

PROJECT BRIEF: LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY WATERSHED ASSESSMENT



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Galveston District



GALVESTON DISTRICT STAKEHOLDER PARTNERING FORUM

Lower Rio Grande Valley Watershed Assessment

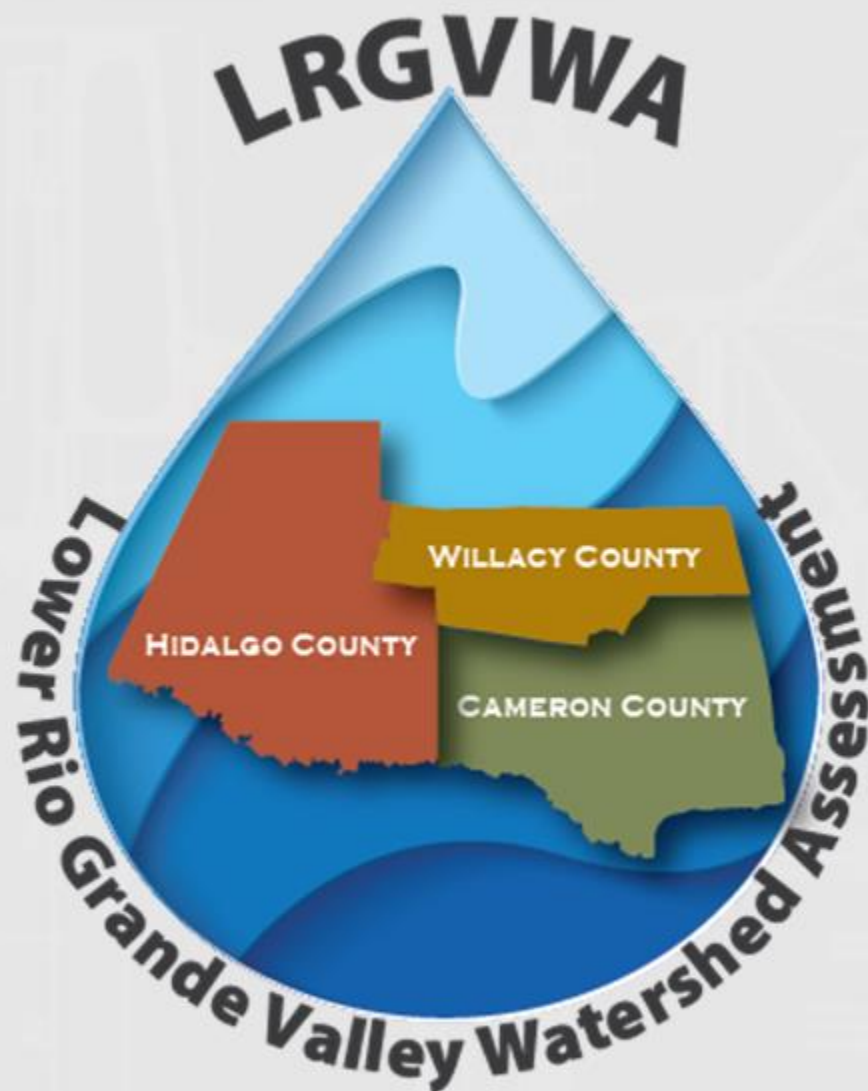
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PROJECT INFORMATION



Non-Federal Sponsor

- Cameron County

Study Area

- Defined by HUC 10 Watersheds within or contributing to conditions in Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, and Kenedy counties

Study Scope

- Address identified **water resources needs from any source**, regardless of agency responsibilities
- Inform **multiple audiences** and decision makers at all levels of government
- Provide **strategic roadmap to inform future investment decisions** by multiple agencies

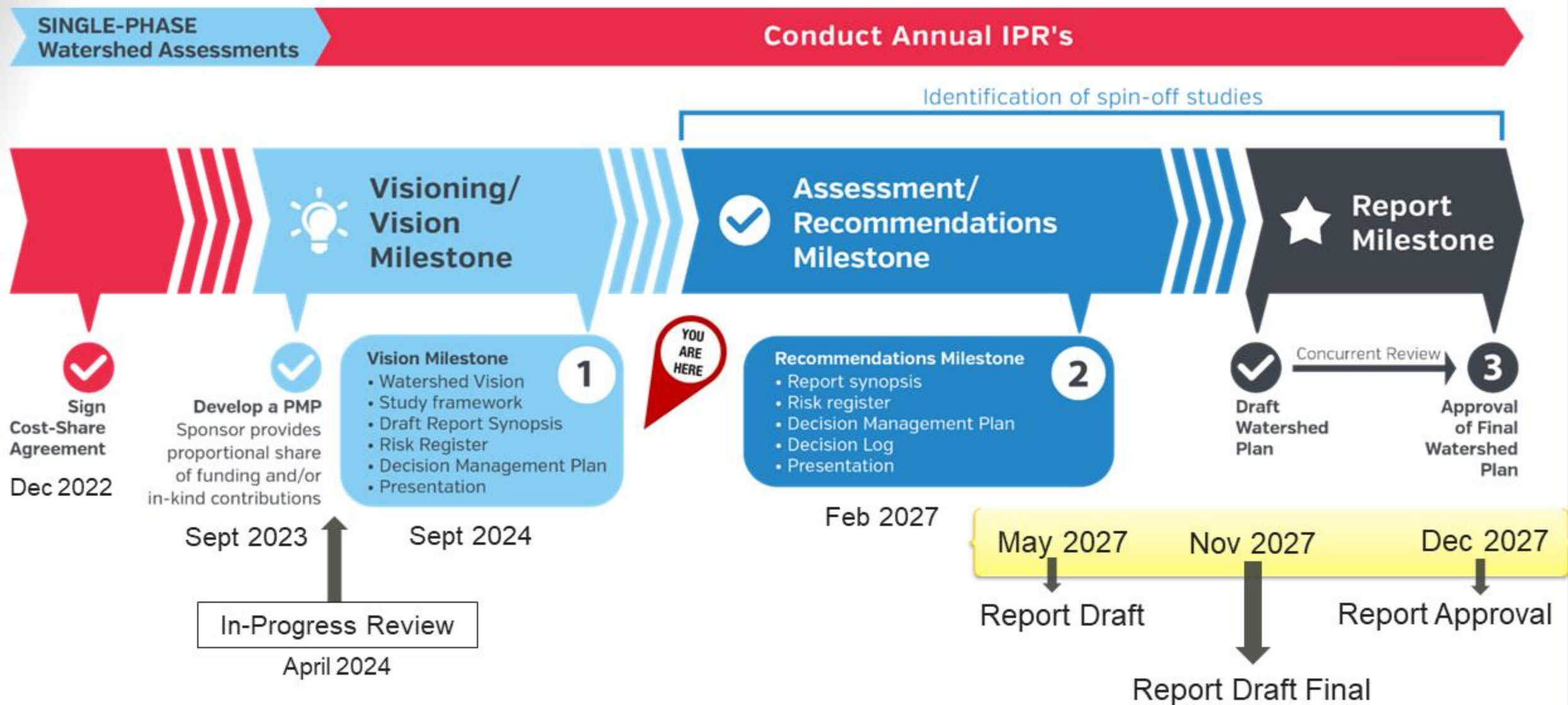




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SCHEDULE



SHARED VISION STATEMENT

Cameron County in partnership with Hidalgo, Willacy, and Kenedy County, and the State of Texas, recognize the challenges the Lower Rio Grande Valley faces. Water resource challenges are exacerbated by the growing need for affordable housing, including updated critical infrastructure needs; international water control policies; water supply and quality for potable, agriculture and aquatic ecosystem needs; as well as the management of risks associated with coastal storms, riverine flood risk and stormwater management.

These partners, in collaboration with USACE, other Federal Agencies and non-Federal stakeholders, seek to develop a comprehensive plan focused on water resource related resiliency across the entire LRGV. USACE, with its technical and engineering planning expertise will support the development of a plan to meet the long-term viability needs of the Region



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OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



Future Public Meetings will be held in Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties.

Community roadshows will be held within existing community level meetings and venues

- If you have suggestions on venues and meetings in your local communities, please let us know.

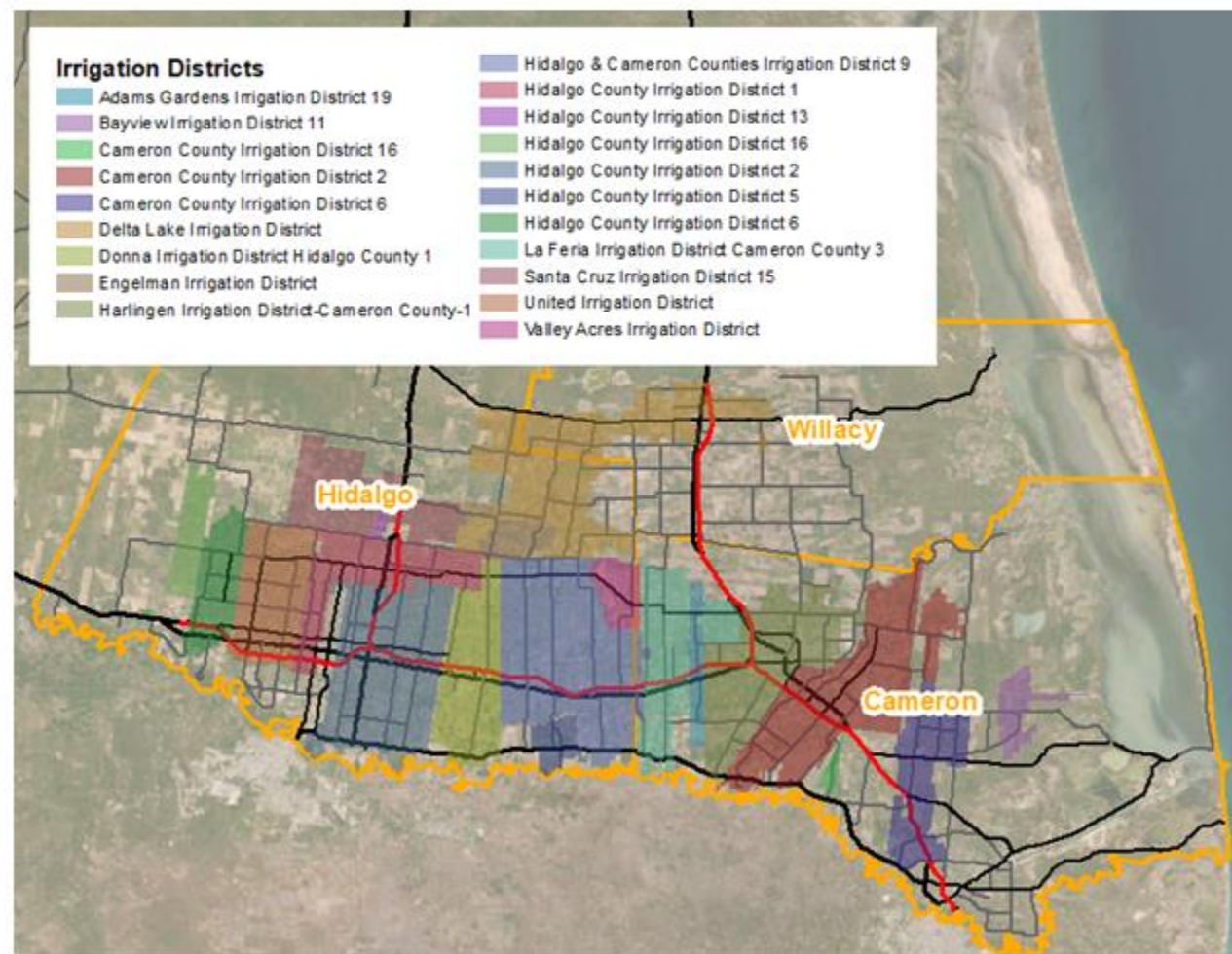


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PROBLEMS



Lack of regional, comprehensive, long range watershed management plans degrade regional resilience to water resource problems and increases risk to public health and safety.





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PROBLEMS



Communities experience decreased economic resilience and increased risk to public safety from coastal, riverine, and stormwater flooding events.



Source: NOAA Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX Weather Forecast Office Storm Summary (The Great June Flood of 2018 in the RGV ([weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov)))



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PROBLEMS



Loss of floodplain functions in the region has **reduced capacity** in streams, resacas, rivers, and other bodies of water depended on for stormwater management and drainage.

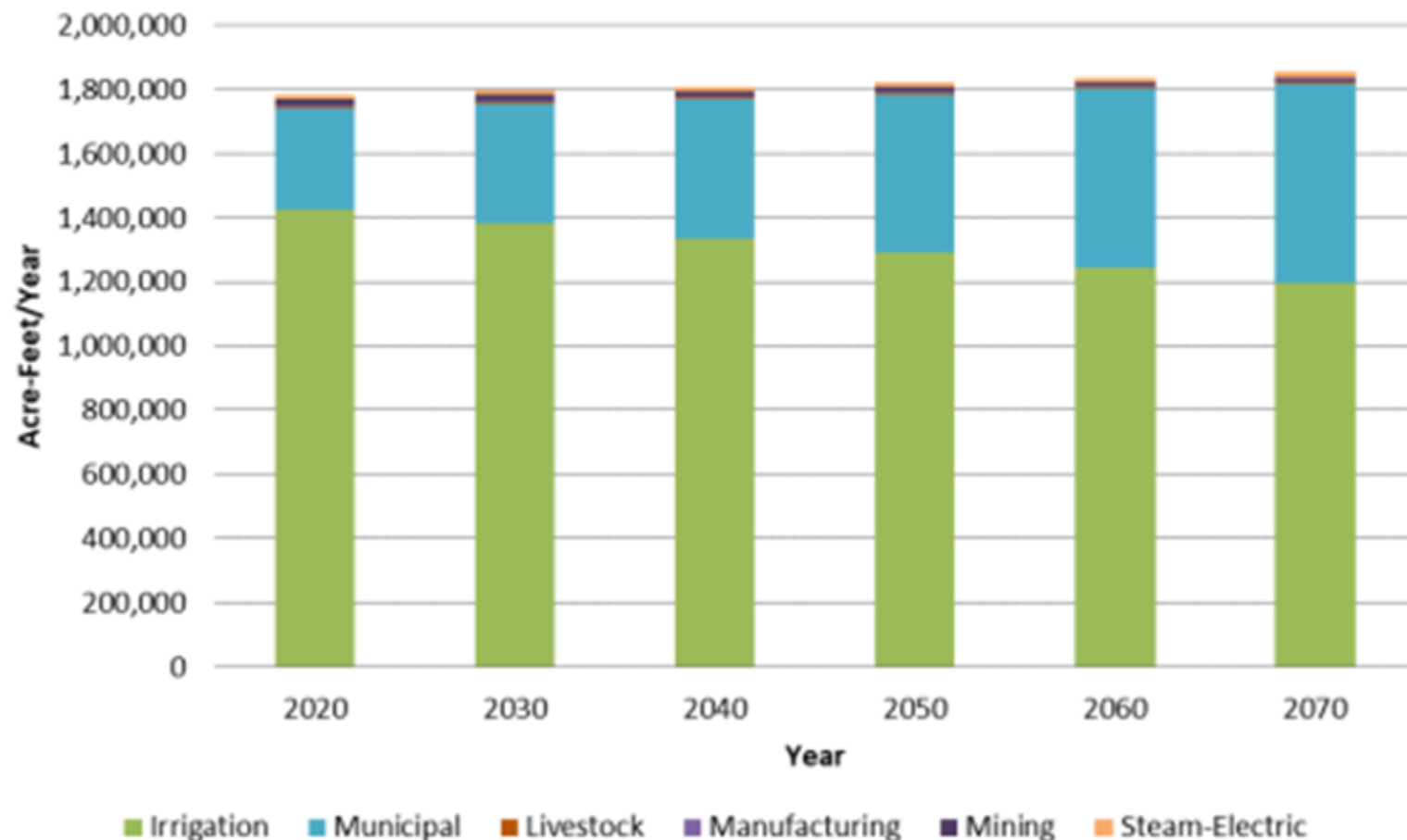
Degraded Ecosystems and Natural Habitats





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PROBLEMS



Region M current water use projections.

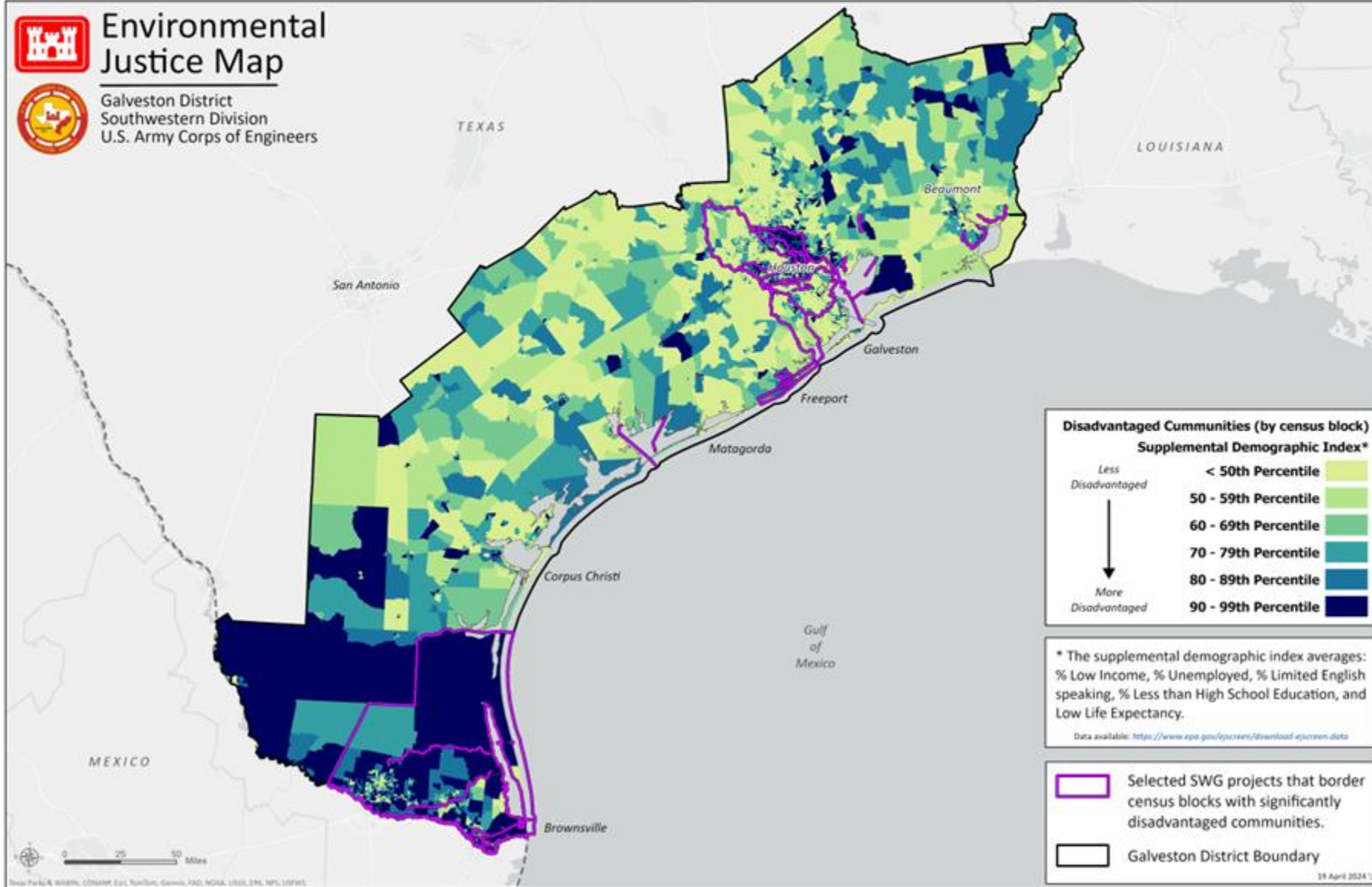
Increased drought conditions and demand for water supply to support population growth, agriculture, and ranching production has stressed water supply and water quality across the region.



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ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/ DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

10





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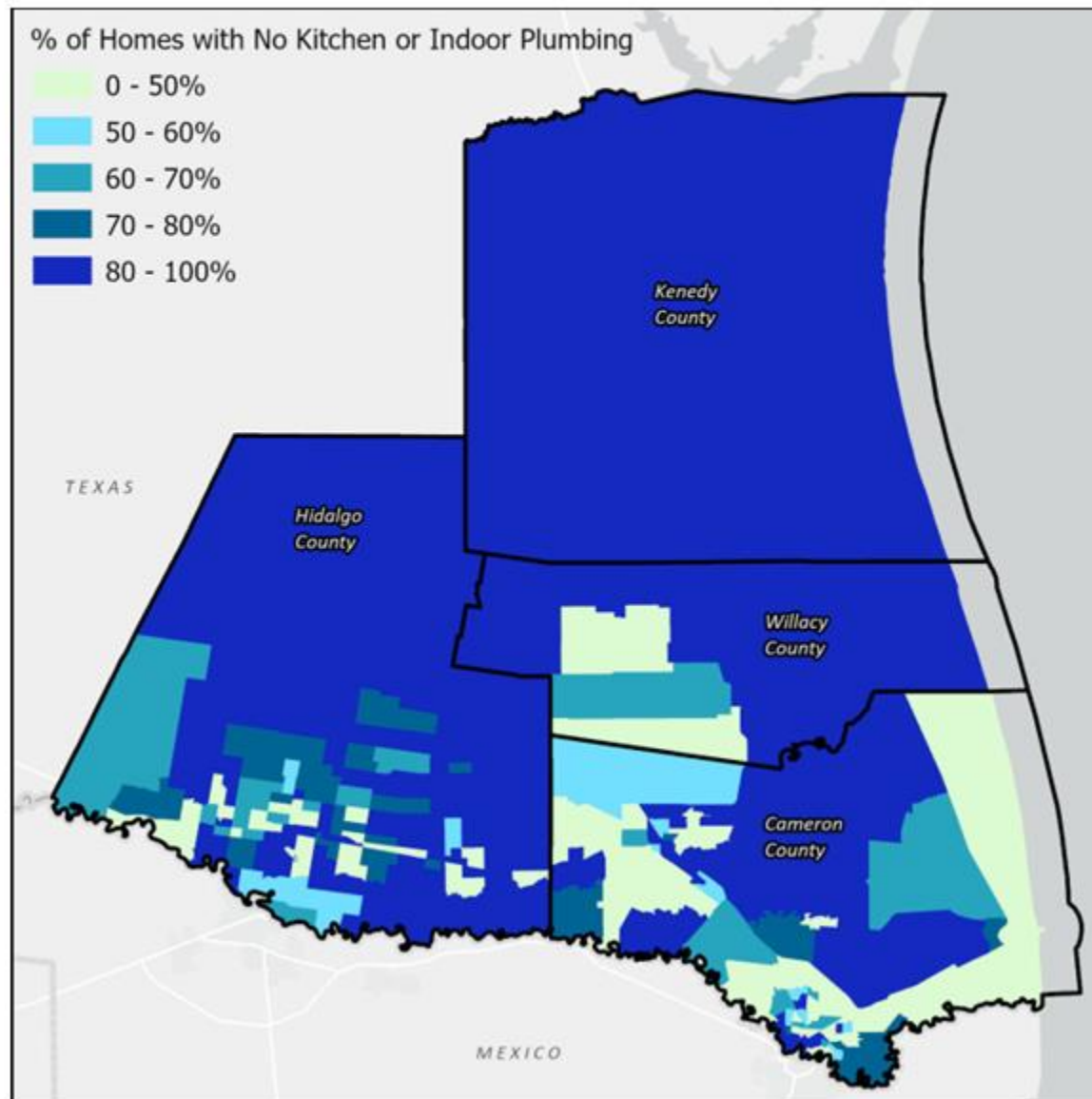
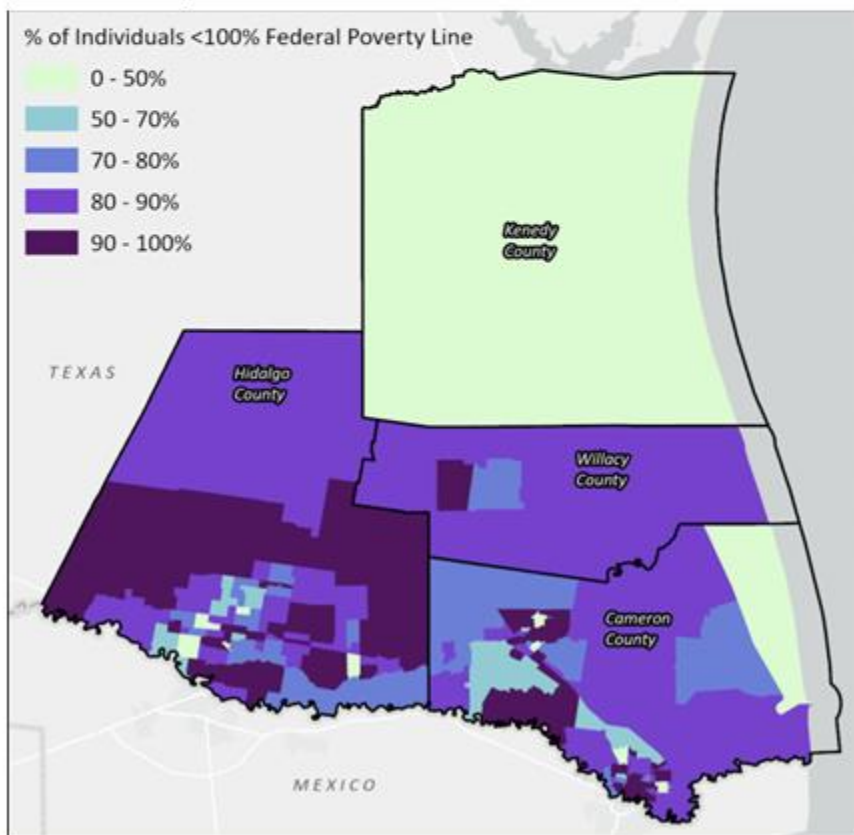
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/ DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

11



2 Significant Indicators of EJ Status

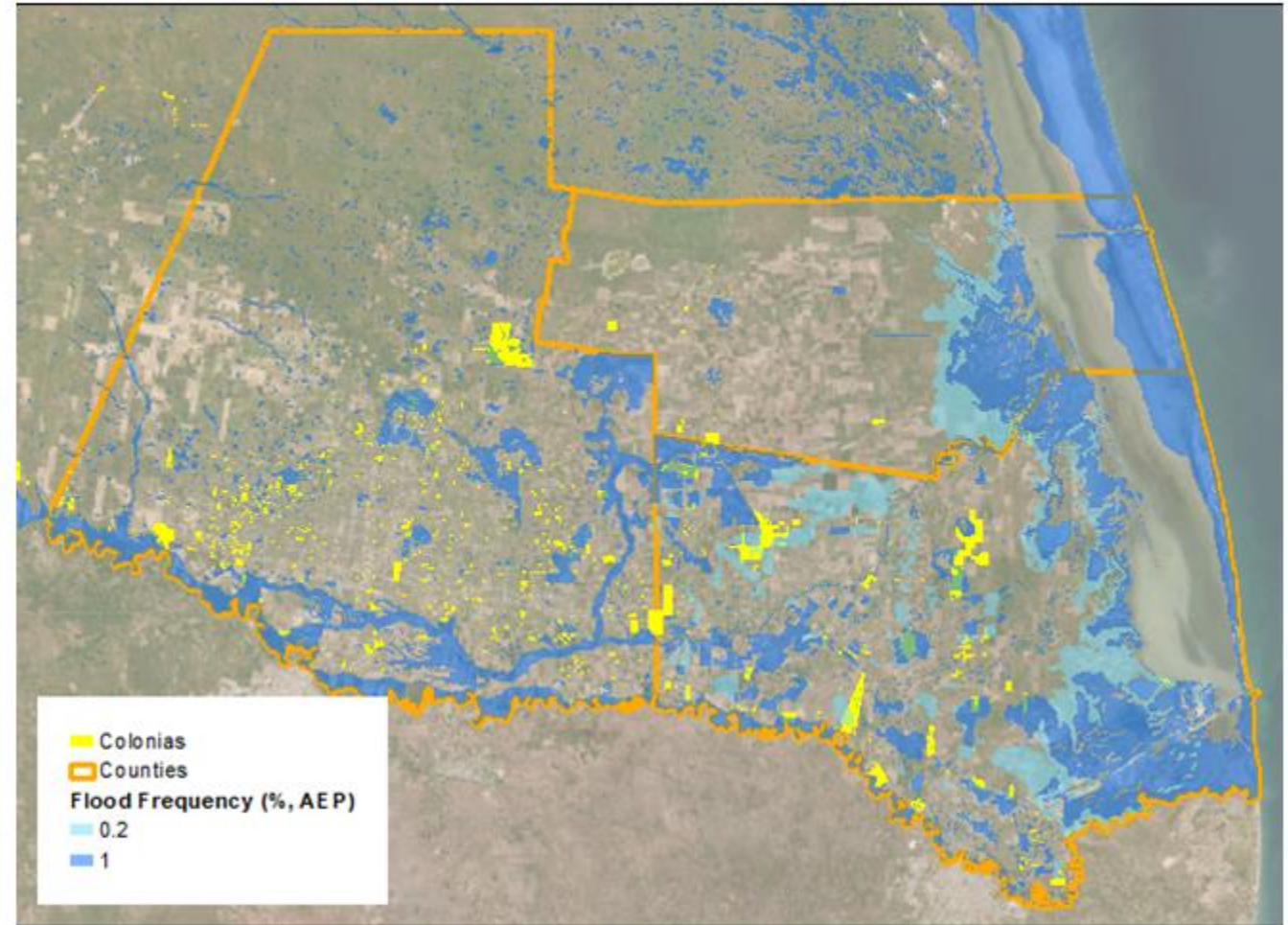
- Economic: Part of the Texas-Mexico *persistent poverty region*
- Minority: Over 90% of individuals are Hispanic or Latino.





Colonias are semirural subdivisions that are often developed with substandard or no potable water and sanitary sewer systems. Without potable waterlines, many colonia residents rely on buckets or drums of water, which may become contaminated.

South Texas has the largest number of colonias (2,294) and the largest population living in them (Estimated at 400,000 people).





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PROJECT OBJECTIVES

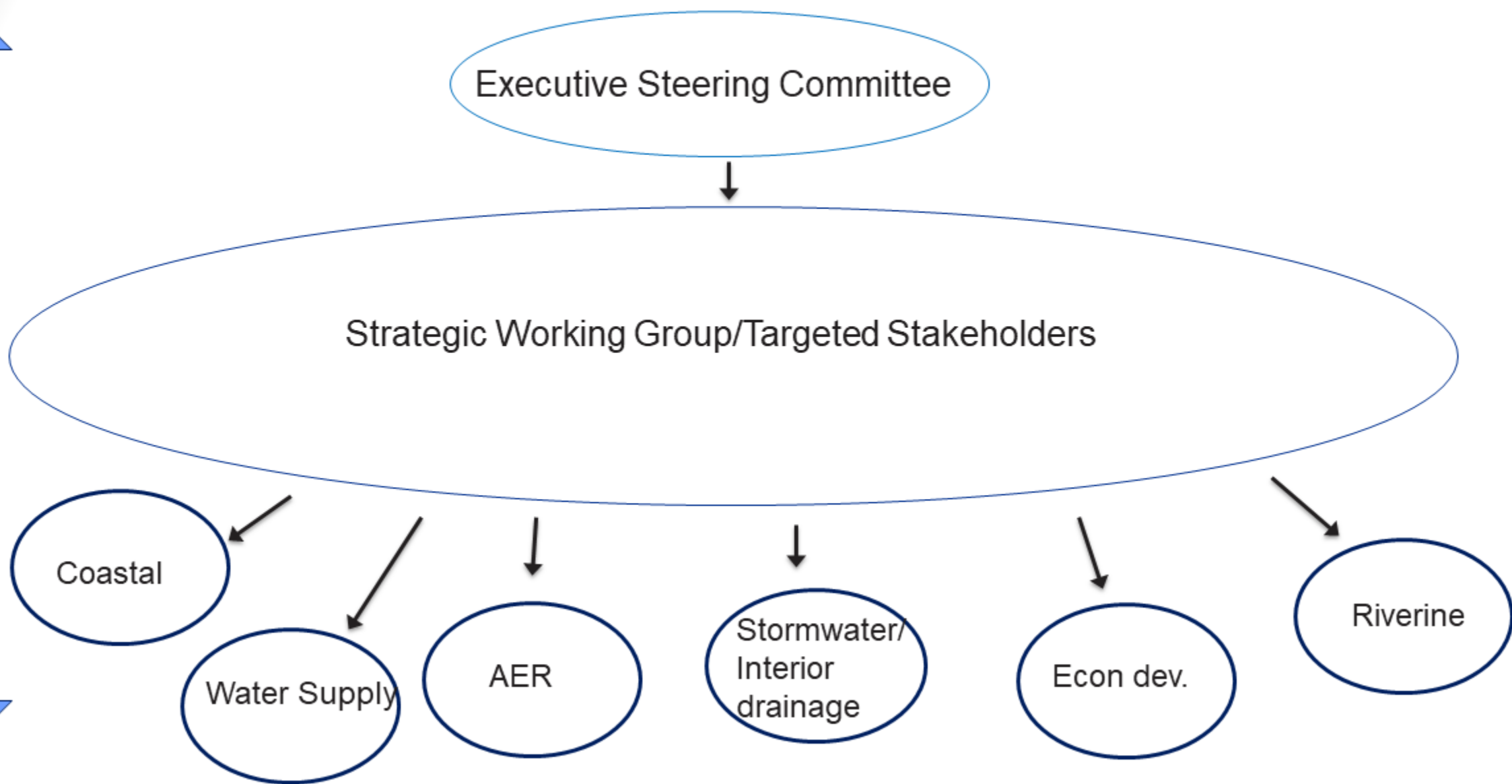


1. Support community resiliency and recovery from drought and flood-related events. Reduce life loss, injuries, and public health and safety risks from water-related hazards in LRGV.
2. Increase community outreach to improve the public's understanding of flood risk and provide them with the tools to reduce their risk.
3. Improve reliability and resiliency of water resources to meet increasing demand during droughts
4. Increase long-term resilience of infrastructure and environment to inland and coastal climate stressors.
5. Improve water quantity and quality



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COLLABORATION AND ENGAGEMENT



Public Involvement/EJ



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WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS

Focus Area Working Group	# non-USACE participants	Agencies
Strategic Working Group	47	EPA, Texas A&M, TWDB, USDA, USGS, FWS, Halff, IBWC, FEMA, NOAA, TCEQ, cities and counties
Flooding – Coastal, Riverine, Stormwater	14	EPA, USGS, USDA, FWS, NOAA, FEMA, UTRGV, drainage districts and city representation
Ecosystem Restoration	34	NMFS, TPWD, UTRGV, USFWS, NRCS, EPA
Water Quality and Water Supply	17	USGS, EPA, Drainage Districts and cities, TCEQ, UTRGV,
Regional Econ Development/Social Vulnerability	8	TAMU, UTRGV, EPA, cities



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PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

16



	2024												2025											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Milestones								Shared Vision Milestone																
Steering Committee Meeting																								
Strategic Working Group Meeting																								
Working Group Meetings									to be scheduled as needed: quarterly at a minimum															
EJ Focus Group Meeting																								
Public Meetings																								
Community Outreach/Roadshow																								

	2026												2027											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Milestones														Recommendations Milestone			Draft Report							Final Report
Steering Committee Meeting																								
Strategic Working Group Meeting																								
Working Group Meetings																								
EJ Focus Group Meeting																								
Public Meetings																								
Community Outreach/Roadshow																								

Public Meetings will be held in Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties. Steps will be taken to remove barriers to participation by enhancing opportunities for all through venue location, translation and interpretation needs.

EJ Focus Group Meetings will include the steering committee, representatives of local advocacy groups and Federal, state, and local partners. The group will plan the implementation and execution of public outreach, with emphasis on ensuring disadvantaged community voices are heard.

Community outreach will leverage existing community level meetings; USACE lead outreach will be directed to individuals and organizations that represent members of EJ communities.



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OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



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WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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