



Nueces River and Tributaries, Tx

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG

FACT SHEET as of February 21, 2012

AUTHORIZATION: U.S. Senate Resolution dated 23 June 2004

TYPE OF PROJECT: Ecosystem Restoration

PROJECT PHASE: Feasibility



CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Senators Hutchison and Cornyn; Representatives Hinojosa (TX-15); Canseco (TX-23); Doggett (TX-25); Farenthold (TX-27); Cuellar (TX-28)

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: Nueces River Authority, San Antonio River Authority, San Antonio Water System, City of Corpus Christi and the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

BACKGROUND: The Nueces River basin, which lies in the southern part of Texas, has an overall length of approximately 235 miles, a maximum width of 115 miles, and a total drainage area of 17,075 square miles. The Nueces River flows in a southeasterly direction and enters Nueces Bay near Corpus Christi, Texas. The watershed includes portions of three major aquifers – the Edwards, Carrizo-Wilcox, and Gulf Coast. Poor land use practices, recent near-record droughts, and conflicting water resource management issues have resulted in significant environmental degradation. Limited freshwater inflows into the Nueces estuary system as a result of construction and operation of two upstream reservoirs have resulted in hyper-saline conditions that have severely diminished the habitat suitability of approximately 20,000 acres of the Nueces Delta. In addition, the lowering of water levels in the Edwards Aquifer due to drought conditions and water pumpage has reduced spring flows from the San Marcos and Comal Springs causing degradation of rare and unique habitats, which threatens the continued existence of seven endangered (E) and one threatened (T) species endemic to these habitats. The Edwards Aquifer, the major source of water for the City of San Antonio and Bexar County metropolitan areas, accounts for about 20 percent of the basin and is recognized as having high potential for groundwater recharge. The watershed also crosses many political, jurisdictional, and geographical boundaries and pits groundwater systems management against surface water systems management within the same basin. During a Nueces River basin feasibility study workshop held on 10 June 2007, which was attended by over 50 individuals representing 20 Federal, state and local water and environmental resource agencies, all parties agreed that efforts to model the hydraulics and hydrology and the significant ecosystems of the Nueces watershed are extremely important, not only

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for the watershed study, but also for the region and Texas' State Water Planning efforts, including development of environmental flow parameters for protection of riverine and bay and estuary aquatic ecosystems. Potential study solutions include modification of systems operations of Choke Canyon Reservoir and Lake Corpus Christi as well as augmentation of water supply to allow increased fresh-water to be passed through the system into the Nueces Delta; implementation of recharge structures to increase water levels in the Edwards Aquifer allowing for increased spring-flow to benefit sensitive spring habitats that support endemic T&E species; grading and structural modifications to existing impediments in the delta to help reestablish historical fresh and salt water marsh elevations; recontouring of altered river/delta bathymetry to help restore wetland and shallow water elevations; and placement of breakwaters to help protect the delta face from erosion losses caused by wave action.

STATUS: The Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement was executed on 24 September 2004.

ISSUES: No issues.

<u>FINANCIAL SUMMARY (\$):</u>	<u>FEASIBILITY</u>
Federal Cost Estimate	6,001,000
Non-Federal Cost Estimate	5,801,000
Total Study Cost	11,802,000
Allocation thru FY 2010	2,897,000
ARRA Funding	0
Allocation for FY 2011	499,000
Allocation for FY 2012	622,000
President Budget FY 2013	650,000
Amount That Could Be Used for FY 2013	1,000,000
Balance to Complete	1,333,000

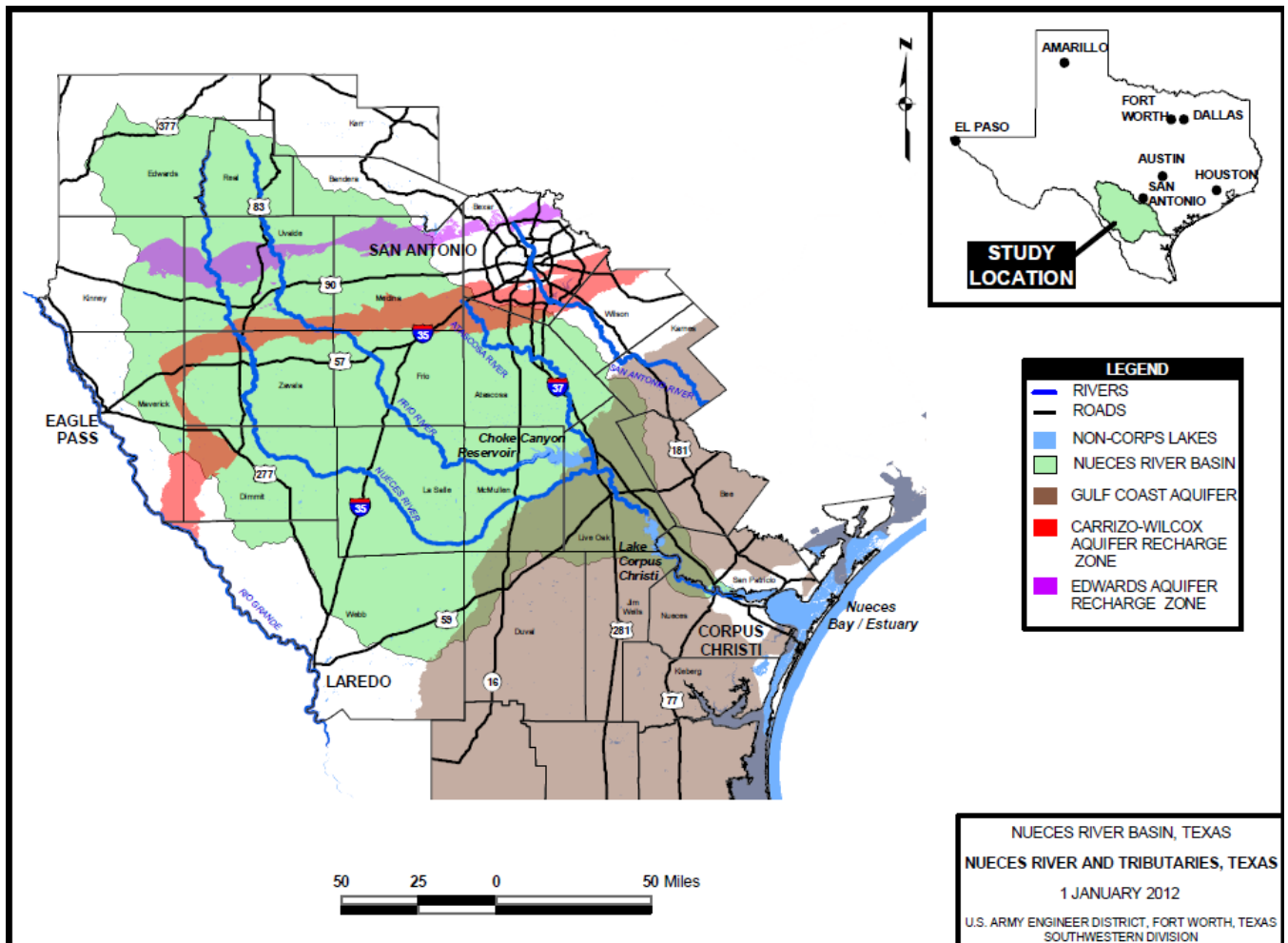
SCHEDULE:

FY 2012 Scheduled Work: Fiscal Year 2012 funds are being used to complete development of the mid and lower basin hydrology and hydraulic models and continue development of the Nueces Delta ecological model.

FY 2013 Budget: The funds requested in Fiscal Year 2013 funds will be used to complete development of the hydro-dynamic and ecological models of the delta, and the Leona Gravels area models; complete the FSM and initiate alternatives development and analysis, and any additional funding would accelerate alternatives development and reduce study time by 8 mo.

COMPLETION: With continued levels of funding, September 2016.

For more information regarding the Nueces River and Tributaries, TX contact Ms. Marcia Hackett, (817)886-1373 or marcia.r.hackett@usace.army.mil.



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