



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

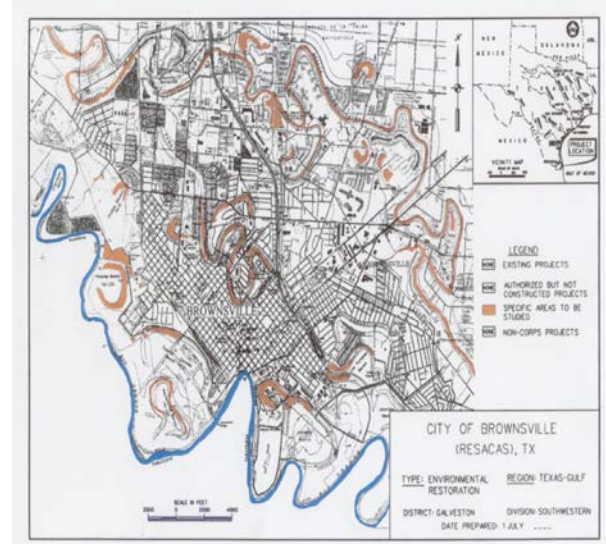
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FACT SHEET as of September 24, 2014

AUTHORIZATION: House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Resolution, 10 November 1999.

TYPE OF PROJECT: Navigation Environmental Restoration, Flood Risk Management

PROJECT PHASE: Feasibility



CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Senators **Cornyn** and **Cruz** (TX); Representative **Vela** (TX-34)

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB)

BACKGROUND: The Study, evaluating the need for ecosystem restoration of the Resacas in the city of Brownsville, is the first of its type for the region. Resacas (oxbow lakes) are former channels of the Rio Grande River that have been cut off from the river, having no inlet or outlet. Before land development and water control, floodwaters from the Rio Grande drained into resacas from the surrounding terrain. During the past decades, siltation and development have reduced the capacity of the resacas, and city would like to investigate economical ways of preserving and restoring the resacas to a natural state. It is estimated that 99% of the riparian habitat along the U.S. side of the Rio Grande River has been cleared (USFWS 1997). The lower Rio Grande Valley is one of the most biologically diverse ecological regions in North America and a critical migratory stopover for birds moving between the Americas. Yet more than 75% of the region's wildlife habitat has been replaced by human development and agriculture. The Resacas become more valuable as time passes given the unpredictable nature of the contamination in the Rio Grande, and continuing drought conditions. The study effort will evaluate the resaca ecosystem for environmental restoration, improve flood protection, and enhance water storage.

STATUS: The project was inactive from April 2002 to September 2014 due to funding issues. If funding becomes available, a new study will be initiated.

ISSUES: The BPUB is currently in the initial stages of a non-Federally funded Resacas Restoration Project. They are in the process of completing dredging of Cemetary Resaca in Brownsville, and have tentative plans to conduct further work. They have expressed interest in the restart of the feasibility study.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (\$):

FEASIBILITY

Federal Cost Estimate	\$1,600,000
Non-Federal Cost Estimate	\$1,400,000
Total Project Cost	\$3,000,000
Allocation thru FY 2014	0
President Budget FY 2014	0
President Budget FY 2015	0
Amount That Could Be Used In FY 2015	0
Balance to Complete	\$1,600,000

SCHEDULE: Pending receipt of funding, review and revision of the 2002 FCSA and update of the previous PMP is scheduled for completion in January 2015.

COMPLETION: Completion of Chief's Report under 3x3x3 compliance is scheduled for September FY 18.

For more information regarding the City of Brownsville (Resacas) Investigation study, contact Mr. Edmond J. Russo, Jr, P.E. Deputy District Engineer for Project Management, Chief Programs and Project Management Division at 409-766-3018 or Edmond.J.Russo@usace.army.mil.