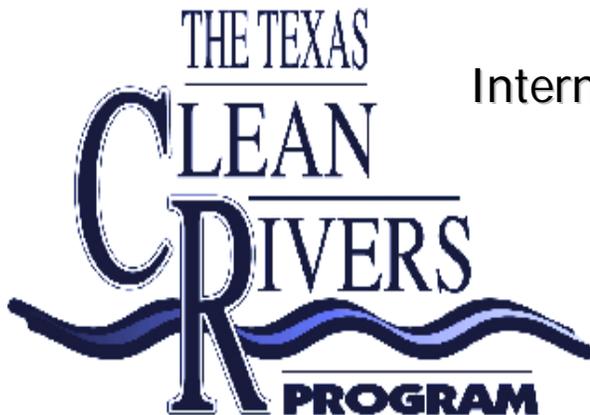


Update on Water Quality for the Rio Grande and the Clean Rivers Program

USIBWC Citizens' Forum
and Lower Rio Grande
Basin Advisory Committee Meeting
July 15, 2009

Elizabeth Verdecchia and Leslie Grijalva
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



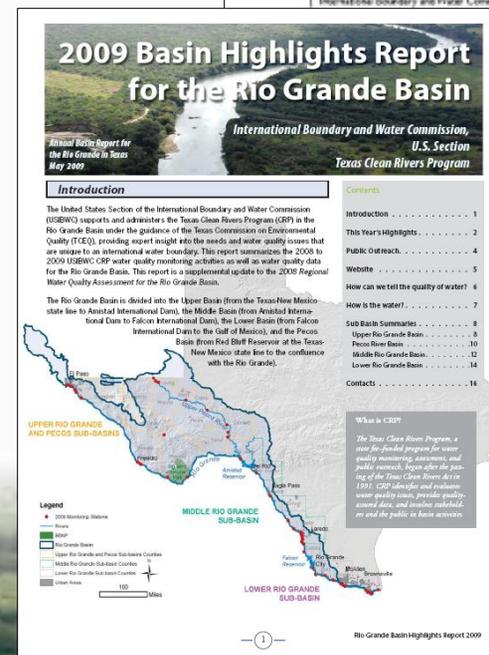
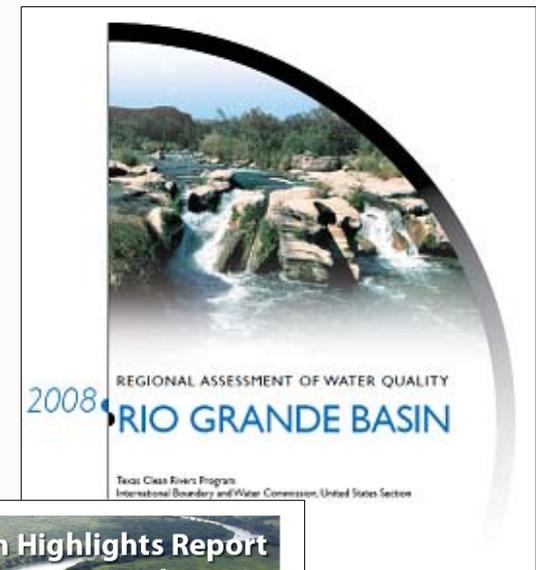
What is the Clean Rivers Program?

- 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



CRP Accomplishments

- Submitted all data through Nov 2008 for TCEQ 2010 Assessment
- Laboratory accredited for bacteria
- More outreach activities
- Participation in projects such as Big Bend workshops & saltcedar biological control meetings
- Funded 5 water quality/education projects
- CRP in charge of USIBWC Adopt-a-River Program
- Fully-staffed



Funded Project in the LRGV

➤ City of Weslaco

- **VALLEY CONSTRUCTION SEPA TRAINING PROGRAM** (“Soil Erosion Pollution Awareness”)
- Develop and Implement a Soil Erosion Management Plan at Construction Sites
- Print training manuals



Other funded projects throughout the Basin

- Supplies for river cleanups with community groups
- Supplies/equipment for youth for research in salinity in water and riparian plants
- Equipment for continuous water quality station in Forgotten Stretch



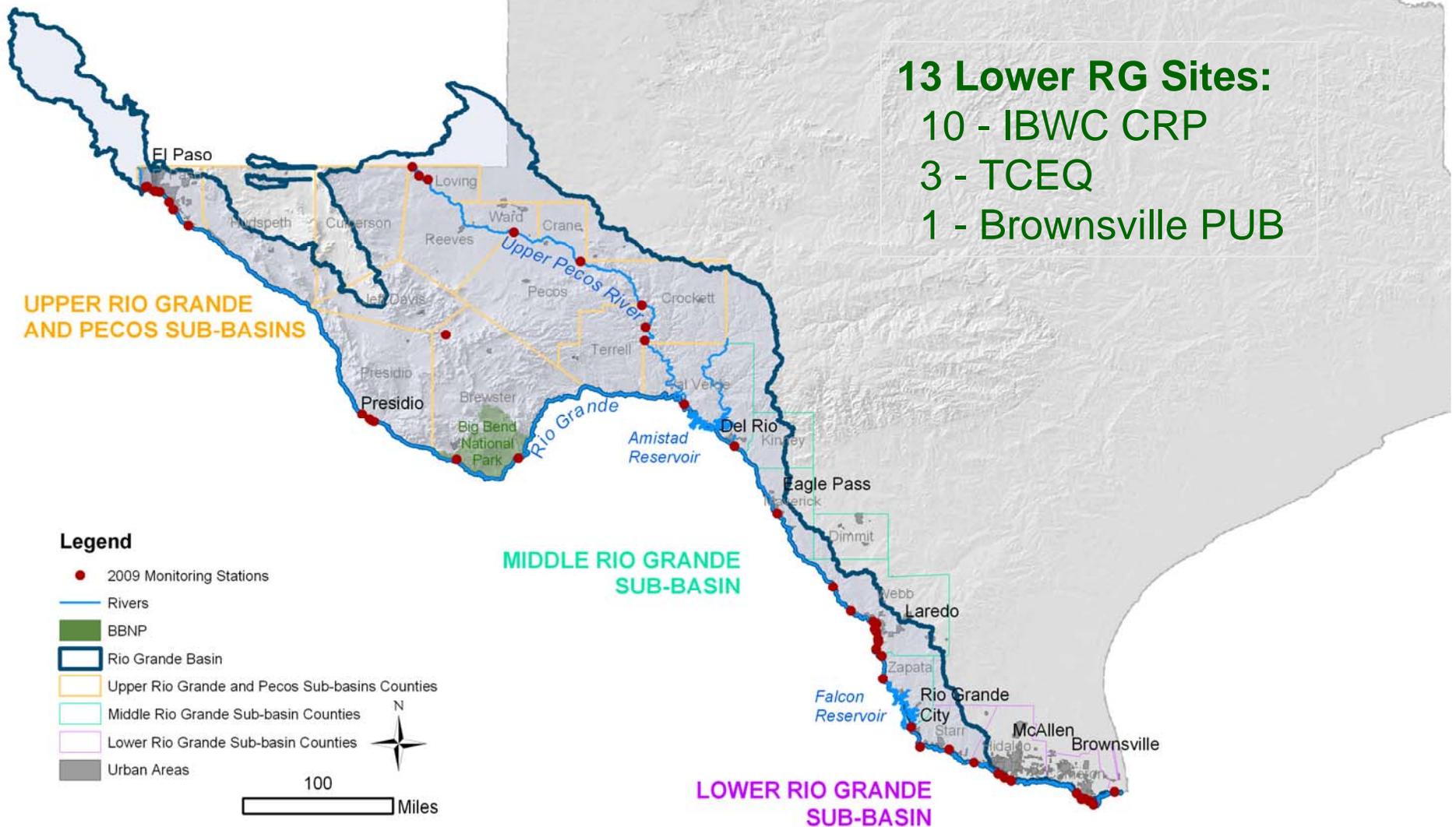
Local Partnerships

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

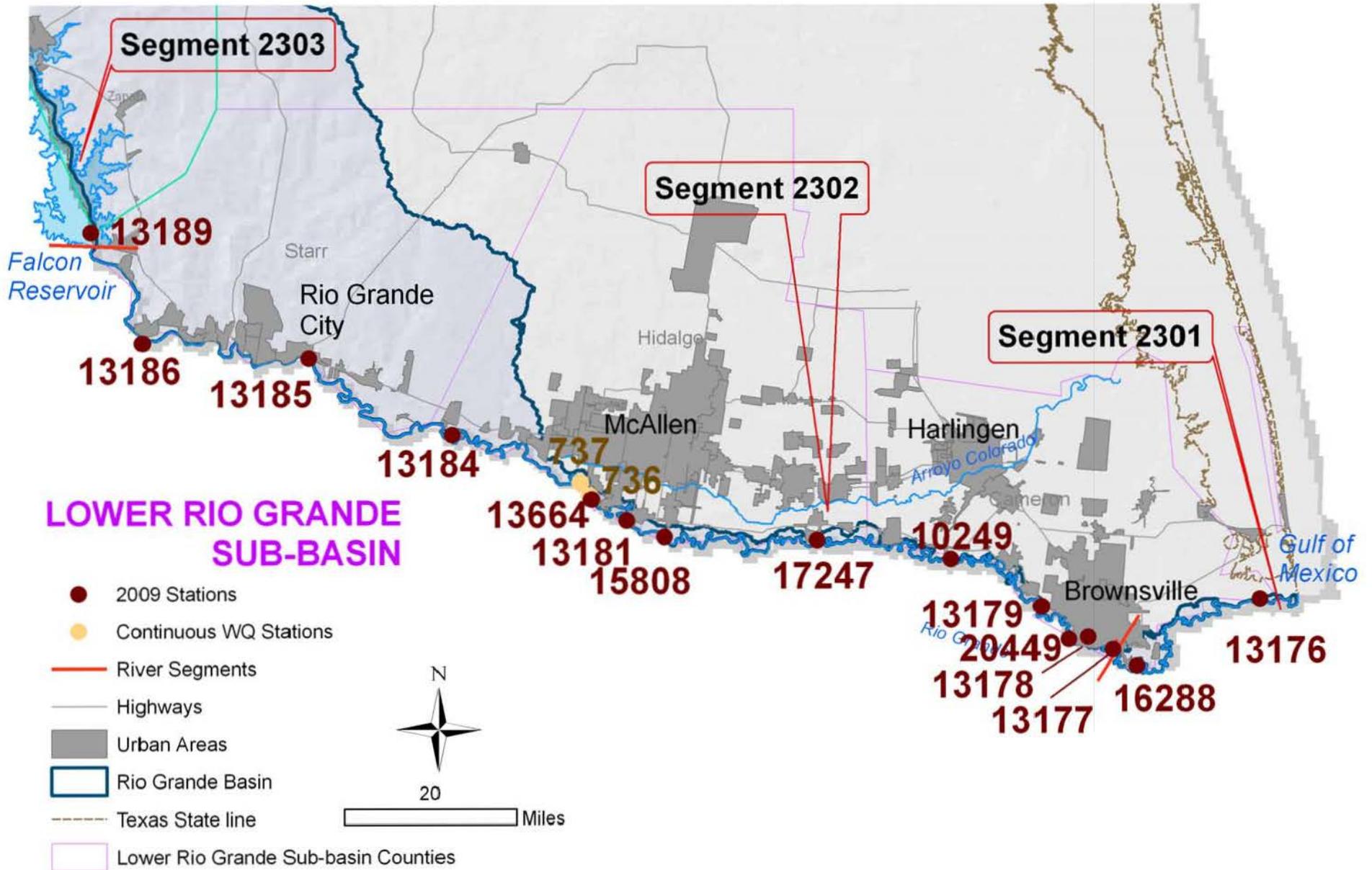


2009 Monitoring Sites

13 Lower RG Sites:
10 - IBWC CRP
3 - TCEQ
1 - Brownsville PUB



2009 LRG Monitoring Sites



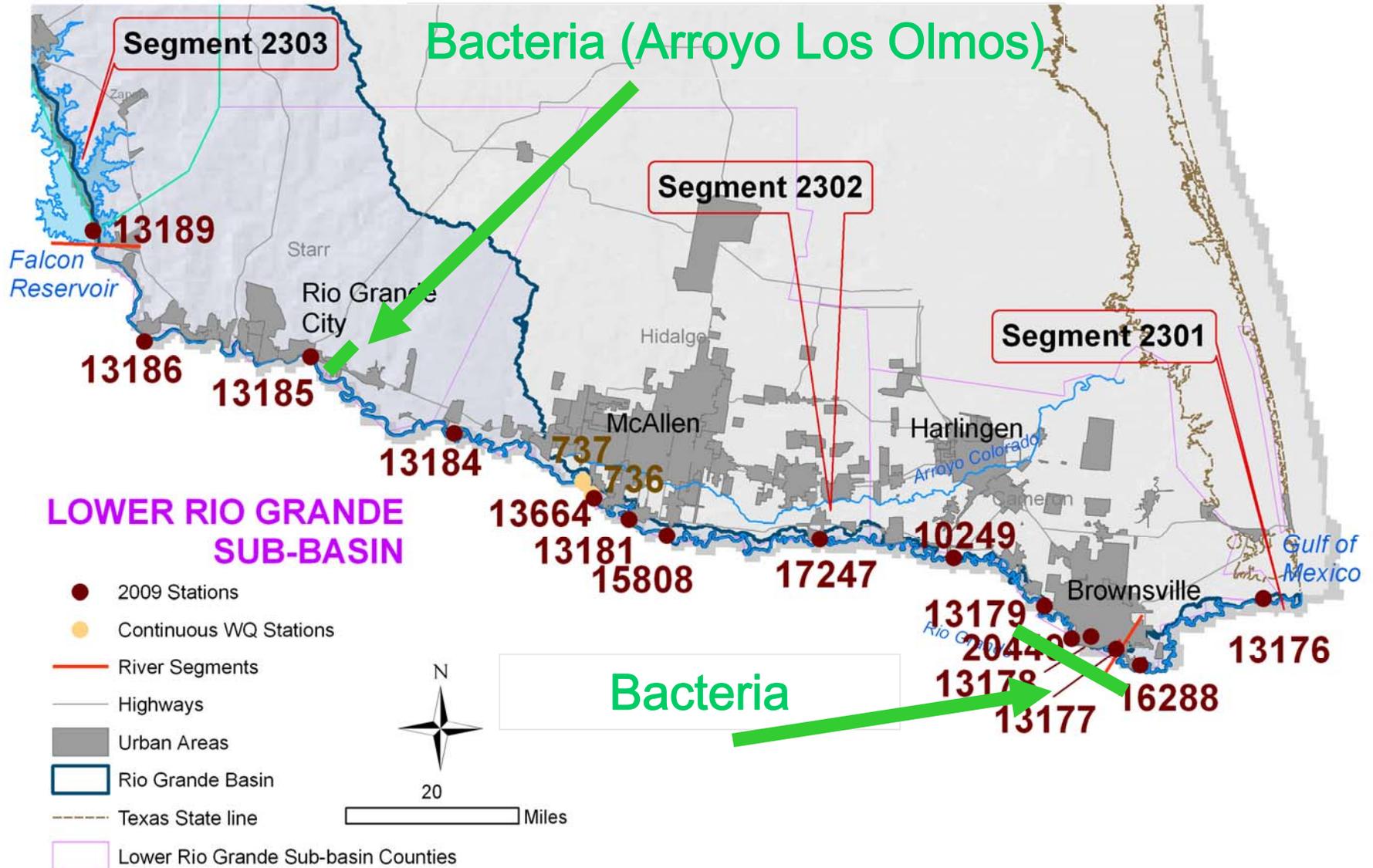
Water Quality Uses and Standards

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	

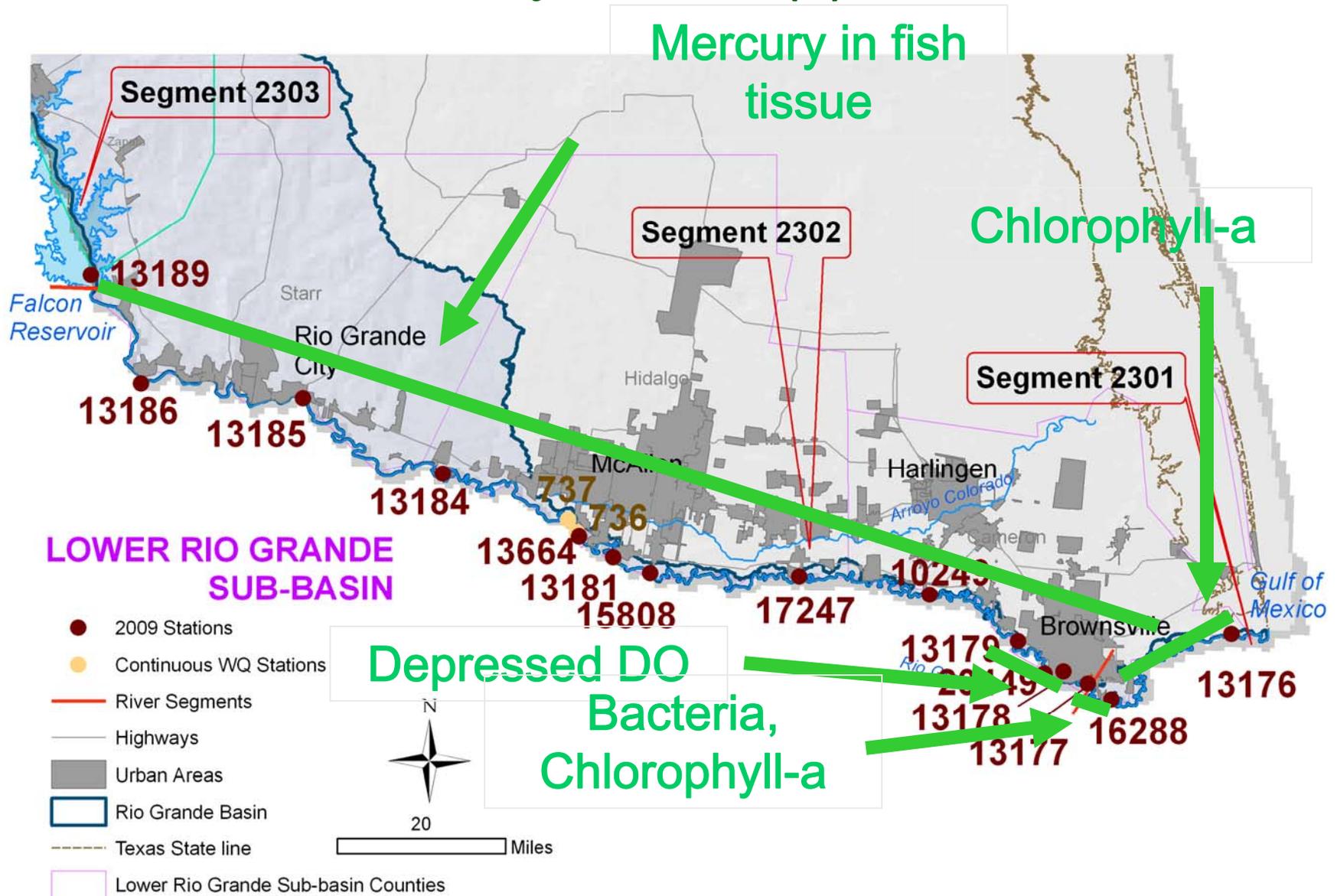
- TCEQ uses these standards to assess the river and determine if any segments are impaired (303d List)
- Bacteria Indicators :
 - 2301 Tidal – enterococcus
 - 2302 - ecoli



Impairments on the 2009 Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List



Concerns on the 2008 Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List



Brownsville Bacteria Study

- UTB partnership to address bacteria impairment in Brownsville
- Identify source and nature of bacteria contamination
- Phase I will begin Fall semester 2009
- Phase II will begin Summer 2010



Pesticides Study

- Pesticides/Organics in sediment analyzed from 2007 to 2009 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
- Focus first on lower Rio Grande
- Technical, policy, steering committees



CRP Website has changed

www.ibwc.gov/CRP/Index.htm

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.ibwc.state.gov/CRP/Index.htm>. The page header features the International Boundary & Water Commission logo and text: "Celebrating Our 120th Year Anniversary 1889 - 2009", "United States and Mexico", "United States Section", and "Est. 1889".

The main content area is titled "USIBWC Texas Clean Rivers Program" and includes a description: "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." To the right of this text is the "THE TEXAS CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM" logo.

A left-hand navigation menu lists various sections, with "TEXAS CLEAN RIVERS" circled in red. The menu items are: Home, About Us, Employment Opportunities, Organization, Mission Operations (with sub-items: Flood Control Levee Systems, Diversion Dams & Related Structures, Storage Dams (Reservoirs) / Power Plants, Wastewater Treatment Plants, Field Offices, and **TEXAS CLEAN RIVERS**), Activities / Minutes, Permits / Licenses, Water Data, GIS / Maps, News / Publications, Citizens Forums, Reports / Studies, Links, and Contact Us.

Below the main text are four sections with links: "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), and "Participation" (Learn about the Clean River Program Basin Advisory Committee).

At the bottom, there are two more sections: "Calendar / Current Activities" (Learn about upcoming events and current activities of the Clean Rivers Program) and "Partner Links" (Access links to the Clean Rivers Program partners and planning agencies).

At the very bottom, there is a search bar with the text "Enter Search Keywords" and a "Go" button.

Information on Website



USIBWC Texas Clean Rivers Program

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**

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Locate USIBWC stream gages, data and other useful information using the USIBWC GIS Interactive Map
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Access links to the Clean Rivers Program partners and planning agencies
- [Adopt-a-River](#)
Information about USIBWC's Adopt-a-River program
- [Scientific Research Portal](#)
Find scientific research being conducted in the Rio Grande Basin.
- [Photo Gallery](#)
See pictures of past CRP events.
- [About CRP](#)
Introduction to the Texas Clean Rivers Program and contact information.

International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) [\(Return to start page\)](#) [Tutorial](#)

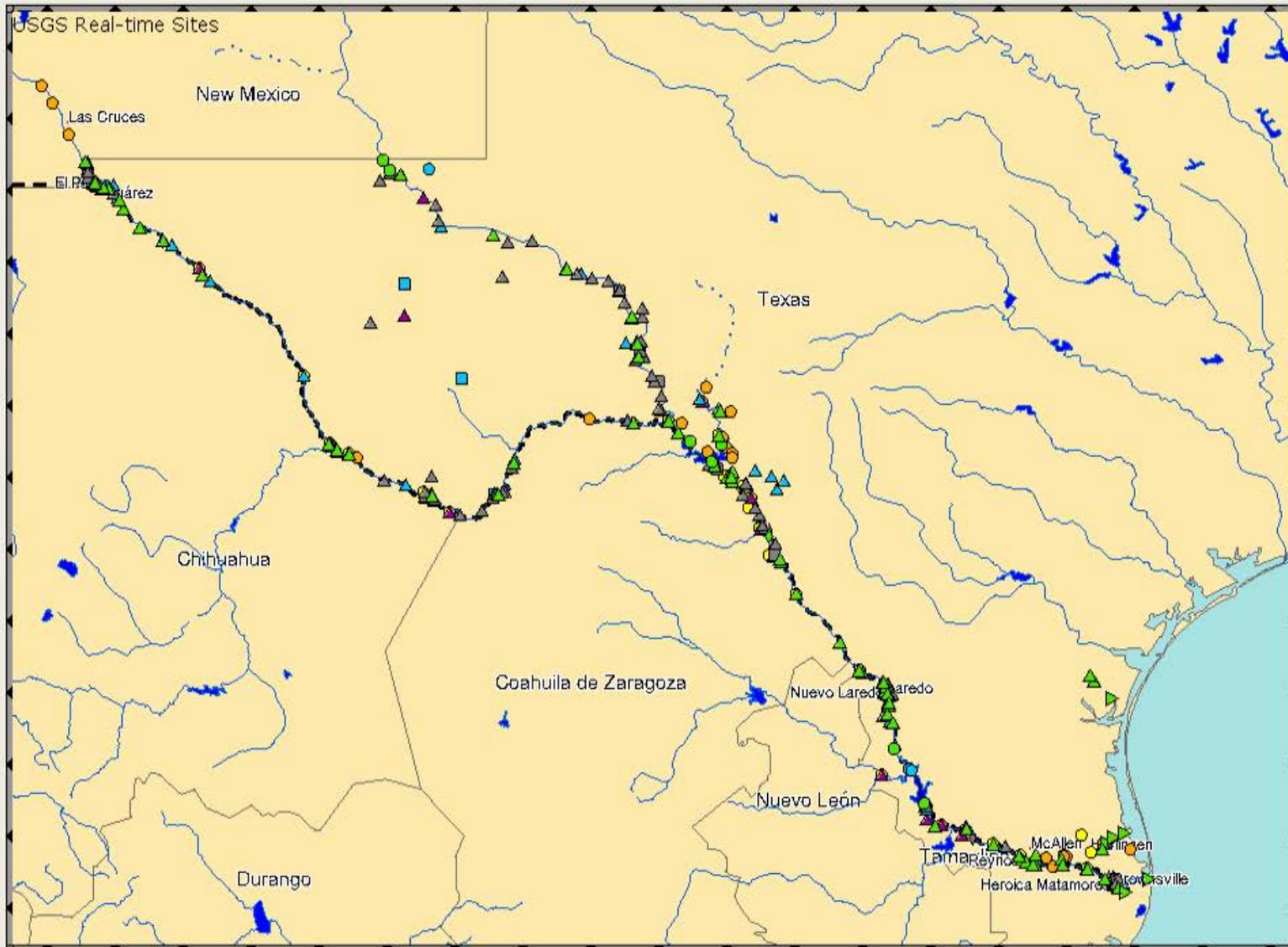
Zoom

Query

Tools

Downloads

Documents



Scale Information

Out Scale = 1:5

Display

- Water Quality
- Real-time ar
- Monitoring
- Hydrography
- Places (Nam
- Anthropoger
- Transportati
- Hydrogeolog
- Biology
- Geology
- Census
- Boundaries
- Orthoimager
- Land Cover
- Elevation

Site Description

Photos

Graphs

Complete Site List



Go to Site Data Page:

Also Identified As:

08-4750.00 (IBWC ID)

13177 (TCEQ ID)

08475000 (USGS ID)



print friendly version

08-4750.00 RIO GRANDE AT EL JARDIN PUMP Stream Site Description

Location

Latitude 25°52'35", longitude 97°72'15.01", Cameron County, Texas, United States.

Description

Drainage area: not available; Contributing drainage area: not available, Datum of gage: 0 feet above sea level.

Cableway, bubbler gage, water-stage recorders (graphic and digital), and DCP with GOES high data rate telemetry located on the left bank at river kilometer 78.3, 0.3 river kilometer downstream from El Jardin pumping plant, and 11.2 river kilometers downstream from the international highway bridge (Gateway) between Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Tamaulipas. The zero of the gage is at mean sea level, U. S. C. & G. S. datum.

Available Data

Data Type	Begin Date	End Date	Count
Real-Time Data			
Historical Flow Data	1/1/1934	2/28/2007	
Field/Lab Water-Quality Samples	1/24/1995	2/21/2007	3014

Photos, Maps, and Graphs

» *Click on an image to view more*



Photo of the Rio Grande at the El Jardin Pump site.



Questions?

USIBWC - CRP

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legrijal@ibwc.gov

CRP Website

www.ibwc.gov/CRP/Index.htm

