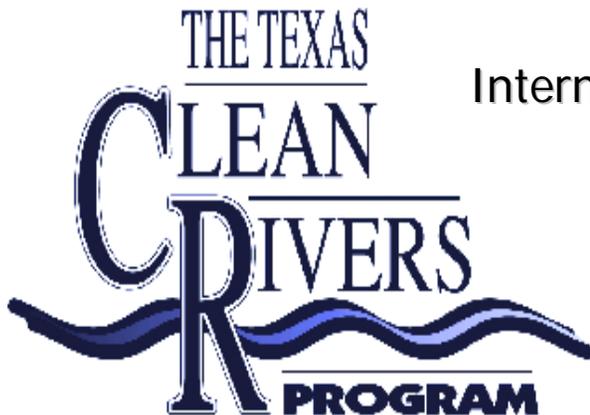


Annual Update on Water Quality for the Rio Grande and the Clean Rivers Program

USIBWC Citizens' Forum
and Lower Rio Grande
Basin Advisory Committee Meeting

June 8, 2010

Elizabeth Verdecchia
Texas Clean Rivers Program
U.S. Section,
International Boundary and Water Commission



Texas Clean Rivers Program History

- 1991 Texas Clean Rivers Act
- 1998 TCEQ-USIBWC partnership
- 2009 monitoring sites on Rio Grande:
 - CRP – 48 sites
 - TCEQ – 38 sites



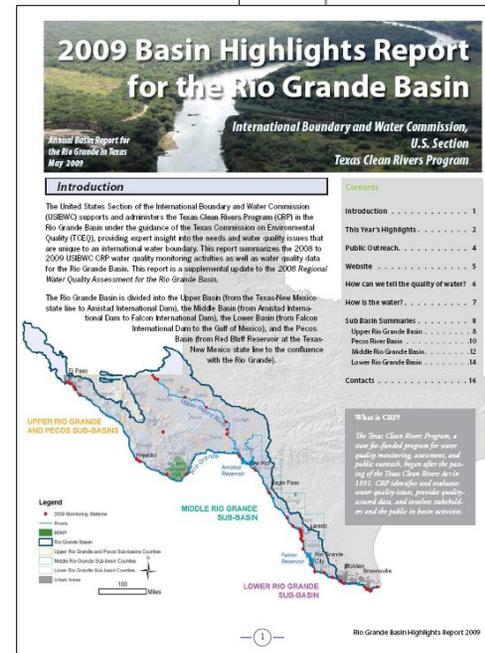
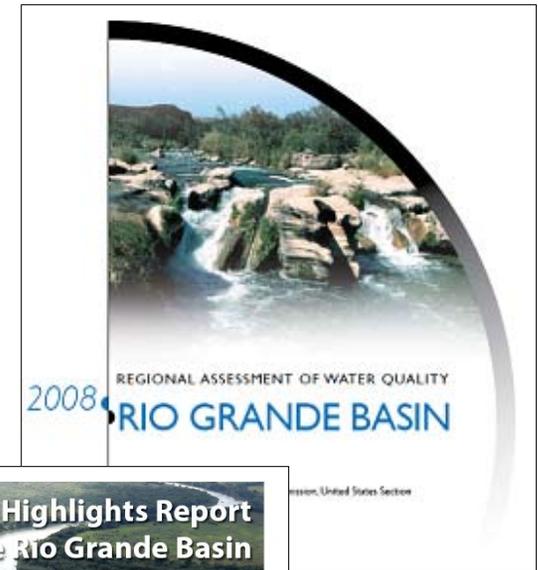
What is the Clean Rivers Program?

- A state fee-funded program
- A group of federal, state and local organizations that have an interest in the health of our states streams, rivers and lakes.
- The USIBWC Clean Rivers Program collects water quality data from the Rio Grande and Pecos Rivers.
- We then use that data to:
 - identify and evaluate water quality issues
 - establish priorities for corrective actions
 - work to implement those actions.



CRP Activities

- Water Quality Monitoring
 - Routine monitoring
 - Special studies
- Water Quality Assessment
- Publications
 - Annual Basin Highlight Report
 - 5-year Basin Summary Report
- Outreach and Education
- Public Participation

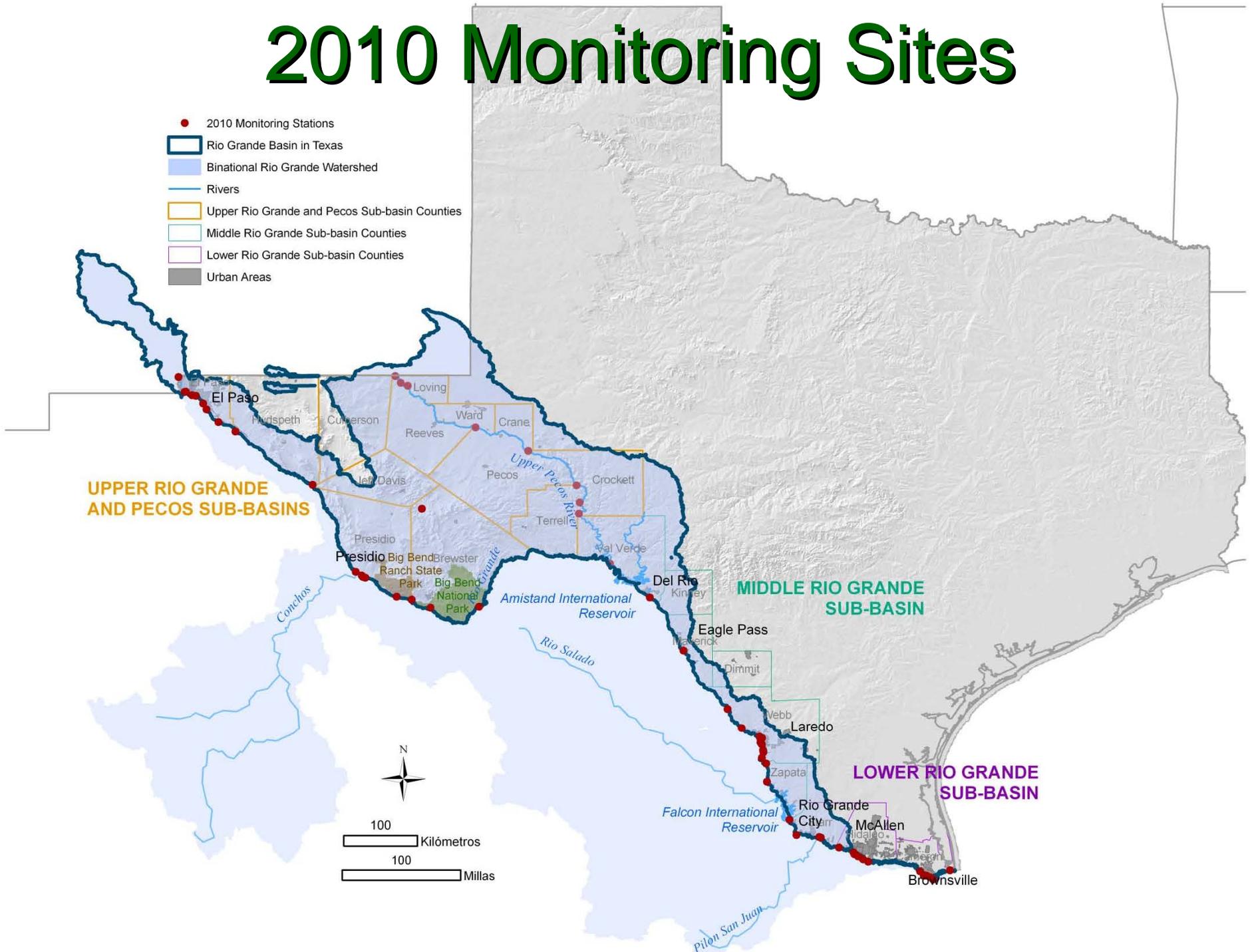


Local Partnerships

- Local partners in the Lower Rio Grande help monitor, collect, & analyze samples:
 - USIBWC Field Offices at Mercedes and Falcon
 - Sabal Palm Audubon Center & Sanctuary (through 2009)
 - University of Texas at Brownsville
 - TCEQ Harlingen Field Office
 - TCEQ Continuous Water Quality Monitoring
 - Brownsville PUB
 - US Fish and Wildlife
 - USGS (through 2007)
- Use TCEQ sampling procedures and an accredited laboratory for analysis



2010 Monitoring Sites

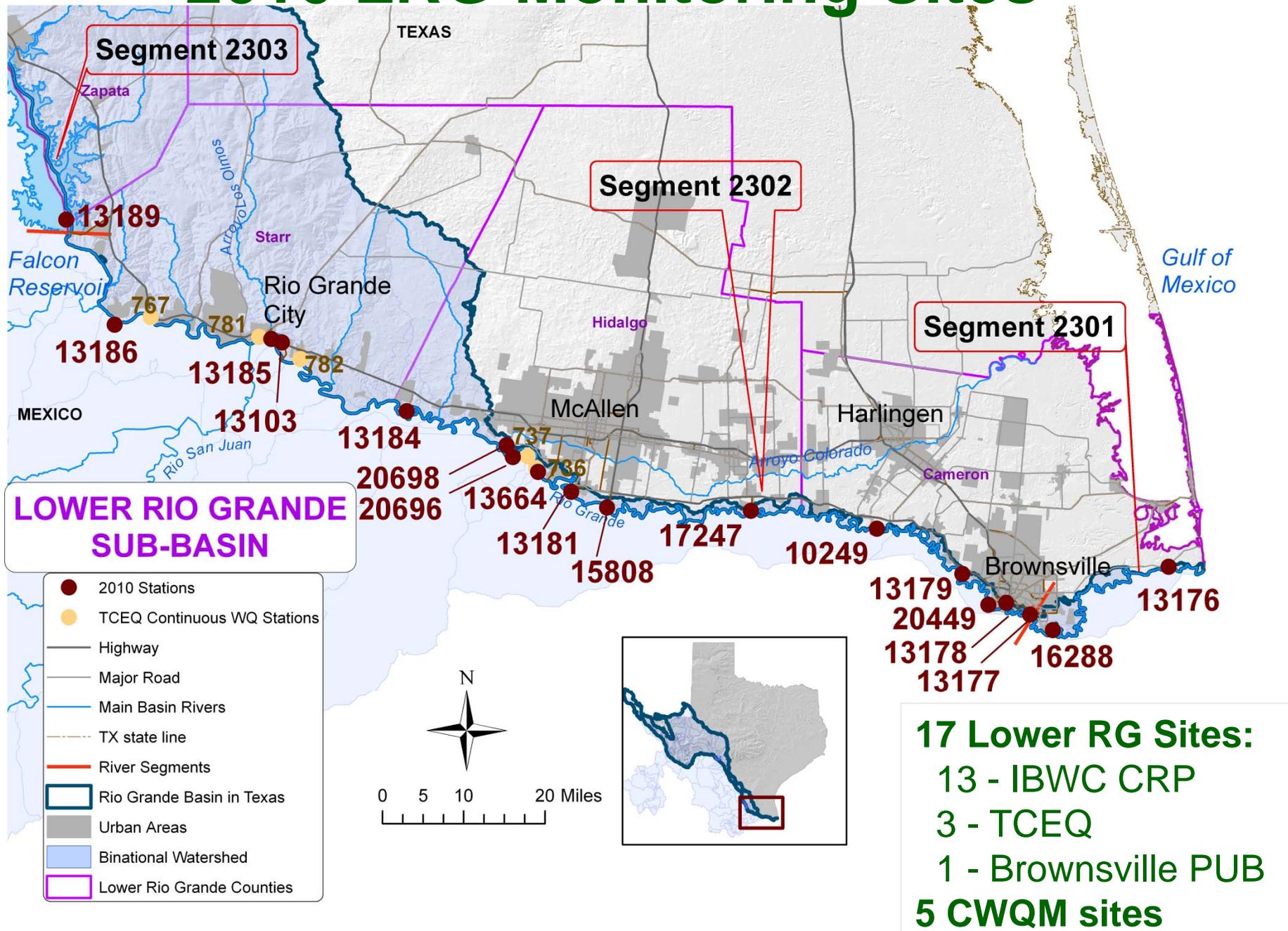


Lower Rio Grande

- From Falcon down to the Gulf
- Main water quality issue is bacteria
- Some concerns with mercury, DO, nutrients



2010 LRG Monitoring Sites



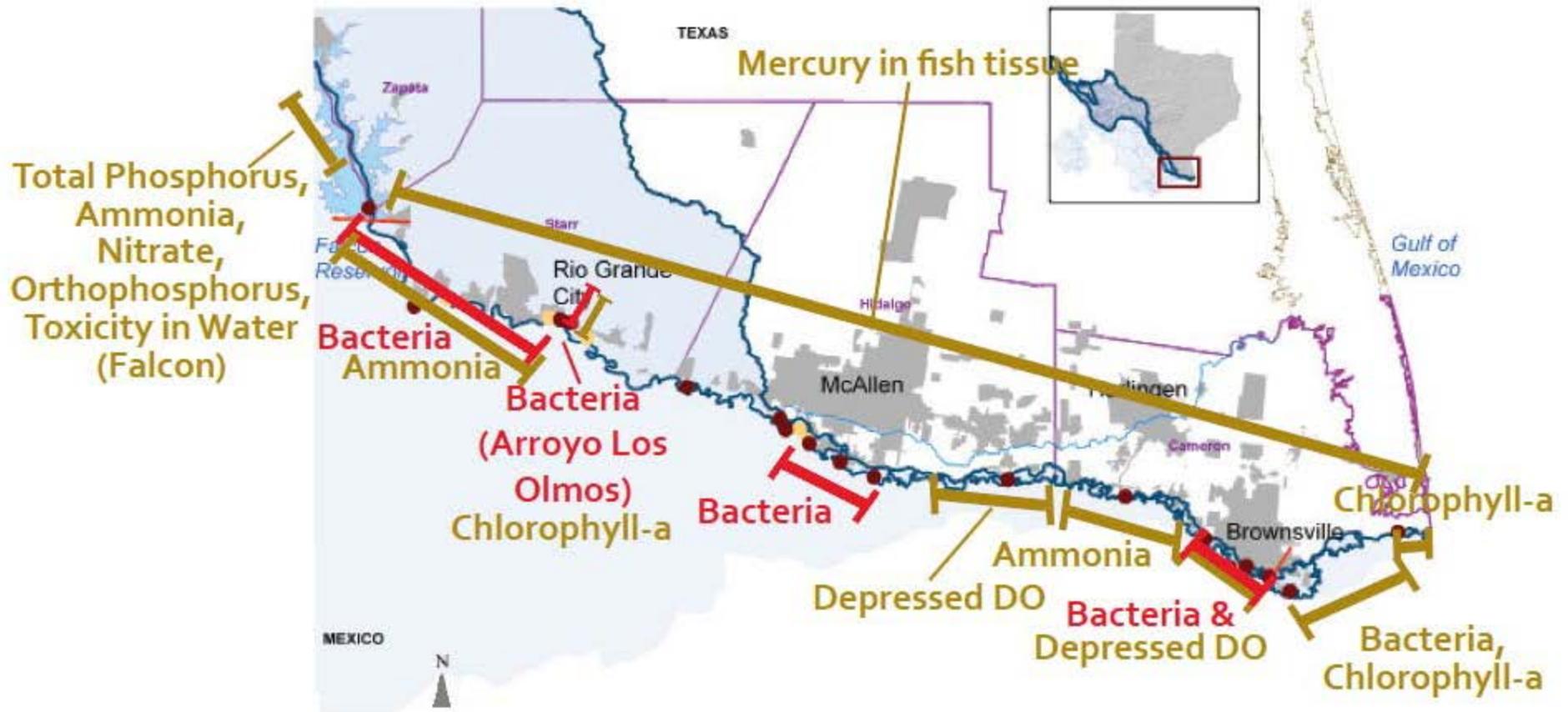
Water Quality Uses and Standards

RIO GRANDE BASIN		USES				CRITERIA						
		Recreation	Aquatic Life	Domestic Water Supply	Other	Cl ⁻¹ (mg/L)	SO ₄ ⁻² (mg/L)	TDS (mg/L)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	pH Range (SU)	Indicator Bacteria ¹ #/100ml	Temperature (°F)
Segment No.	SEGMENT NAME											
2301	Rio Grande Tidal	CR	E						5.0	6.5-9.0	35/200	95
2302	Rio Grande Below Falcon Reservoir	CR	H	PS	270	350	880	5.0	6.5-9.0	126/200	90	
2303	International Falcon Reservoir	CR	H	PS	200	300	1,000	5.0	6.5-9.0	126/200	93	

- TCEQ uses these standards to assess the river and determine if any segments are impaired (303d List)
- Bacteria Indicators :
 - 2301 Tidal – enterococcus
 - 2302 - ecoli



Impairments on the draft 2010 Texas Water Quality Integrated Report and 303(d) List



Brownsville Bacteria Study

- IBWC and UTB partnership to address bacteria impairment in Brownsville
- Identify source and nature of bacteria contamination
- Phase I sampling completed



Pesticides Study

- Pesticides/Organics in sediment analyzed from 2007 to 2010 semiannually at all CRP stations
- 23 chemicals tested
- Most stations did not detect any organics
- Lower Rio Grande had 2 stations that detected DDE/DDT (Rio Grande City and Hidalgo) in 2008



Lower Rio Grande Water Quality Initiative

- TCEQ / EPA sponsored binational project
- Federal and state US and Mexican agencies, universities and organizations
- Address impairments on Rio Grande in a unique binational watershed protection plan
- Focus first on lower Rio Grande
- Technical, policy, steering committees
- Included in TCEQ's 2010 border initiative



CRP Website

www.ibwc.gov/CRP/Index.htm

http://www.ibwc.gov/CRP/Index.htm

International Boundary & Water Commission
United States and Mexico
United States Section
Est. 1889

RECOVERY.gov

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USIBWC Texas Clean Rivers Program
for the Rio Grande Basin

The USIBWC's Texas Clean Rivers Program is responsible for collecting water quality data throughout the Texas portion of the Rio Grande Basin. The goal of the CRP is to maintain and improve the quality of water within each river basin in Texas through ongoing partnerships with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), river authorities, Program Partners, other agencies, regional entities, local and state governments, industry, and citizens. The program uses a watershed management approach to identify and evaluate water quality issues, establish priorities for corrective actions, and work to implement those actions.

THE TEXAS CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM

[Study Area](#)
Locate IBWC stream gages, data and other useful map information using the USIBWC GIS Interactive Map page.

[Monitoring Station Data](#)
View a list by segment of monitoring stations in the Rio Grande basin. Click on the station ID number to download an Excel format file that contains all of the available water quality data for that station from 1995 to present.

[Publications](#)
View Clean Rivers Program Basin Summary Reports

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Learn about the Clean River Program Basin Advisory Committee

[Calendar / Current Activities](#)
Learn about upcoming events and current activities of the Clean Rivers Program

[Partner Links](#)
Access links to the Clean Rivers Program partners and planning agencies, and links for data and resources

[Adopt-a-River](#)
Information about USIBWC's Adopt-a-River cleanup program to promote a clean Rio Grande.

[Scientific Research Portal](#)
Find scientific research being conducted in the Rio Grande Basin.

- Data
- Maps
- Calendar
- Publications
- Outreach
- Links, etc

Questions?

USIBWC - CRP

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crp@ibwc.gov

CRP Website

www.ibwc.gov/CRP/Index.htm

