAA?

- Standardized mechanism for capturing information on the types of recreational uses occurring in a water body.
- Documentation of physical stream characteristics that affect recreational uses.
- Documentation of observed, historical, and anecdotal recreational uses.
- Data used for regulatory decision-making about recreational use characterization.



Proposed Contact Recreation Use Revisions

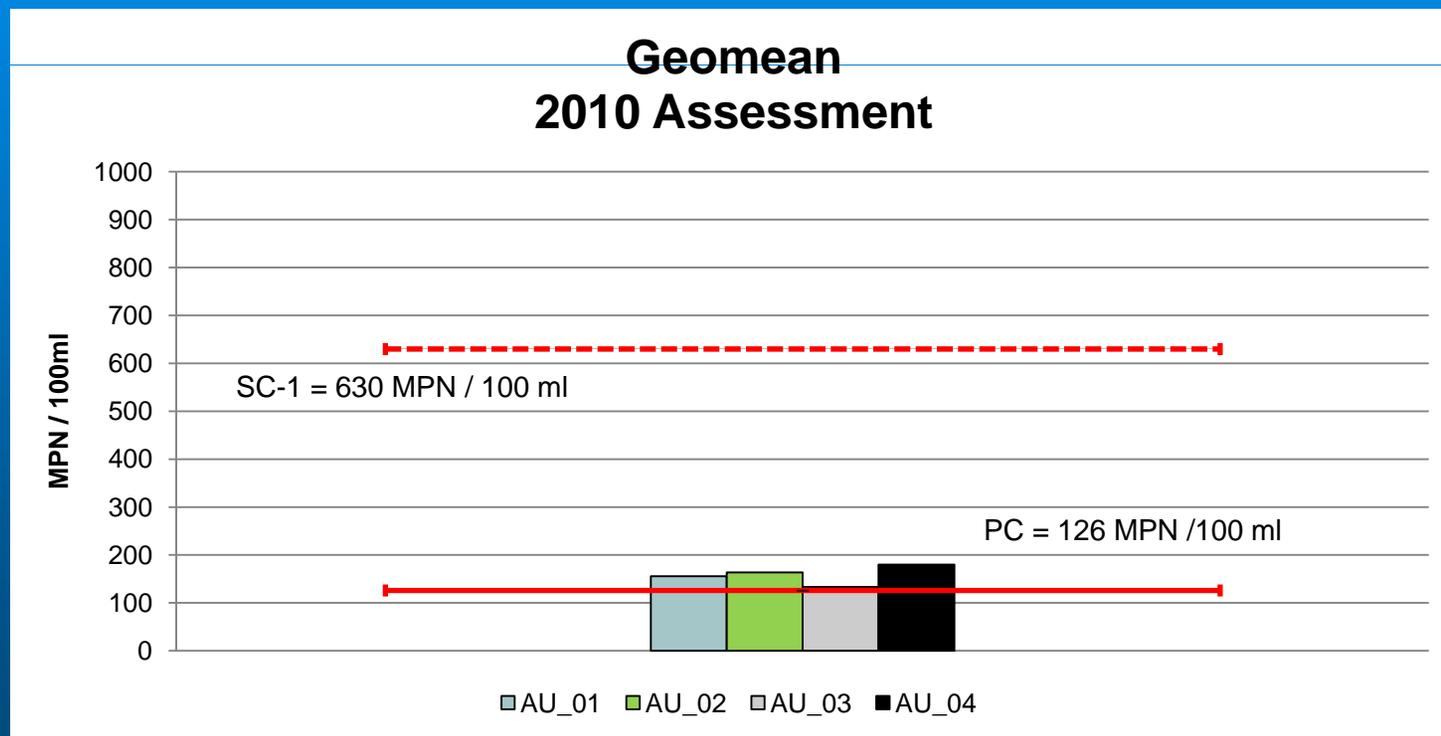
Category	Definition Summary
Primary Contact* (126 cfu)	Significant risk of ingestion (immersion activities) – swimming, diving, water skiing, etc.
Secondary Contact – 1 (630 cfu)	No significant risk of ingestion (non-immersion activities – wading, fishing, etc. Stream depth generally < 0.5 meters
Secondary Contact – 2 (1030 cfu)	No significant risk of ingestion; recreational activities occur less frequently because of physical characteristics or limited access
Non-Contact* (605 cfu – 2060 cfu)	Contact recreation should not occur because of unsafe conditions – heavy ship traffic, waterfowl area, etc.

* Current WQS (2000) Contact Recreation Uses



Why Conduct an RUAA on the Arroyo Colorado?

- On the State's List of Impaired Water Bodies (303d) since 1996





What Does an RUAA Involve?

- Monitoring sites are identified (try for 2-3 sites per every 5 miles)
- Questionnaires / telephone surveys are conducted for people with local knowledge of the types of recreation activities that occur
- Public meetings are held to solicit additional information
- Identified sites are monitored during times of most likely use (Summer weekends and holidays)
- Historic information is researched
- A final report is generated based on all the surveys and monitoring notes and submitted to TCEQ for evaluation



What's the Current Status?

- NRA conducted reconnaissance trip January 18-19, 2010
 - Identified 26 sites from Harlingen to Mission
- Final Monitoring Plan includes 23 sites
- First public meeting held April 22, 2010
- Questionnaire sent out early May 2010
- First field survey conducted May 30 – 31, 2010
- Second public meeting – July 22, 2010
- Second field survey scheduled for July 23 – 24, 2010
- Final report to be completed by August 31, 2010



Questionnaires Who Did We Contact?

- Clean Rivers Partners
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- TCEQ Regional Staff
- Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
- Local Entities



Questionnaires

What Did We Ask?

1. Is the recreational use attainability analysis appropriate for the Arroyo Colorado Above Tidal (upstream from the Port of Harlingen)?
If No, Why?
2. Can you confirm that Primary Contact recreation activities occur?
How frequently?
3. Can you confirm that Secondary Contact Recreation-1 activities occur?
How frequently?
4. Can you confirm that Secondary Contact Recreation-2 activities occur?
How frequently?
5. Can you confirm that Noncontact Recreation activities occur?
How frequently?
6. Do you know if the Arroyo Colorado Above Tidal provides substantial flow to a water body with primary contact recreation or a bathing beach that is located immediately downstream?
If Yes, What water body?



Questionnaire Results

- 82 people/organizations contacted via email / fax / telephone calls
- 15 responses
 - NRA Field Staff 2
 - TPWD 1
 - TCEQ SWQM 1
 - TCEQ Region 15 Section Manager 1
 - TCEQ Region 15 Environmental Investigator 1
 - City of San Juan Chief Plant Operator 1
 - City of McAllen Engineer 1
 - City of Harlingen City Engineer 1
 - City of Pharr Public Utilities Director 1
 - IBWC CRP Project Manager 1
 - Texas AgriLife Extension Service 3
 - Arroyo Colorado Watershed Coordinator 1

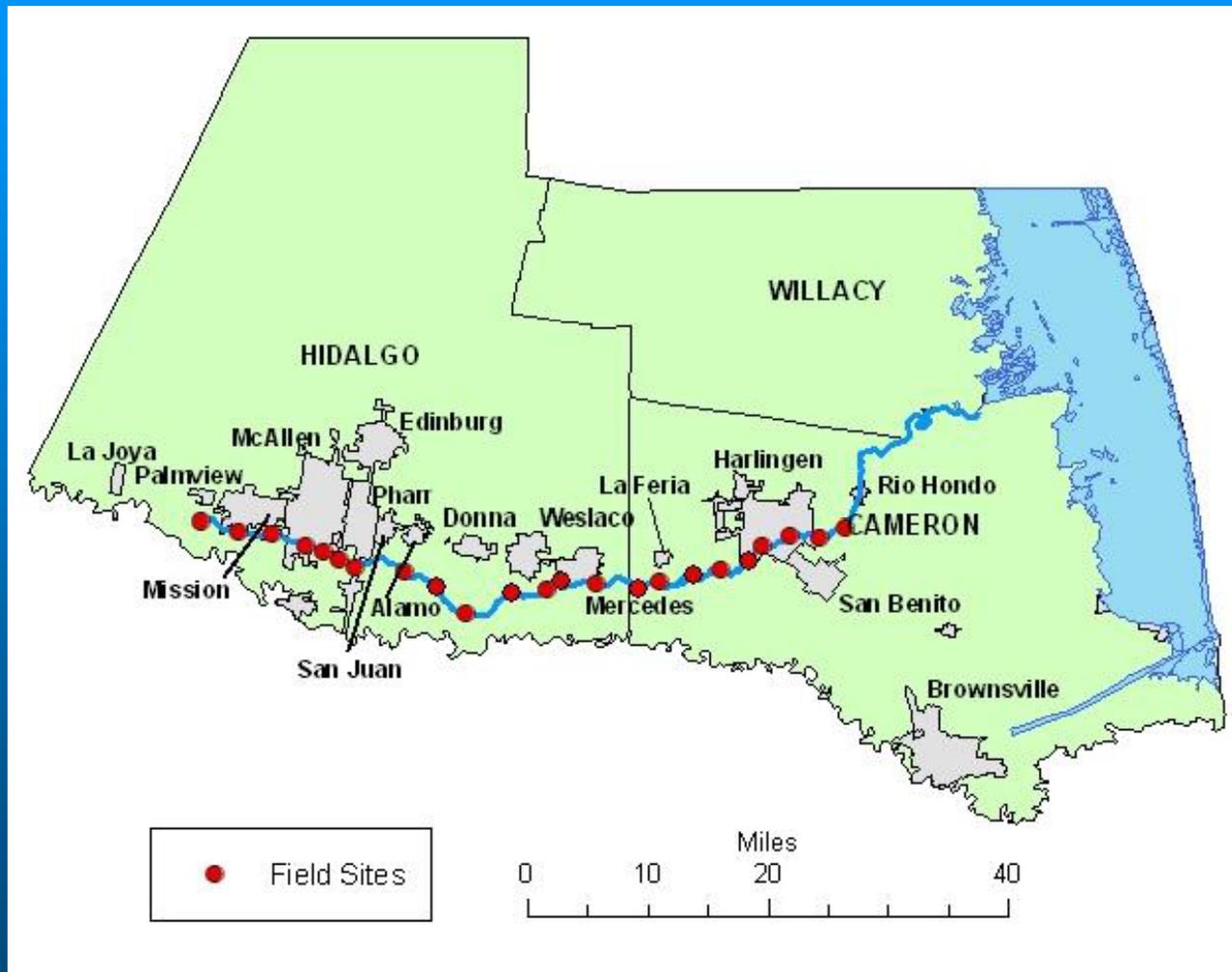


Questionnaire Results Summary

- RUAA appropriate? Yes: 12 No: 1
- Primary Contact Recreation? Yes: 4 No: 9
- Secondary Contact Recreation-1? Yes: 6 No: 6
- Secondary Contact Recreation-2 ? Yes: 10 No: 2
- Non-Contact Recreation? Yes: 10 No: 2
- Downstream Segment Used for PCR Yes: 2 No: 3



Arroyo Colorado Above Tidal Segment 2202 - Field Survey Sites



July 22, 2010

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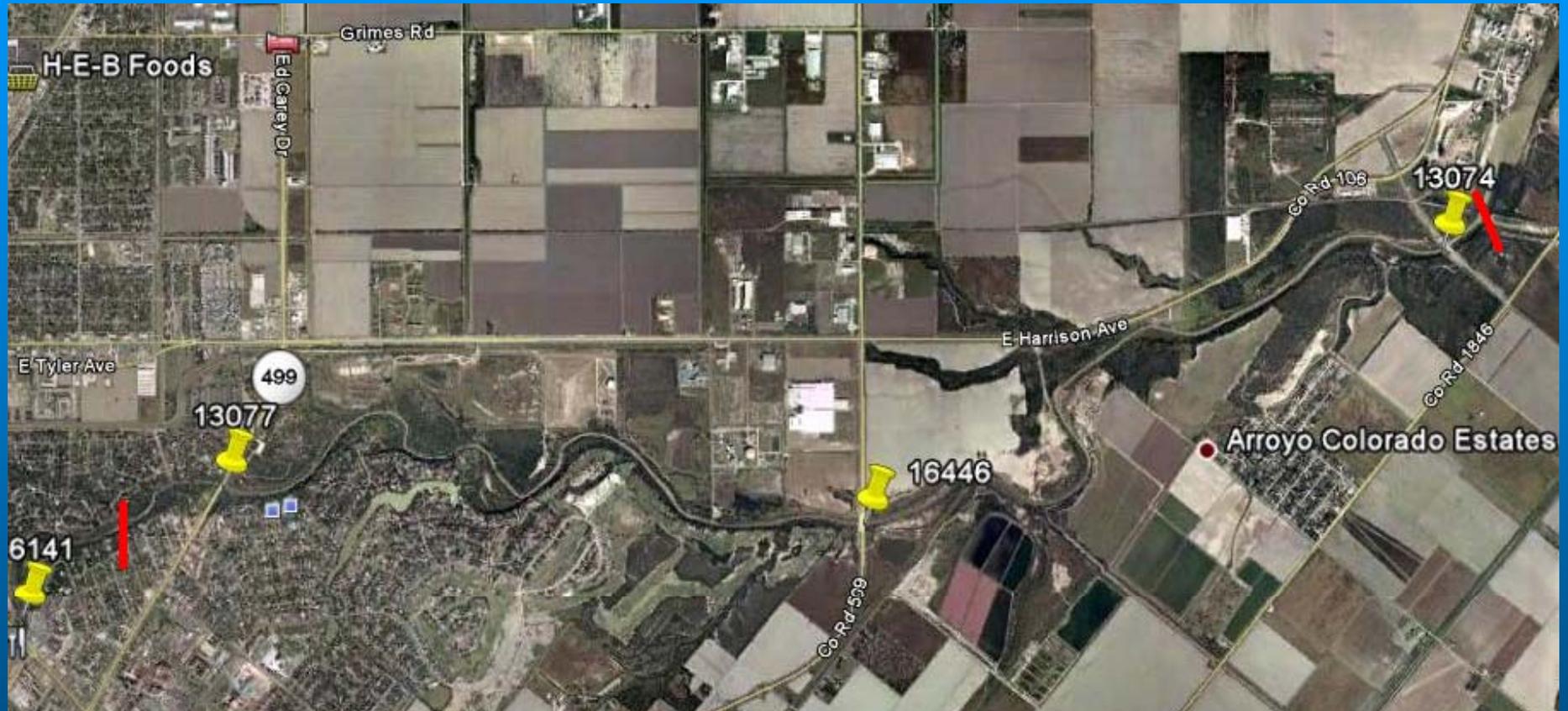
Field Surveys

What Is Recorded?

- Physical Characteristics
 - Flow
 - Water temperature
 - Water depth
 - Substrate type
- Anecdotal Information
 - Number of adults and children at the site
 - Recreation activities
 - Detailed description of the area
 - Photographs
 - Interview people at the site



Monitoring Sites – AU_01



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Monitoring Sites – AU_01

Site #1 – 13074 – Cemetery Rd



Looking downstream



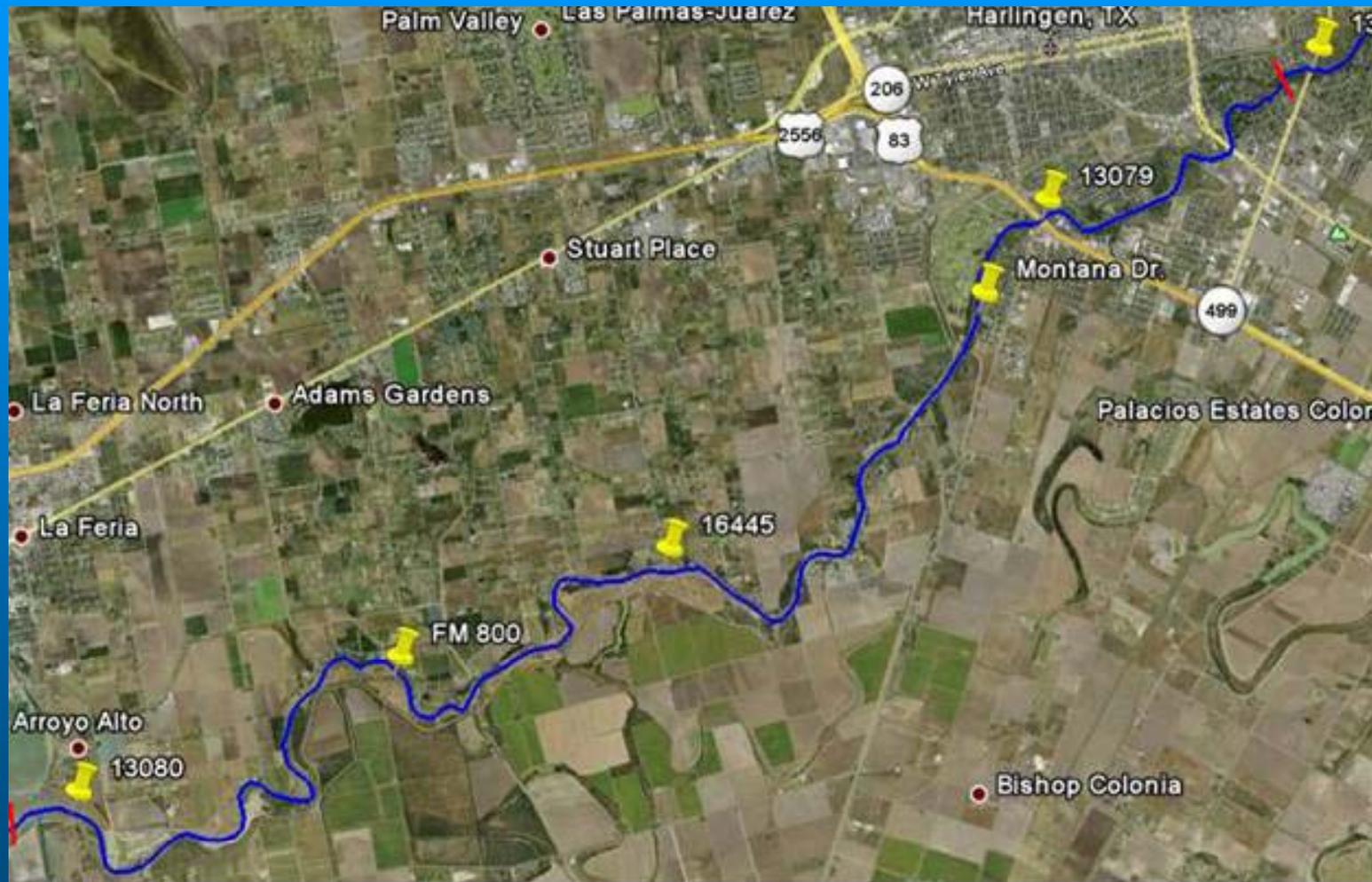
Looking upstream

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Monitoring Sites – AU_02



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Monitoring Sites – AU_02

Site #6 – 16445 – Dilworth Rd



Looking downstream



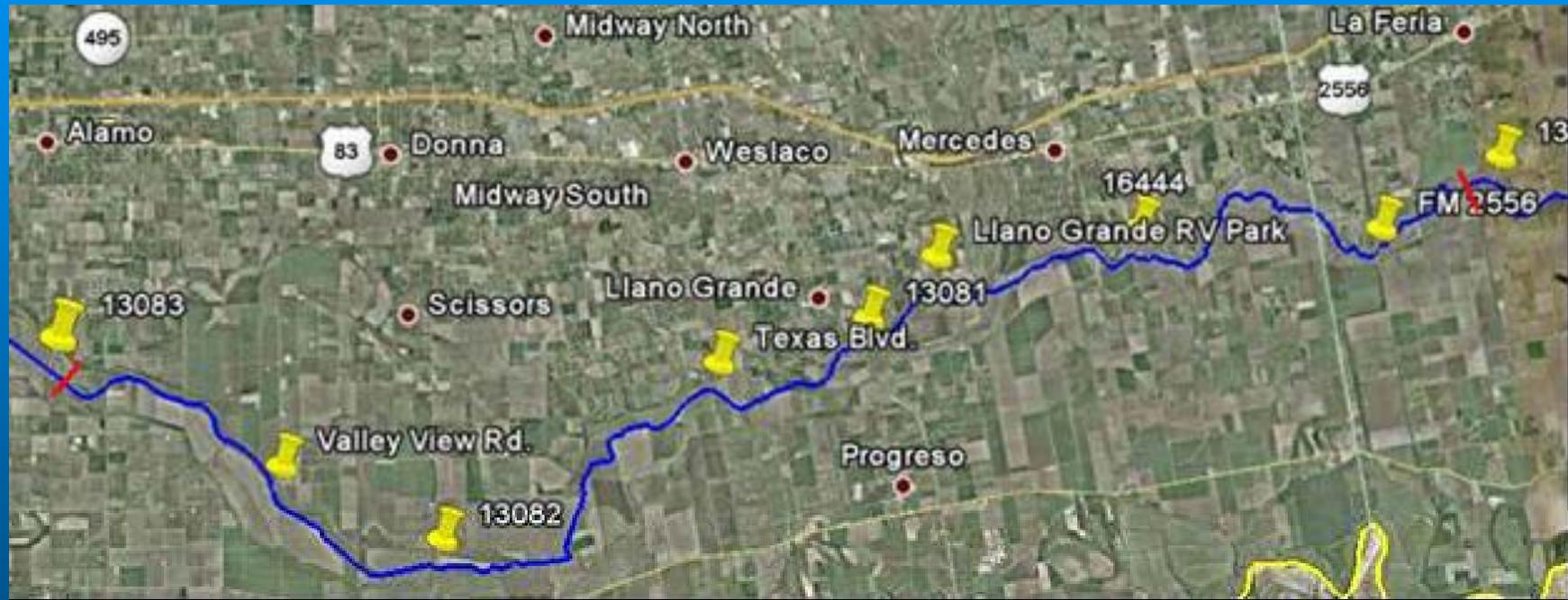
Looking upstream

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Monitoring Sites – AU_03



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Monitoring Sites – AU_03

Site #12 – 13081 – FM 1015



Looking downstream



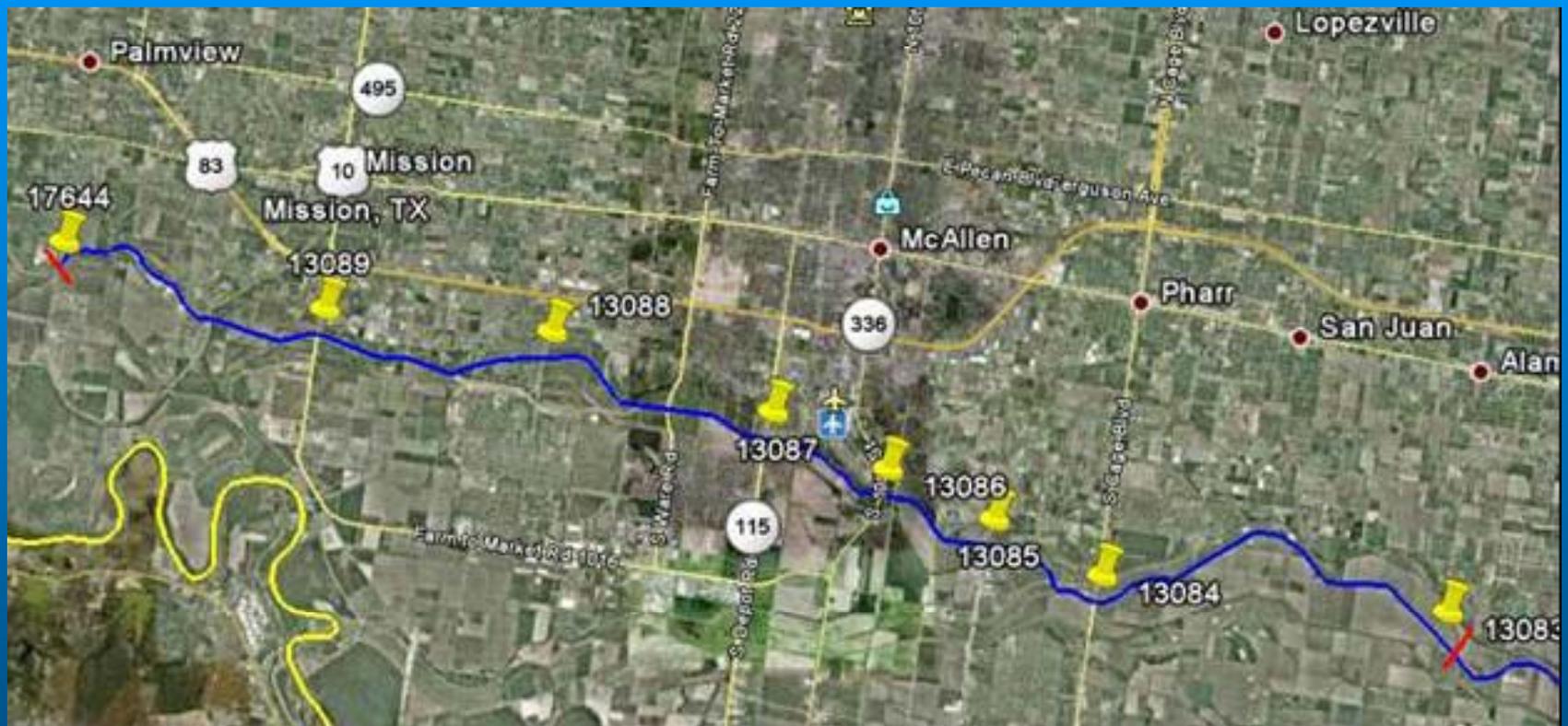
Looking upstream

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Monitoring Sites – AU_04



July 22, 2010





Monitoring Sites – AU_04 Site #20 – 13087 – FM 115



Looking downstream



Looking upstream

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Field Survey #1 Results May 30 – 31, 2010

- All 23 sites were visited
- No contact recreation observed
- Secondary contact recreation observed:
 - Site # 1, 13074, Cemetery Rd Bridge – fishing
 - Site # 2, 16446, FM 509 – fishing
 - Site # 10, 16444, FM 491 – fishing
 - Site # 12, 13081, FM 1015 – casting for bait



Field Survey #1 Results May 30 – 31, 2010

- People observed / no recreation:
 - Site # 6, 16445, Dilworth Rd
 - Site # 20, 13087, FM 115
 - Site # 21, 13088, FM 494



Field Survey #1 Results

May 30 – 31, 2010

- 6 interviews at 4 sites :
 - Site # 2, 16446, FM 509 (1)
 - Site # 6, 16445, Dilworth Rd (1)
 - Site # 10, 16444, FM 491 (3)
 - Site # 12, 13081, FM 1015 (1)
- Interviewees:
 - 5 fishing / casting for bait
 - 1 lived down the road
- All interviews confirmed secondary contact recreation of fishing and/or boating
- None reported knowing of primary contact recreation



Next Steps

1. Submit draft report to TCEQ
2. TCEQ Staff reviews
3. Report finalized
4. TCEQ Staff makes recommendations to the Commission
5. Triennial Standards Review
(including Public Comment)



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