



Lower Colorado River Basin (Wharton/Onion), Tx

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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FACT SHEET as of February 21, 2012

AUTHORIZATION: WRDA 2007, Section 1001 (43) and Section 5144

TYPE OF PROJECT: Flood Risk Management

PROJECT PHASE: Construction



CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Senators Hutchison and Cornyn (TX), Representatives **Doggett (TX-25)** and **Paul (TX-14)**

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: City of Austin; Travis County, Texas; and City of Wharton, Texas

BACKGROUND: The Onion Creek watershed, which has an area of approximately 343 square miles, is located in southern Travis and northern Hays counties in Texas. Two major flood events estimated as approximately 40-year events occurred in 1998 and 2001, with hundreds of homes being inundated and many totally destroyed. Another area subject to flooding is located along the banks of the Colorado River in the lower part of the basin, in and around Wharton, Texas, approximately 60 miles southwest of Houston. Wharton's 9,000 citizens have been subject to frequent flooding from both the Colorado River as well as from more localized events. Two major flood events estimated as approximately 25-year events have occurred since 1998. The most recent occurred in November 2004 and inundated approximately 150 homes and businesses, causing \$8 million in damages. The authorized project consists of two separable elements: Onion Creek and Wharton. The Onion Creek separable element has two components: Timber Creek and Onion Creek Forest/Yarrabee Bend. The Timber Creek component consists of the acquisition/removal of approximately 81 residential structures from the 25-year floodplain. The vacated land will be used for recreation and ecosystem restoration, with approximately 40 acres converted to a park and 16 acres restored to riparian woodlands. The Onion Creek Forest/Yarrabee Bend component consists of the acquisition/removal of approximately 410 residential structures from the 25-year floodplain. The vacated land will be used for recreation and ecosystem restoration, with approximately 100 acres converted to a park and 190 acres restored to riparian woodlands. The Wharton separable element consists of approximately 35,600 feet of levees, 2,300 feet of floodwalls, 7,000 feet of channel modifications, and interior drainage features which will effectively remove the vast majority of the city of Wharton (approximately 500 structures) from the 100-year floodplain.

STATUS: This project was included in the FY 2011 and FY2012 President's Budget but no construction funding has been allocated to date.

ISSUES: Sponsors have invested millions of dollars in advance of any Federal funding or legal agreements and are nearing their maximum cost share of the project. Without Federal funding, there is a continued high flooding risk and potential loss of life in the project areas.

<u>FINANCIAL SUMMARY (\$):</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTION</u>
Federal Cost Estimate	\$ 70,159,000
Non-Federal Cost Estimate	39,682,000
Total Project Cost	\$ 109,841,000
Allocation thru FY 2010	\$ 1,722,000
ARRA Funding	0
Allocation for FY 2011	0
Allocation for FY 2012	0
President Budget FY 2013	2,000,000
Amount That Could Be Used for FY 2013	11,428,000
Programmed Balance to Complete	\$ 45,380,000 1/
Unprogrammed Balance to Complete	\$ 21,057,000 2/

1/ Programmable Balance to Complete amount is for the Onion Creek Separable Element.

2/ Unprogrammable Balance to Complete amount is for the Wharton Separable Element.

SCHEDULE:

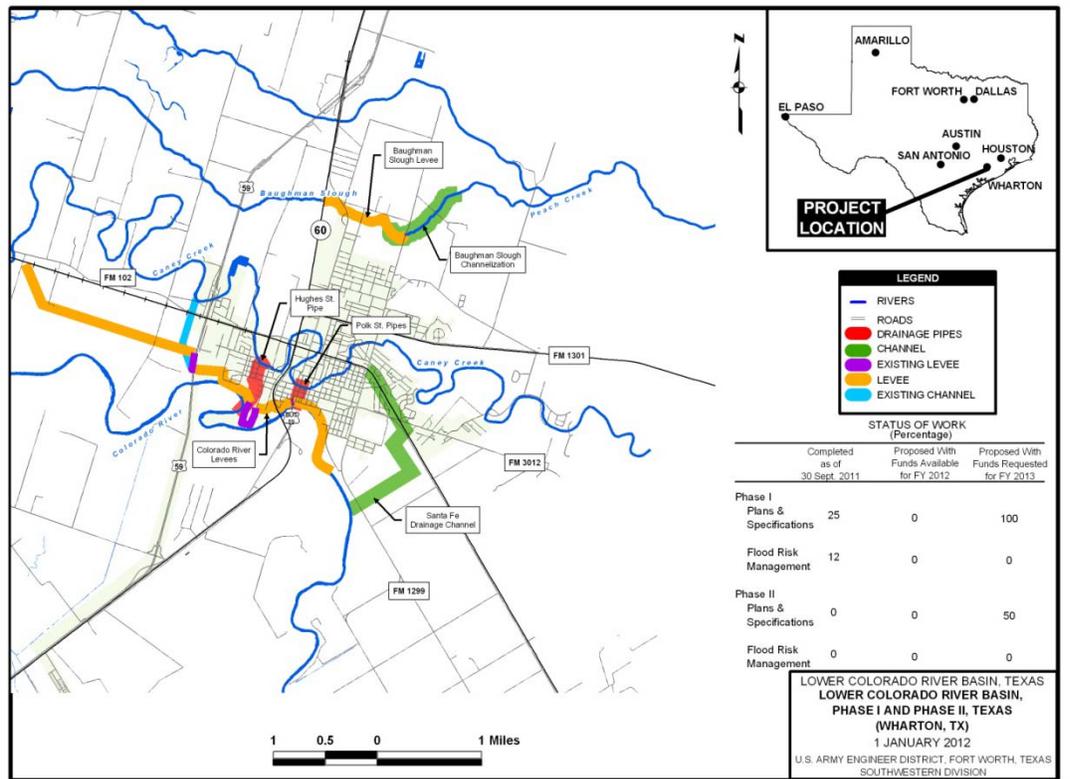
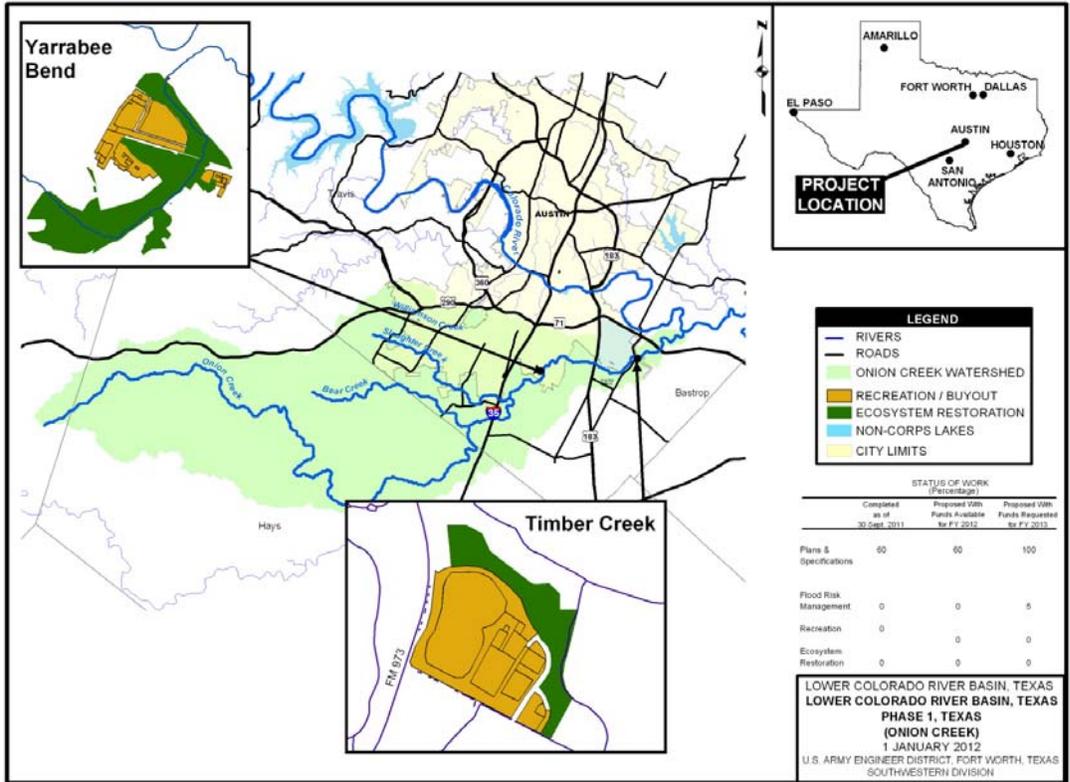
FY 2012 Scheduled Work: No activities.

FY 2013 Budget: The project included in the President's FY 2013 budget of \$2,000,000 could be used for the acquisition and removal of residential structures located in Onion Creek Forest/Yarrabee Bend (\$1,000,000); acquisition and removal of 81 residential structures along Timber Creek (\$750,000); Engineering and Design (\$175,000); and Supervision and Administration (\$75,000). Additional funds of \$9,428,000 could be used to continue the Federal portion of the buyout in the Timber Creek and Onion Creek Forest/Yarrabee Bend areas (\$3,000,000); initiate construction of the Wharton Phase I levee (\$5,400,000); initiate the design for the Wharton Phase II levee (\$650,000); and construction management for the Wharton project (\$378,000).

COMPLETION: With optimum funding, the project completion date for the Onion Creek separable element is September 2015 and for the Wharton separable element is September 2016.

For more information regarding the Lower Colorado River Basin (Wharton/Onion), TX, project contact Kathy Gately, account manager, at (817) 886-1590 or kathleen.e.gately@usace.army.mil.

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