

Brownsville/Resaca Watershed Stakeholder Meeting (June 25, 2015)

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Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Nonpoint Source Program

Texas Surface Water Quality Standards

- The Texas Surface Water Quality Standards are rules codified in 30 TAC 307
- Standards consist of two parts:
 - Uses, or purposes
 - Presumed vs Designated
 - Criteria, or indicators to determine use attainment
- Five general categories:
 - Aquatic life
 - Contact recreation
 - Public water supply
 - Fish consumption
 - General uses

Examples

Aquatic Life Use Subcategory	Freshwater DO Mean/Minimum	Saltwater DO Mean/Minimum
Exceptional	6.0/4.0	5.0/4.0
High	5.0/3.0	4.0/3.0
Intermediate	4.0/3.0	3.0/2.0
Limited	3.0/2.0	
Minimal	2.0/1.5	

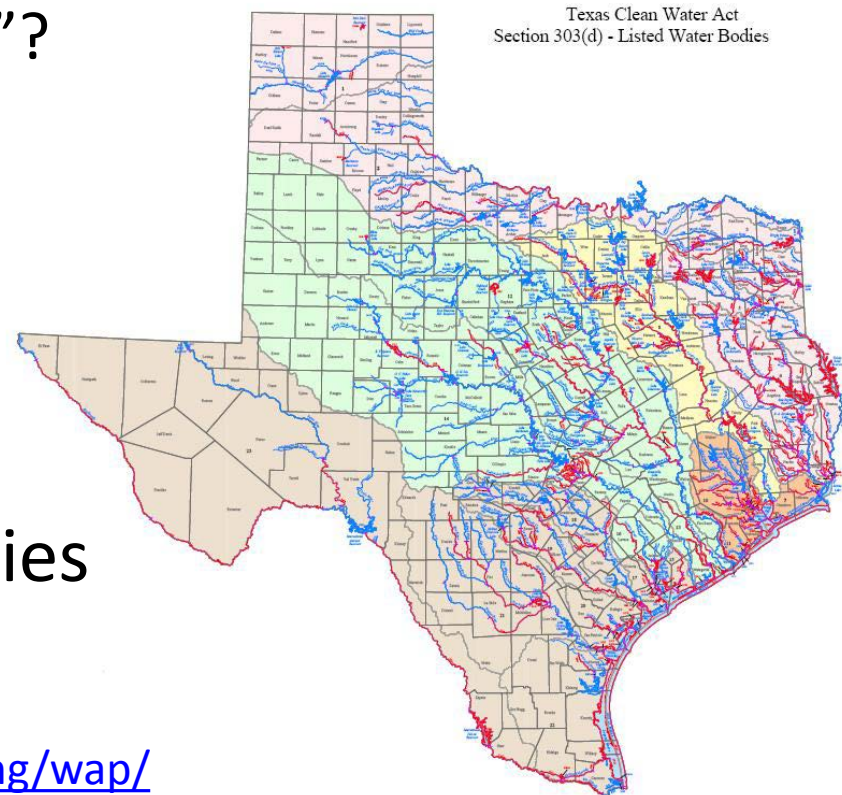
Recreation Uses	<i>E. coli</i> (FW) Geometric Mean Criteria (colonies/100 ml)	Enterococci (SW) Geometric Mean Criteria (colonies/100 ml)
Primary contact	126	35
Secondary contact 1	630	175
Secondary contact 2	1030	--
Noncontact	2060	350

Texas Integrated Report

- Assessment of water bodies every 2 years
 - Process and Guidance
 - Identify impaired water bodies
- 303 (d) List of Impaired Waters
 - Categories
 - 5a – TMDL, watershed action plan
 - 5b – Evaluate water quality standard
 - 5c – Additional data needed

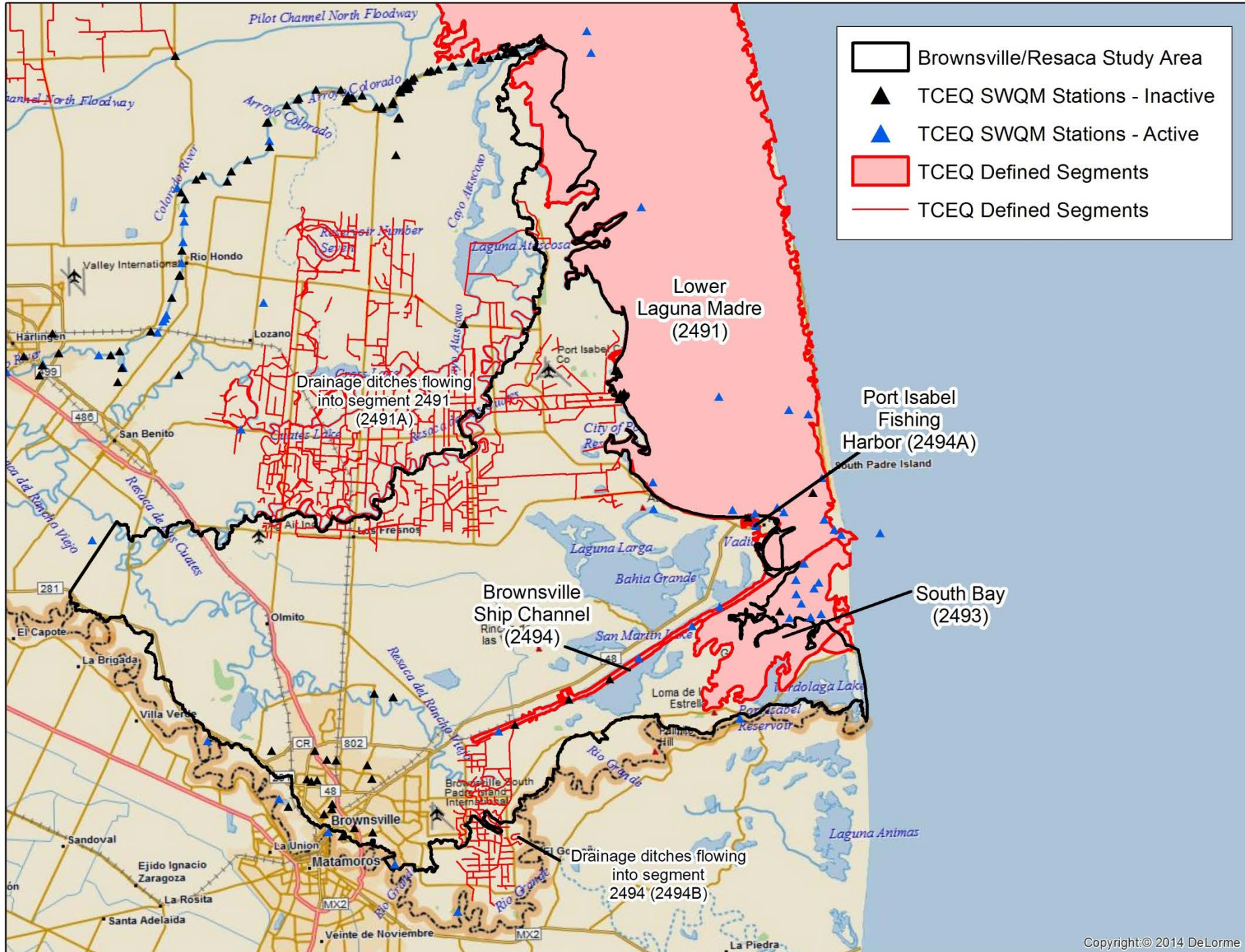
Watershed Action Planning (WAP)

- “Taking action on water quality issues”
- Select strategies to address water quality impairments
 - What is the best “next step”?
 - Meet with stakeholders
- WAP Table
 - Track input
 - Track progress
 - Take action
- Special Interest Water bodies



WAP: Strategies for taking action

- Evaluation
- Monitoring
- Standards Review (Use-Attainability Analysis)
- TMDL / Implementation Plan
- Watershed Protection Plan
- Other (e.g. drought, task force, permitting)



Segment	Uses (Recreation, Aquatic)	Criteria (Bacteria, DO)	Draft 2014 Assessment
2491 Lower Laguna Madre	PCR1 E/O	35/14cfu 5.0 mg/L	Impaired Impaired
2491A Drainage Ditches Flowing into Laguna Madre	PCR1 L	3.0 mg/L	
2494 Brownsville Ship Channel	NCR E	35 cfu 5.0 mg/L	Impaired Concern
2493 South Bay	PCR1 E/O	35/14 cfu 5.0 mg/L	
2494A Port Isabel Fishing Harbor	PCR1 H	35 cfu 3.0 mg/L	Impaired
2494B Drainage Ditches Flowing to Ship Channel	PCR1 L	35 cfu 3.0 mg/L	

Contact Recreation: PCR = Primary Contact Recreation, NCR = Noncontact Recreation

Aquatic Life Use: E = Exceptional, H = High, I = Intermediate, L = Low

Other: O = Oyster Waters , DO = Dissolved Oxygen

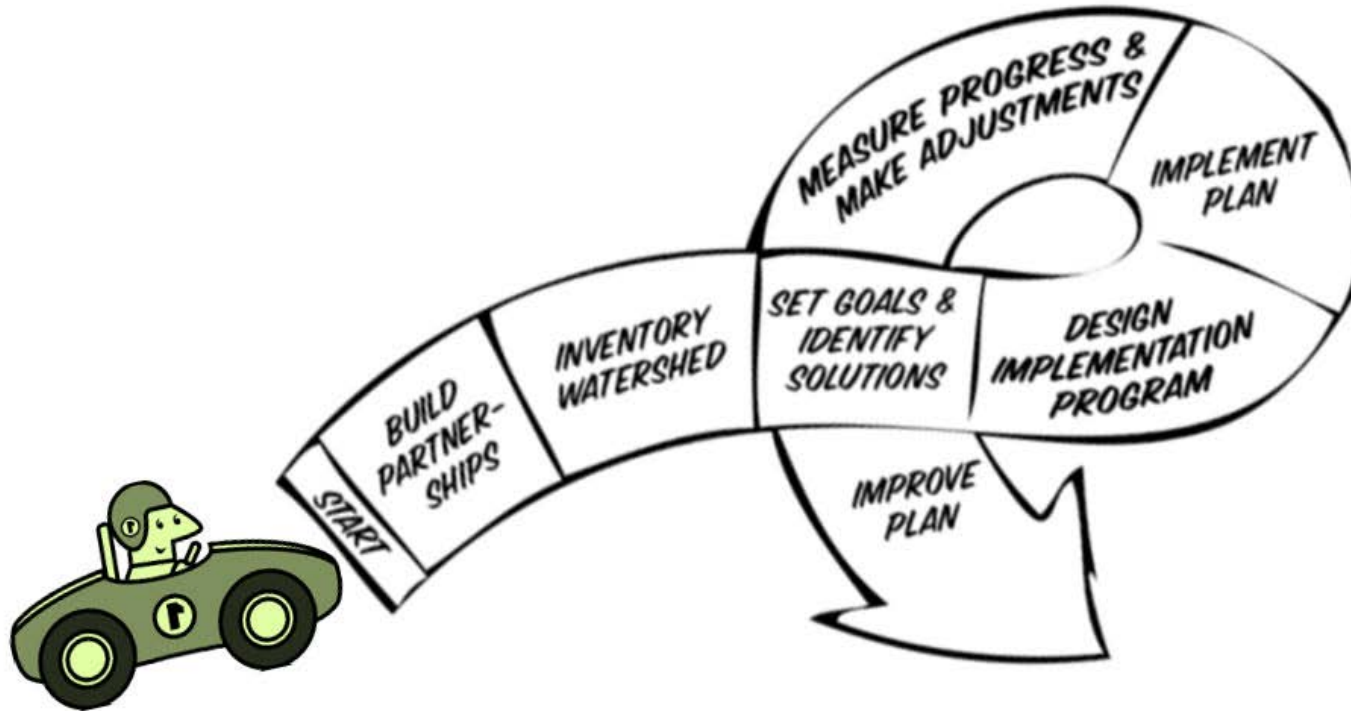
Current WAP Table

Segment and Assessment Unit	Segment Name	Impairment	Impairment Category	Strategy
2494_01	Brownsville Ship Channel	Bacteria	5c	Evaluation
2494A_01	Port Isabel Fishing Harbor	Bacteria	5c	Evaluation
2491_02	Lower Laguna Madre	Depressed DO	5b	WQS Review
2491_02	Lower Laguna Madre	Bacteria	5c	Evaluation
2491_02	Lower Laguna Madre	Bacteria (Oyster Waters)	5a	Evaluation

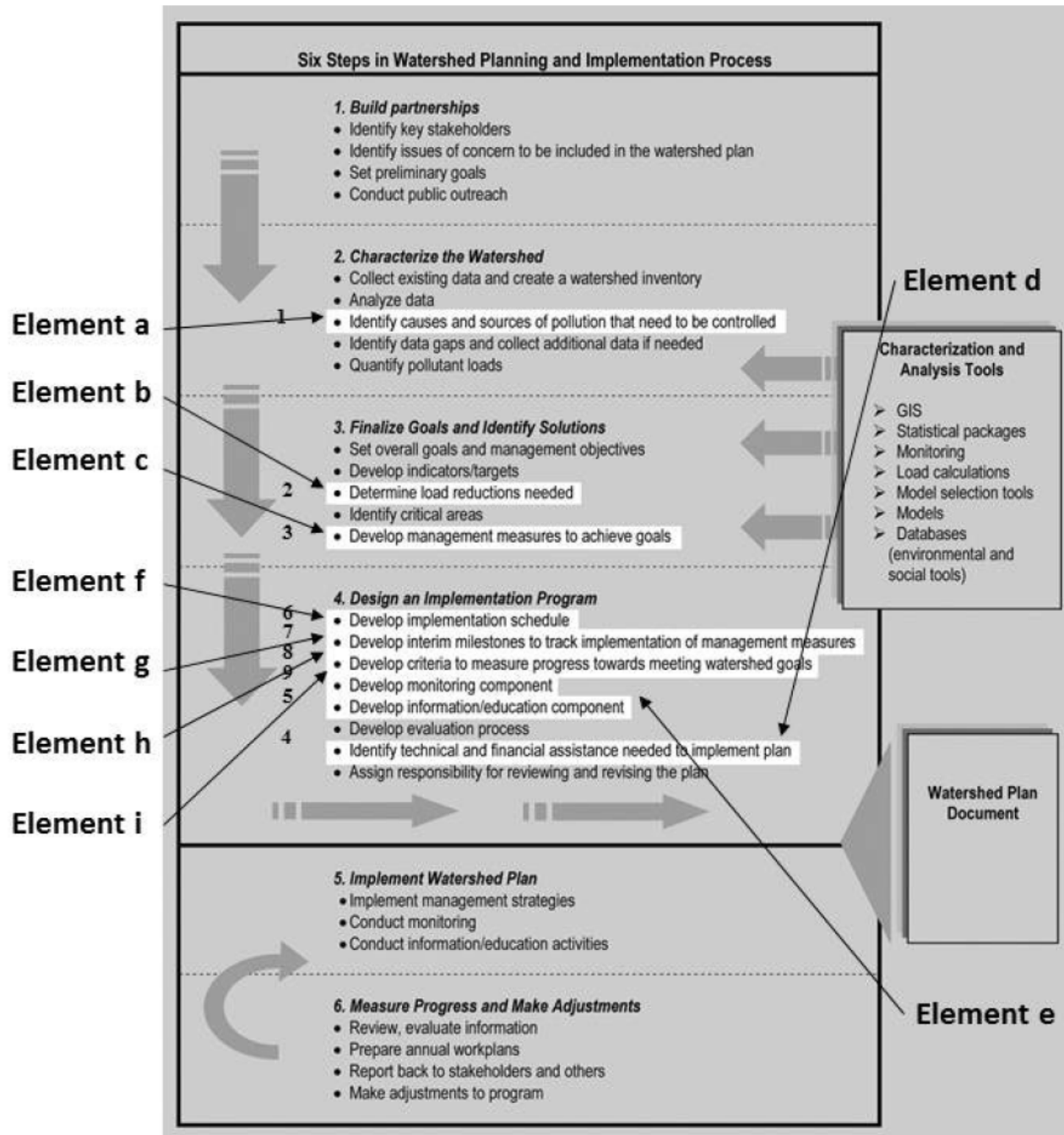
Nonpoint Source Program

- Watershed Approach
- Watershed-Based Plans
 - Watershed Protection Plans (WPPs)
 - Multiple Steps
 - 9-Elements
 - Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plan
- Clean Water Act Section 319(h) funding prioritized for implementation of watershed-based plans addressing:
 1. Impairments (Integrated Report)
 2. Concerns (Integrated Report)
 3. Protection

Watershed Planning Process



Source: EPA Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters



Volunteer Monitoring - Texas Stream Team

<https://aqua.meadowscenter.txstate.edu/map>

Texas Stream Team

Caring for Our Waters



Texas Stream Team Water Quality Data

Retrieve detailed water quality information collected by volunteer monitors for the State of Texas

Click on any of the icons on the map to the right to retrieve detailed water quality data for that location. You can zoom and pan around the map as you can with any other [Google Maps](#) application. The information on the TST water quality data site is principally designed for use by volunteer water quality monitors and is subject to revision.

Toggle map data below

Monitoring Stations

-  Currently Monitored
-  Not Currently Monitored

Base Map Data

- Stream Overlay
- Watershed Overlay
- County Boundaries

Other Data

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