

# FINAL PROGRESS REPORT

**Project Name:** San Benito Wetlands Project – Phase II

**Contract:** 16-076-000-9120

**Reporting Period:** 09/01/2017 –09/30/2017

## Task 1: Design and Permitting

- **Provide a brief description of status of the task:**  not started  in progress  completed
- **Describe major accomplishments for this reporting period (include names of staff working on each task, dates and locations of events/presentations/meetings and dates for milestones/deliverables completed.)**  
  
COSB/TWRI submitted wetland construction plans to the GLO for approval on 9/21/16. The GLO approved the plans and notified TWRI on 9/30/16
- **List the deliverable(s)/milestone(s) for the project and provide the date completed/submitted to the GLO.**
- Final Construction plans for Phase II Wetland Project.
- **Were there any problems or obstacles encountered during this reporting period (e.g., delays, remedial action taken, schedule revision).**  Yes  No If yes, please explain:
- **Briefly describe plans for the next reporting period.**

## Task 2: Construction

- **Provide a brief description of status of the task:**  not started  in progress  completed
- **Describe major accomplishments for this reporting period (include names of staff working on each task, dates and locations of events/presentations/meetings and dates for milestones/deliverables completed.)**  
  
On 8/22 17, the city used an excavator to remove a section of the berm separating Phase II from Phase I. Now that Phase II is connected to Phase I, the effluent is pumped into Pond 14 and water snakes its way through all 14 ponds for tertiary treatment before being discharged into the Arroyo Colorado. All construction activities have been completed for this project.
- **List the deliverable(s)/milestone(s) for the project and provide the date completed/submitted to the GLO.**
- The city connected Phase II to Phase I.
- **Were there any problems or obstacles encountered during this reporting period (e.g., delays, remedial action taken, schedule revision).**  Yes  No If yes, please explain:

- Briefly describe plans for the next reporting period

**Task 3: Monitoring**

- Provide a brief description of status of the task:  not started  in progress  completed
- Describe major accomplishments for this reporting period (include names of staff working on each task, dates and locations of events/presentations/meetings and dates for milestones/deliverables completed.)

Water quality monitoring is ongoing at the site as part of Phase I.

- List the deliverable(s)/milestone(s) for the project and provide the date completed/submitted to the GLO.
- Were there any problems or obstacles encountered during this reporting period (e.g., delays, remedial action taken, schedule revision).  Yes  No If yes, please explain:
- Briefly describe plans for the next reporting period.

Continue water quality monitoring as part of Phase III.

**Task 4: Education and Outreach**

- Provide a brief description of status of the task:  not started  in progress  completed
- Describe major accomplishments for this reporting period (include names of staff working on each task, dates and locations of events/presentations/meetings and dates for milestones/deliverables completed.)
- The TWRI PM completed 3 workshops. Two of the workshops, the ones on 8/23 & 30/17 were held at the San Benito Wetlands site and were planting workshops that consisted of the PM giving the participants a general description of the project and how it has an impact on water quality as well as providing 10 new acres of wetland habitat. Then he described the tree planting activity and broke everyone into 2-3 person planting teams. There were 15 participants at the 1<sup>st</sup> workshop and 32 participants at the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop.

The presentation on 8/27/17 was hosted by the city of San Benito Chamber of Commerce at their “Coffee with” meeting. “Coffee with” is monthly meeting hosted by the Chamber of Commerce that brings together the city commission and members of the community to discuss a different issue, concerns and city projects with a local expert or volunteer every month. The meeting was well attended with approximately 20 people there. Some of the distinguished attendees were, the new Mayor, 3 city commission members and 1 Cameron County Constable. There were also members of the local news-papers in attendance and that resulted in an article being written about the project and was ran in the Valley Morning Star on September 28, 2017. The link is listed here;

[http://www.valleymorningstar.com/news/local\\_news/article\\_e5db0688-a4bd-11e7-9aa9-4b57b590b771.html](http://www.valleymorningstar.com/news/local_news/article_e5db0688-a4bd-11e7-9aa9-4b57b590b771.html)

The renovation of the pole barn as abandoned after UTRGV Civil Engineering students conducted a forensic investigation into the barn and deemed it not suitable for renovation and recommended demolition of the structure before it collapses. Instead, the city and PM decided to have local volunteer groups design and paint homemade interpretative signage in lieu of the pole barn; 2 of the local signs have been completed but only one has been installed due to heavy rain. The PM will work with the city to install an additional 5 local signs at the project site when weather permits. The PM has also purchased professional interpretative signage from iZone Imaging to be installed at the project site; 2-24”x 36” signs about the birds/wetlands and 5 plant identification signs. The PM is working with Keep San Benito Beautiful, South TX Master Naturalist and Master Gardeners volunteers on the content of the signs. The design of the signs are still about 1 month away due to the enormous amount of content that this site has. An ongoing bird count/bird list for the project site dating back to 2012 lists 146 bird species at the ponds with the potential of attracting 250. The professional signs will be installed by the end of the year. The PM will continue to work to install all signs in order to complete this deliverable as part of his

duties as Watershed Coordinator funded by TWRI/AgriLife Extension. He will also be at the same site as the PM for the San Benito Wetlands Phase III project.

- **List the deliverable(s)/milestone(s) for the project and provide the date completed/submitted to the GLO.**
- **None to report this month.**
  
- **Were there any problems or obstacles encountered during this reporting period (e.g., delays, remedial action taken, schedule revision).** Yes No If yes, please explain:
  
- **Briefly describe plans for the next reporting period.**

#### **Task 5: Project Reporting**

- **Provide a brief description of status of the task:**  not started  in progress  completed
  
- **Describe major accomplishments for this reporting period (include names of staff working on each task, dates and locations of events/presentations/meetings and dates for milestones/deliverables completed.)**

The TWRI project has prepared and submitted this report.

- **List the deliverable(s)/milestone(s) for the project and provide the date completed/submitted to the GLO.**
- **The PM submitted the final report on 10/13/17.**
  
- **Were there any problems or obstacles encountered during this reporting period (e.g., delays, remedial action taken, schedule revision).** Yes No If yes, please explain:
  
- **Briefly describe plans for the next reporting period.**  
Project has been completed.