



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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FACT SHEET as of February 6, 2012

**AUTHORIZATION:** Resolution of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 10 November 1999

**TYPE OF PROJECT:** Environmental and Restoration

**PROJECT PHASE:** Feasibility



**CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST:** Senators Cornyn and Hutchison (TX); Representative Farenthold (TX-27)

**NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR:** Brownsville Public Utilities Board

**BACKGROUND:** The Study, evaluating the need for ecosystem restoration of the resacas in the city of Brownsville, is the first of its type for the region. Resacas (oxbow lakes) are former channels of the Rio Grande River that have been cut off from the river, having no inlet or outlet. Before land development and water control, floodwaters from the Rio Grande drained into resacas from the surrounding terrain. During the past decades, siltation and development have reduced the capacity of the resacas, and the city would like to investigate economical ways of preserving and restoring the resacas to a natural state. It is estimated that 99% of the riparian habitat along the U.S. side of the Rio Grande River has been cleared (USFWS 1997). The lower Rio Grande Valley is one of the most biologically diverse ecological regions in North America and a critical migratory stopover for birds moving between the Americas. Yet more than 75% of the region's wildlife habitat has been replaced by human development and agriculture. The resacas become more valuable as time passes given the unpredictable nature of the contamination in the Rio Grande and continuing drought conditions. The Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement was signed on 17 April 2002. The study has not been in the President' Budget since FY08. Since then, the project has been minimally funded in appropriations. Therefore the completion of the study is to be determined. The study effort will evaluate the environmental restoration of the resacas, improved flood protection, enhanced water storage, and ecosystem restoration.

**STATUS:** The project was not funded in FY11. Carry-in funds were used to review the work progress to and to update the Project Management Plan (PMP).

**ISSUES:** Deterioration of the Resacas has increased regional flooding, impaired water storage and endangered the riparian habitat along the U.S. side of the Rio Grande River.

<b><u>FINANCIAL SUMMARY (\$):</u></b>	<b><u>Feasibility</u></b>
Federal Cost Estimate	\$2,966,000
Non-Federal Cost Estimate	2,966,000
Total Project Cost	\$5,932,000
Allocation thru FY 2010	\$1,086,000
ARRA Funding	0
Allocation for FY 2011	0
Allocation for FY 2012	0
President Budget FY 2013	0
Capability for FY 2013	880,000
Balance to Complete	\$1,880,000

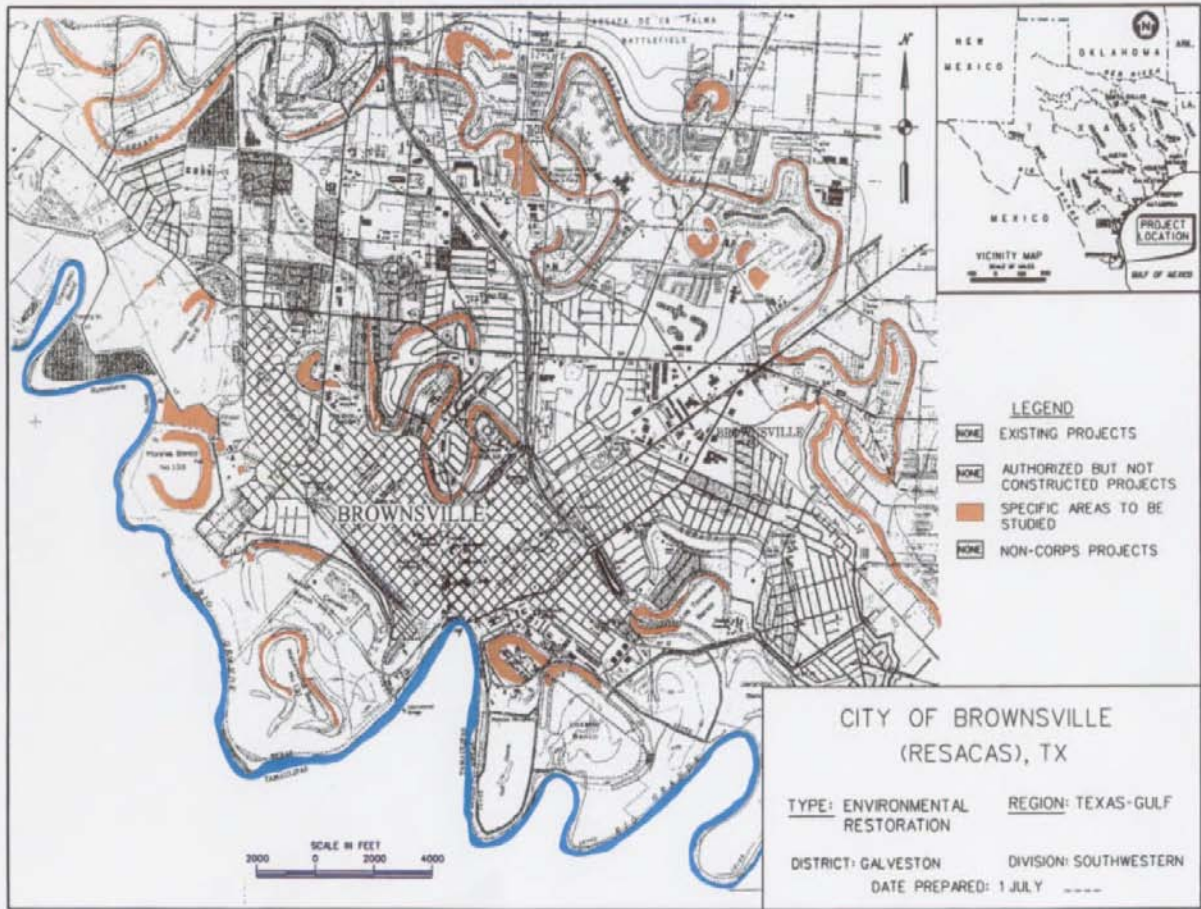
**SCHEDULE:**

FY 2012 Scheduled Work: Not in the President's FY2012 budget.

FY 2013 Budget: The study is not in the President's FY2013 budget. If funding is received it would be used to complete additional detailed engineering studies, conduct an Agency Technical Review (ATR) (\$400,000) and an Alternative Formulation Briefing (AFB) (\$100,000), leading to the Draft Feasibility Report (\$100,000), and a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Report (\$280,000).

**COMPLETION:** With optimum funding, the study completion date is September 2014.

**For more information** regarding the Resacas at City of Brownsville, TX study, contact Mr. Pete Perez, P.E. Deputy District Engineer, Chief Programs and Project Management Division at 409-766-3018 or Pete.G.Perez@usace.army.mil.



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