



Lower Colorado River Basin, TX

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG

FACT SHEET as of February 21, 2012

AUTHORIZATION: House Resolution 26 dated 6 May 98 and Senate Resolution dated 31 Jul 07

TYPE OF PROJECT: Flood Risk Management

PROJECT PHASE: Feasibility



CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Senators Hutchison and Cornyn; Representatives McCaul (TX-10); Conway (TX-11); Paul (TX-14); Smith (TX-21); **Doggett (TX-25)**; Carter (TX-31)

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: Lower Colorado River Authority

BACKGROUND: The Lower Colorado River basin encompasses a geographic area of approximately 21,000 square miles, and includes portions of the following counties in central and south Texas: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Colorado, Fayette, Hays, Lampasas, Llano, Matagorda, Mills, San Saba, Travis and Wharton. The northernmost reaches of the study area include the Highland Lakes upstream of Austin, while the southernmost boundary is the Gulf of Mexico. The study area is bounded by the Guadalupe, Lavaca, and Colorado-Lavaca basins on the west, and the Brazos and Brazos-Colorado basins on the east. The major metropolitan areas within the study boundaries are Austin, Bastrop, Bay City, Columbus, LaGrange, Marble Falls and Wharton. An Information Paper, dated October 2003, documented the studies that were conducted to identify the problems, needs and opportunities of the basin. In October 1998, widespread flooding and related damages occurred throughout the Lower Colorado River basin and served as the impetus for initiating this study in 1999. Subsequently, basinwide flooding has occurred in 2002, 2004, and most recently in June 2007, when the area around the city of Marble Falls received a history-making 19 inches of rainfall within a 24-hour period. A major watershed in the basin is Onion Creek, which originates in Blanco County, continues through Hays County, and then into Travis County, where the creek flows into the Colorado River. Onion Creek is the largest creek within the rapidly growing urban area of Austin, with a drainage area of 343 square miles, collecting flows from Williamson, Slaughter, Bear, Little Bear, Rinard, South Boggy, Marble and Cottonmouth Creeks and their tributaries. The creek has a long history of flooding dating back to 1869 and most recently in 1981, 1991, 1998, 2001, 2002 and 2004. Onion Creek, Shoal Creek, Walnut Creek, Bastrop County, the Highland Lakes, and the city of Wharton have experienced increased flooding and alterations to wildlife habitat. The study identified approximately 34,000 structures in the Lower Colorado River floodplain with over \$25 million in expected average annual damages. The study

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also identified 25 potential sites for ecosystem restoration. While most of the problem areas will be addressed in specific interim feasibility studies (IFS), there are sites which await the identification of a cost sharing sponsor. IFS for Onion Creek and the city of Wharton were completed in December 2006, and were authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-114). IFS for Walnut Creek and Williamson Creek were terminated in September 2009, while Bastrop County, Highland Lakes, Shoal Creek, and Hays County are currently underway.

STATUS: The Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement with the Lower Colorado River Authority, acting on behalf of the local interests for the various interim studies, was most recently modified on 27 Aug 2010.

ISSUES: None.

<u>FINANCIAL SUMMARY (\$):</u>	<u>FEASIBILITY</u>
Federal Cost Estimate	11,635,000
Non-Federal Cost Estimate	11,510,000
Total Study Cost	23,020,000
Allocation thru FY 2010	7,902,000
ARRA Funding	0
Allocation for FY 2011	425,000
Allocation for FY 2012	407,000
President Budget FY 2013	425,000
Amount That Could Be Used for FY 2013	425,000
Balance to Complete	2,476,000

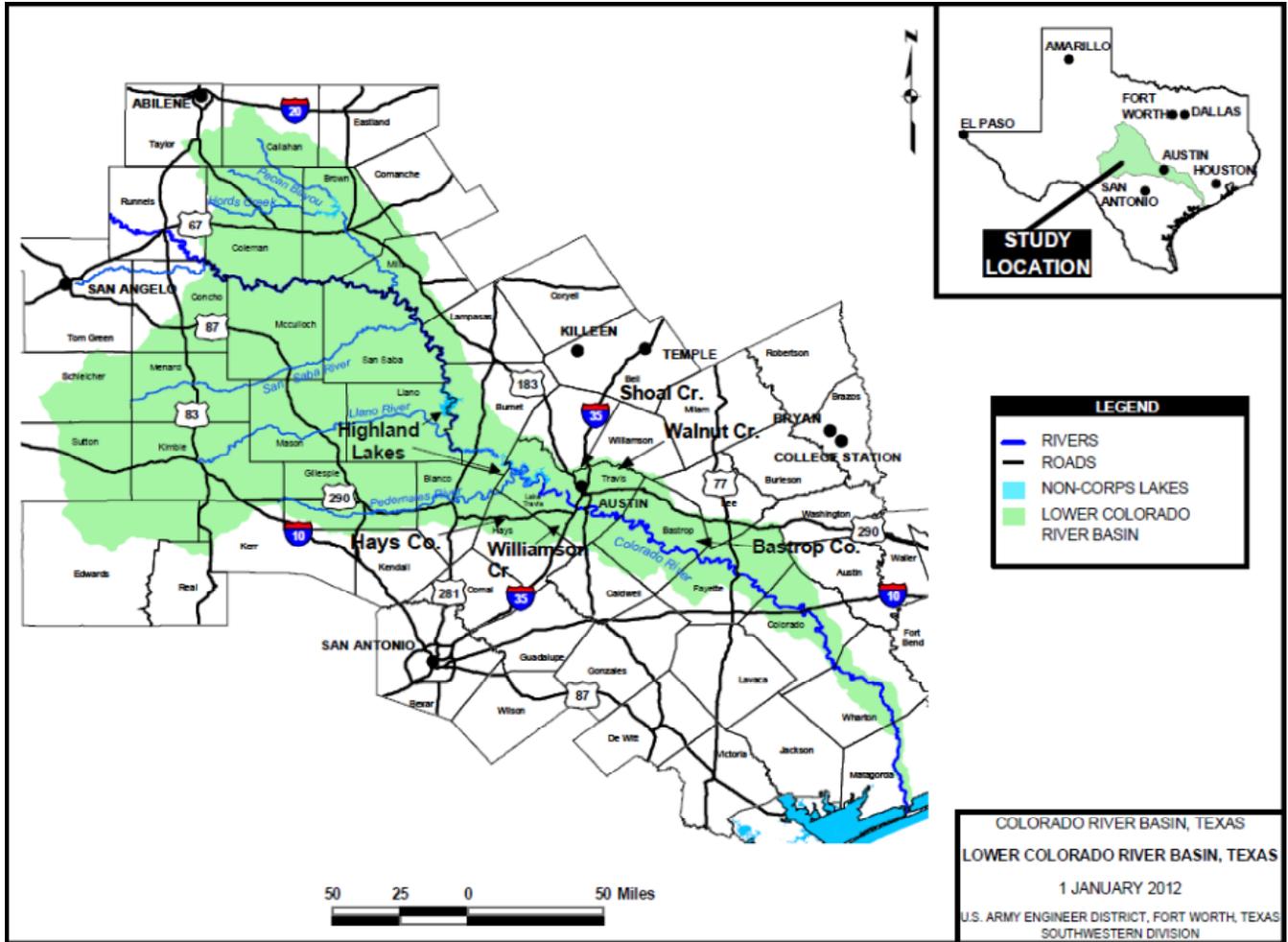
SCHEDULE:

FY 2012 Scheduled Work: Fiscal Year 2012 funds are being used to continue the IFS for Highland Lakes, and IFS for Hays County. The Bastrop County IFS has been brought to an orderly shutdown due to the non-Federal sponsor cash issues.

FY 2013 Budget: Fiscal Year 2013 funds will be used to complete the Highland Lakes IFS, Hays County IFS, and initiate the Shoal Creek IFS.

COMPLETION: At continued funding levels, January 2018

For more information regarding the Lower Colorado River Basin, TX, contact Ms. Kathy Gately, (817)886-1590 or kathleen.e.gately@usace.army.mil.



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