



**FACT SHEET as of February 6, 2012**

**AUTHORIZATION:** Public Law 74-595, Public Law 74-738, & Public Law 79-14

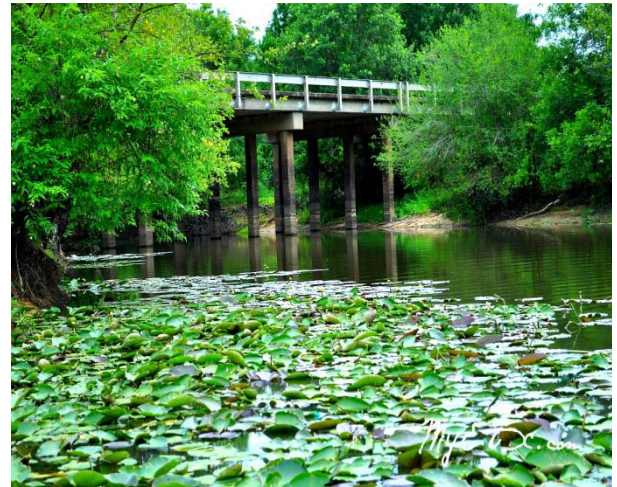
**TYPE OF PROJECT:** Flood Risk Management

**PROJECT PHASE:** Reconnaissance

**CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST:** Senators Hutchison and Cornyn (TX); Representatives Poe (TX-2), Barton (TX-6), and Brady (TX-8)

**NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR:** Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA)

**BACKGROUND:** The Neches River Basin is bound on the north and east by the Sabine River Basin, on the west by the Trinity River Basin, and on the south by the Neches-Trinity Coastal Basin. Total drainage area of the basin is 10,011 square miles. The Neches Basin is a prolific water resource and could be used to supply additional water both inside and outside the basin. Even during the 1951-1956 drought-of-record period, the average annual runoff for the basin was 312 acre-feet per square mile. Environmental concerns in the basin center on the Big Thicket National Preserve, abundant bottomland hardwood habitats, salt-water intrusion in the tidally influenced reaches of the Neches River, and freshwater inflows into the brackish Sabine Lake bays and estuaries. Federal projects constructed in the basin include the Sam Rayburn Dam and Reservoir, B.A. Steinhagen Lake, and the Neches River Saltwater Barrier projects. Previous project authorizations included a multi-purpose reservoir located at the Rockland Reservoir site, authorized in 1945. The economy of the basin is predominately based on manufacturing, forestry, agriculture, agribusiness, and oil and gas production. Population of the basin is projected to increase by 36% with an anticipated population of 1,482,448 by the year 2060. The purpose for the study is to evaluate flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, water supply, and recreation possibilities within the watershed. Potential projects include multi-purpose reservoirs, development of wetlands to provide habitat and improve water quality for aquatic ecosystems, restoration of riverine corridors, development of a comprehensive watershed plan, and other measures. The need to begin this important study will continue to intensify, as planning for capital improvements and infrastructure become stymied due to the lack of a basin wide management plan to account for water quality, water quantity, and allow for new water permits. WRDA 07 gives additional support to the water supply aspect of the study. There are no ongoing activities as the project has never been funded.



**STATUS:** The study has never been initiated.

**ISSUES:** Basin wide planning for the region's water supply, environmental sustainability, freshwater inflows to the bays and estuaries and flood damage reduction remains a large unmet need.

<b><u>FINANCIAL SUMMARY (\$):</u></b>	<b><u>RECON</u></b>
Federal Cost Estimate	\$100,000
Non-Federal Cost Estimate	0
Total Project Cost	\$100,000
Allocation thru FY 2010	\$0
ARRA Funding	0
Allocation for FY 2011	0
Allocation for FY 2012	0
President Budget FY 2013	0
Capability for FY 2013	100,000
Balance to Complete	\$100,000

**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 a Reconnaissance Study (905b), prepare a Project Management Plan, and execute a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (\$100,000).

**COMPLETION:** With optimum funding, the study completion date is March 2014, 12 Months after initiation of study.

**For more information** regarding the Neches River Basin, 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](mailto:Pete.G.Perez@usace.army.mil).

