LRGV TPDES Stormwater Task Force
Founded in 1998

City of Alamo
City of Alton
City of Brownsville
Cameron County
Cameron County Drainage District #1
City of Donna
City of Edinburg
City of La Feria
City of La Joya
City of Los Fresnos
City of Mission
City of Palmview
City of Primera
City of San Benito
City of San Juan
City of Weslaco

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Developed in accordance with the requirements of TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY - TEXAS POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM - TPDES GENERAL PERMIT TXR040000

Permit Term:

December 13, 2013 – December12, 2018

Prepared June 2014

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under that threshold at that time, as did every other city in the region. In Texas, the NPDES program was renamed the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) in 2001 when the EPA, through a memorandum of understanding, gave the TCEQ authority to administer the program (Federal Register,Vol 68, 1998).

The TCEQ established the Phase II MS4 program in 2003 to extend the Phase I program to include all municipalities in urbanized areas. Urbanized areas are defined as land areas with an overall population density of more than 1,000 people per square mile. As part of the Phase II MS4 program, in August 2007 the TCEQ issued TPDES General Permit Number TXRO40000. A unique attribute of the Phase II program is that federal and state operated MS4s are also regulated. This means small MS4s can include universities, hospitals, prisons, roads, parks and office buildings (EPA, 2005).
The LRGV municipalities' first taste of regional water quality regulations associated with stormwater runoff has not been the NPDES MS4 program, but rather the EPA's Total Maximum Daily Loading (TMDL) program. Many LRGV municipalities use the Arroyo Colorado as a receiving waterway for treated sanitary sewer wastewater and stormwater runoff (Figure 1-3).

1.3 ARROYO COLORADO WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

The Arroyo Colorado has been constantly assessed since 1974 by different entities. Of note, in 2002, the TCEQ completed a TMDL assessment that demonstrated that parts of the Arroyo Colorado did not meet water quality standards for dissolved oxygen. Consequently, the TCEQ initiated the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Partnership (ACWPP) to facilitate local efforts to develop a watershed protection plan (WPP) to improve conditions in the Arroyo Colorado. The LRGV municipalities impacted by this project have been actively cooperating with the ACWPP, knowing that the ramifications of the watershed protection plan will affect water quality standards for their regulated water outfalls into the Arroyo Colorado (ACWP, 2007). However, in contrast to the NPDES stormwater regulations facing LRGV cities today, the ACWPP is currently a voluntary compliance effort.

1.4 LRGV TPDES STORMWATER TASK FORCE

In 1998, facilitated by Texas A&M University –Kingsville (TAMUK), a coalition of LRGV municipalities joined to form the LRGV TPDES Stormwater Task Force (LTSTF) in a joint effort to develop a proactive regional approach to comply with the TPDES Phase II MS4 rules. Today this membership includes 16 local governments.

The LTSTF project idea was born from a 1998 local stormwater brainstorming round table held in La Feria, Texas. Several preliminary meetings continued at various cities until the coalition was formally organized. Local government officials and qualified professionals representing various communities in the LRGV region attended these meetings. The group agreed to develop a way to achieve a regional SWMP to comply with the TPDES regulations. The group formalized the organization by contractually empowering TAMUK to facilitate the group and by developing a system of by-laws that included election of board members and officers.

The LTSTF uses a unique, collaborative regional approach to involve various levels of government, including the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in developing cost-effective solutions that will achieve compliance with the TPDES rules. The LTSTF project embodies the spirit of the mutually beneficial relationships between local

Table 2-0 LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY TPDES STORMWATER TASK FORCE			
MS4	**Permit No.**	**2010 Population**	**MS4 LEVEL**
Alamo	TXR040289	18,353	2
Alton	TXR040162	12,341	2
Brownsville	TXR040264	175,023	4
Cameron County	TXR040051	N/A	2
Cameron County Drainage District #1	TXR040236	N/A	2
Donna	TXR040165	15,798	2
Edinburg	TXR040323	77,100	3
La Feria	TXR040286	7,302	1
La Joya	TXR040288	3,985	1
Los Fresnos	TXR040270	5,542	1
Mission	TXR040168	77,058	3
Palmview	New MS4	5,460	1
Primera	TXR040002	4,070	1
San Benito	TXR040161	24,250	2
San Juan	TXR040167	33,856	2
Weslaco	TXR040262	35,670	2

For each MCM the SWMP must:

- Define measurable goals that include the development of ordinances or other regulatory mechanisms, allowed by state, federal and local law, providing the legal authority necessary to implement and enforce the requirements of this permit, including information on any limitations to the legal authority;
- Define a schedule including the months and years in which the permittee will undertake required actions, including interim milestones and the frequency of the action;
- Include a summary of written procedures describing how the permittee will implement the SWMP; and,
- Include a description of a program or a plan of compliance to address discharges to impaired water bodies and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements.

2.0 MS4 BACKGROUND

2.1 BACKGROUND

This section provides a brief background on each MS4 partnering with this SWMP.

Table 2-1
Lower Rio Grande Valley TPDES Stormwater Task Force
Background Information

MS4 (Name)	Incorporated (year)	Jurisdictional Permit Area* (sq mi.)	Geo Coordinates (Long/Lat)	Mean Elevation (ft)	Storm Sewer (Miles)	Conveyance (Miles)
Alamo	1924	29.5	26°11'6"N /98°7'4"W	98	41.29	18.17
Alton	1979	2.11	26°17'6"N/ 98°18'48"W	161	15	4
Brownsville	1924	147	25°56'6"N/ 97°28'48"W	33	350	25
Cameron County	1848	905^	26°10'N/ 97°30'W	60	55.13	43
Cameron County Drainage District #1	1910	450^	25°58'N/ 97°29'W	33	0	45
Donna	1911	5.04	26°10'20"N/ 98°3'42"W	92		
Edinburg	1919	97.83	26°18'15"N /98°9'50"W	95	19.41	15.5
La Feria	1915	42.05**	26°9'47"N/ 97°24'57"W	55	13.03	0
La Joya	1926	2.78	26°14'54"N/98°28'30"W	174	10	6
Los Fresnos	1924	23	26°4'30"N/97°28'50"W	23	2.23	4.99
Mission	1908	77.27	26°12'44"N/98°18'46"W	141	147.23	54.4
Palmview	1972	10.3	26°14'13"N/98°22'25"W	145	0	5
Primera	1955	8.41	26°13'42"N/97°45'28"W	42	10.33	8.55
San Benito	1911	54.49	26°7'57"N/97°37'51"W	32	30	10
San Juan	1910	13.12	26°12'N/ 98°9'12"W	105	52	15
Weslaco	1919	59.03	26°9'54"N/97°59'24"W	80	28.46	40.15

*City limits and Urban ETJ **City limits, urban and rural ETJ ^Non-traditional MS4: Jurisdictional area only

2.2 IMPAIRED RECEIVING WATERBODIES WITH AND WITHOUT TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS

Section 303(d) of the CWA directs states to identify and prioritize waters which do not meet water quality standards – called "impaired" – and for which a total maximum daily load ("TMDL") must be developed. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant that can be discharged to a water body without causing the water body to be impaired. The State of Texas and its Clean Rivers Program partners, including the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership (ACWP), routinely monitor receiving water quality and assess receiving water conditions. This information is used to determine which waters do not meet water quality standards. LRGV receiving waters can be categorized into three groups, as follows:

- **Waters Meeting Standards:** These are waters that are meeting surface water quality standards and that do not appear on the Section 303(d) list. The MS4 operator is only required to implement TXR040000 provisions *other than* Part II.D.4 in these watersheds.
- **Impaired Waters without an EPA Approved TMDL:** These are waters that are not meeting surface water quality standards, do appear on the Section 303(d) list, but do not yet have an EPA approved TMDL (See Table 2-2). The MS4 operator is required to implement TXR040000 provisions including Part II.D.4.b. but not including Part II.D.4.a.
- **Impaired Waters with an EPA Approved TMDL:** These are waters that are not meeting surface water quality standards, do appear on the Section 303(d) list, and do have an EPA approved TMDL (See Table 2-3). The MS4 operator is required to implement TXR040000 provisions including Part II.D.4.a. but not including Part II.D.4.b.

Table 2-2 List of Waters Meeting Standards Receive Storm Water Discharges Directly from the MS4 (TCEQ, 2013b)		
Nam	**Segment ID**	**303(d) Impairment**
None Listed		

Table 2-3 List of Impaired Waters without an EPA Approved TMDL that Receive Stormwater Discharges Directly from the MS4 (TCEQ, 2013b)			
Name	**Seg. ID**	**303(d) Impairment Parameter**	**Category**
Arroyo Colorado	2201	PCBs in edible tissue	5a
Arroyo Colorado	2201	Bacteria, DO, Mercury & DDE in edible tissue	5c
Arroyo Colorado	2202	PCBs in edible tissue	5a
Arroyo Colorado	2202	Bacteria	5b
Arroyo Colorado	2202	Mercury in edible tissue	5c
Rio Grande Below Falcon Reservoir	2302	Bacteria	5c
Laguna Madre	2491	DO	5b
Laguna Madre	2491	Bacteria	5c
Laguna Madre (Oyster Waters)	2491OW	Bacteria	5a
Brownsville Ship Channel	2494	Bacteria	5b

5a – TMDL required; 5b- Being Addressed by EPA TMDL; 5c - Being addressed by other action other than TMDL

*Table 2-4 List of Impaired Watersheds with an EPA Approved TMDL that Receive Stormwater Discharges from the MS4 Directly or Indirectly Through Another MS4 (TCEQ, 2014)			
Name	**Seg. ID**	**303(d) Impairment Parameter**	**Category**
Arroyo Colorado	2202	DDE in edible tissue (legacy pollutant)	4a

***The SWMP will not be subject to Part II.D.4.a, due to type of impairment. 4a – State developed TMDL**

Table 2-5 Lower Rio Grande Valley TPDES Stormwater Task Force Receiving Waters associated with the MS4s				
MS4 (Name)	Rio Grande River*	Arroyo Colorado*	Lower Laguna Madre*	Brownsville Ship Channel*
Alamo		X	X	
Alton		X	X	
Brownsville	X	X	X	X
Cameron County	X	X	X	X
Cameron County Drainage District #1		X	X	X
Donna		X	X	
Edinburg		X	X	
La Feria		X	X	
La Joya	X	X	X	
Los Fresnos		X	X	X
Mission		X	X	
Palmview		X	X	
Primera		X	X	
San Benito		X	X	
San Juan		X	X	
Weslaco		X	X	

***impaired**

2.3 FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND LEGAL AUTHORITY

Mayor-Council - Characteristics include:

- Mayor is elected separately from the council, is often full-time and paid, with significant administrative and budgetary authority
- Depending on the municipal charter, the mayor could have weak or strong powers
- Council is elected and maintains legislative powers
- Some cities appoint a professional manager who maintains limited administrative authority

Special District – Characteristics include:

- It's a unit of local government created by the state for a specific function
- Multi-purpose

County – Characteristics include:

- Governing body is commissioners court, which consists of county judge and four commissioners
- County judge is elected at-large, while commissioners are elected from precincts
- Each serves a four-year term

Table 2-6
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY TPDES STORMWATER TASK FORCE

MS4	Form of Government	Legal Authority
Alamo	M	H
Alton	M	H
Brownsville	M	H
Cameron County	C	I
Cameron County Drainage District #1	S	I
Donna	M	H
Edinburg	M	H
La Feria	M	H
La Joya	M	H
Los Fresnos	M	H
Mission	M	H
Palmview	M	H
Primera	M	B
San Benito	M	H
San Juan	M	H
Weslaco	M	H

a – General Law A b- General Law B h – Home Rule I – interlocal agreement
M – Mayor-Council C – County S – Special District

Table 3-3 LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY TPDES STORMWATER TASK FORCE	
MS4	**Website Address**
Alamo	www.alamotexas.org
Alton	www.alton-tx.gov
Brownsville	www.cob.us
Cameron County	www.co.cameron.tx.us
Cameron County Drainage District #1	www.co.cameron.tx.us/ccdd1/CCDD1.html
Donna	www.cityofdonna.org
Edinburg	www.cityofedinburg.com
La Feria	www.cityoflaferia.com
La Joya	www.cityoflajoya.com
Los Fresnos	http://citylf.cloudaccess.net/en//
Mission	www.missiontexas.us
Palmview	http://stormwater.tamuk.edu
Primera	http://stormwater.tamuk.edu
San Benito	www.cityofsanbenito.com
San Juan	www.cityofsanjuantexas.com
Weslaco	www.cityofsanbenito.com

Table 3-4: Implementation Schedule – Web Site

Permit Period	Activity	Measurable Goals	Completed By (Month and Year or Frequency of Action
Year 1-5	Update website regularly.	Record date and type of update	Quarterly
Year 2-5	Review amount of visits to the website.*	Record visitors	Once a month
Year 2-5	Assess the BMP*	Tally and evaluate visits, feedback	Once a month

**** -new activity***

3.2.3 Classroom Presentations

A curriculum with associated materials and training is available and advertised to classroom teachers from various ISDs located within jurisdictions of MS4 stakeholders. Program materials include curriculum on water quality and water conservation, stormwater pollution prevention, and promotion of the SWMP. Classroom visits are conducted by the MS4 that include guest speakers.

The MS4 will also promote the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan (ACWPP) and work with the ACWP to promote mutually beneficial goals. A watershed model, a rain harvesting model, a pervious parking lot model developed by the ACWP and/or the LTSTF are available to the MS4s and the school districts. The BMP will be expanded to include production of a monthly report that will include school visited, activity conducted and number of individuals outreached.

LA FERIA
NOI AND LOCATION MAP

PALMVIEW
NOI AND LOCATION MAP

SAN JUAN
ORDINANCE