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Flood Control Study, Analysis, Plans and Projects

Several long-term studies are in progress or about to start with funding through the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and local governments to provide technical data and analysis of flooding in Woodlawn Lake; Upper San Antonio River Watershed in Alamo Heights; Cibolo Creek Watershed; Leon Creek Watershed; Salado Creek Watershed and the Lower San Antonio River in Wilson, Karnes and Goliad counties. A study has also been completed on the Medina Dam to assess the hydraulics and hydrology of the Medina River Watershed from Bandera County through Bexar County.

Other BRWM projects include a coordinated pre-disaster mitigation plan for a 13-county area in South Texas to reduce future damage from natural disasters, streamline the disaster recovery process and capitalize on Federal funding. BRWM is developing standardized criteria and techniques for flood debris removal along Leon and Salado Creeks and is identifying additional sites for debris removal. And with a capital improvement program totaling more than \$237 million, BRWM has identified 34 projects for regional flood control and storm water management.

Structural Improvements for Flood Control

Salado Dam 15R

Completion of Salado Flood Retention Dam 15R in San Antonio's McAllister Park was celebrated in October, 2004, the final in a series of 14 flood-control dams along the Salado Creek watershed. The dam can restrain 1.1 billion gallons of water to allow slower release of accumulated rainfall, lessening the potential for erosion and flooding on the city's East Side.

can safely withstand the passage of water in a maximum flood event.

Southwest Research Institute property in Northwest San Antonio is designed to reduce peak discharges downstream of Loop 410. The project involves a 50-acre detention pond with the storage capacity of 1,100 acre-feet. The project has expanded into cooperatives with the private sector.

Culebra/Loop 410

The just-completed Culebra/ Loop 410 Detention Facility in the Leon Creek Watershed on



Salado Dam 15R is an example of BRWM structural improvements for flood control.

Martinez 4 & 5

The Martinez 4 & 5 Flood Control Dam Rehabilitation Project in the Northeast Bexar County community of Live Oak is in progress, involving renovation of the dam and spillway to ensure that the structure



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Partnership Aims to Improve Flood Control, Water Management

It is no coincidence that communities thrive where water is abundant. We depend on it for drinking, recreation, energy, cleaning, irrigation and industry. Simply put, we cannot live without it. But living with it can be just as challenging, especially when creeks and rivers turn into raging torrents.

periods, resulting in flooding that caused in excess of \$1 billion in damage.

Flood Aftermath

Following these two events, government leaders united in an effort to provide improved flood control, storm water management and water quality. The Bexar County Commissioners Court, San Antonio City Council and the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) Board

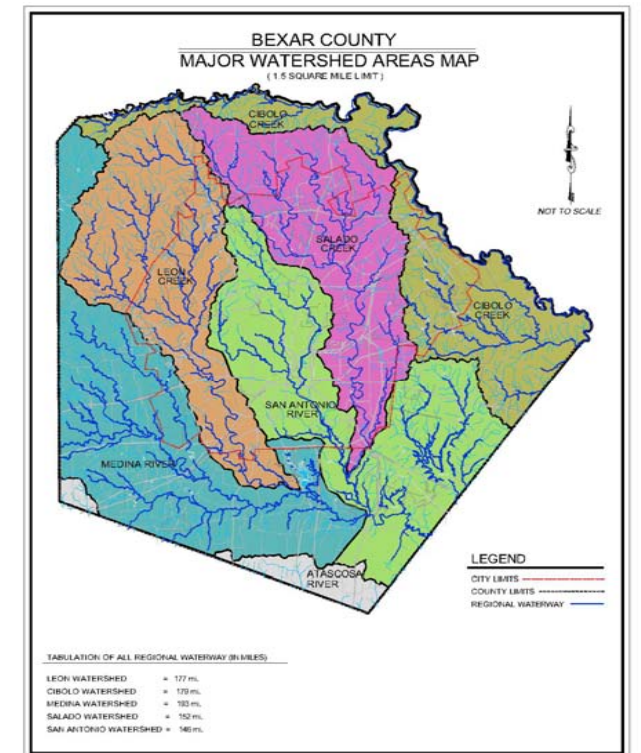
of Directors created an interlocal agreement to form the Bexar Regional Watershed Management (BRWM) partnership. Recognizing that water knows no boundaries, BRWM also includes 18 suburban cities within Bexar County, drawing upon their technical expertise, leadership and resources to manage flood control and water quality.

Managing Water Flow, Quality

The San Antonio region faces periods of drought and periods of flood, cycles determined by weather patterns and our geographic location. Deciding how best to manage too little water or too much water is a responsibility to which area governments devote significant resources, constantly planning for the future by implementing newer and better technology, bolstering flood control measures, studying water flow and water runoff and many other measures.

In October, 1998 and July, 2002, the San Antonio area was deluged by record amounts of rain in short

- Flood Control Enhancement**
- Improving technology
 - Combining resources
 - Studying water flow and runoff
 - Providing better warning systems
 - Building dams



BRWM Goals

- To improve citizens' quality of life, protect life and property and provide for safe transportation during heavy rain and flood events.
- To address water quality issues collaboratively, rather than individually.

Management and Oversight of BRWM Partnership

Three groups govern BRWM:

1. Committee of Seven: Members include two representatives from San Antonio City Council, two from Bexar County Commissioners Court, two from SARA Board of Directors and one elected official representing the participating suburban cities. They work together in overseeing BRWM and directing the Management Committee.
2. Management Committee provides leadership for BRWM: Members include the City of San Antonio's Director of Public Works, Bexar County's Executive Director of Infrastructure Services, SARA's General Manager and one representative from participating suburban cities.

3. Watershed Improvement Advisory Committee: 15-member public participation group acting in an advisory capacity to the Management Committee. The three governments each appoint five citizen members.



Debris removal is one of the cooperative projects that can be accomplished more efficiently under the BRWM partnership.

Partnership Benefits

Through coordination in planning and capital improvement programs, BRWM can work to prevent the impact that heavy rain and flooding has on Bexar County. This can be accomplished by reducing duplication of efforts among government agencies and allocating manpower and resources more effectively and efficiently. Updated, integrated technology will aid in the analysis of flood and storm water data to enhance flood warning, water quality and land use planning. In addition, the creation of BRWM makes it easier to comply with state and federal requirements

and to seek state and federal funding. BRWM can also provide the public with information and educational opportunities to heighten awareness of flood control and water quality projects and programs.

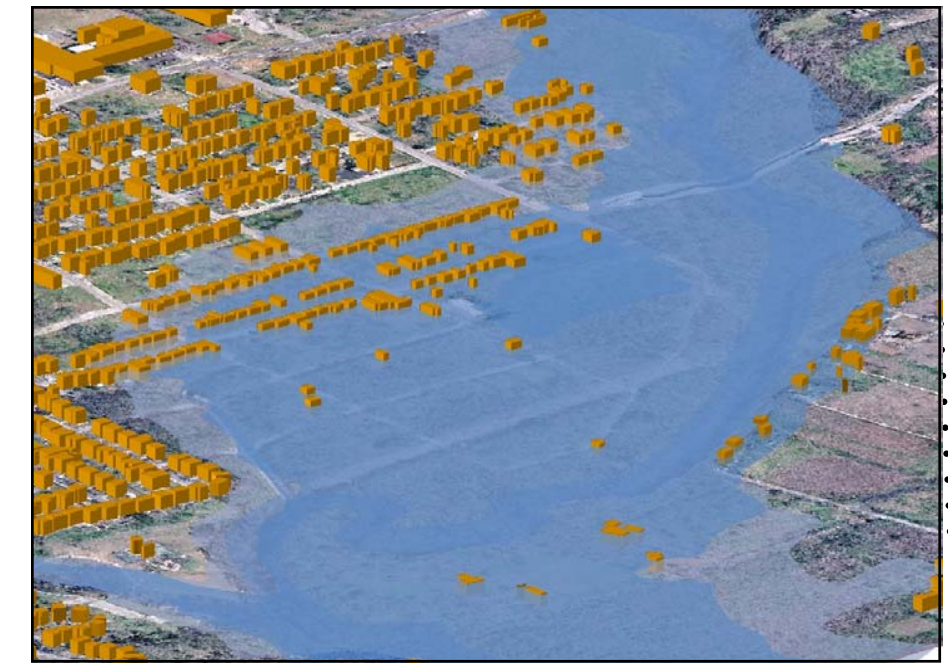
Capital Improvement Projects

To date, BRWM has committed \$46 million for 21 projects with fund-

ing from the San Antonio 2003 Storm Water Revenue Bond Projects. For 2005, the partnership has identified 61 projects and studies estimated at \$122 million for regional flood control and storm water management. This investment includes over \$92 million in local funds which were used to leverage other state and federal funding sources totaling more than \$30 million. Here are some examples of how these dollars have been spent:

Technology to Enhance Flood Control

Using one geographical database instead of several, BRWM has linked flood control and water quality models for use in planning and analysis. As shown at right, BRWM has also developed a Map2Map system using real-time weather radar to predict flood events and improve flood warning.

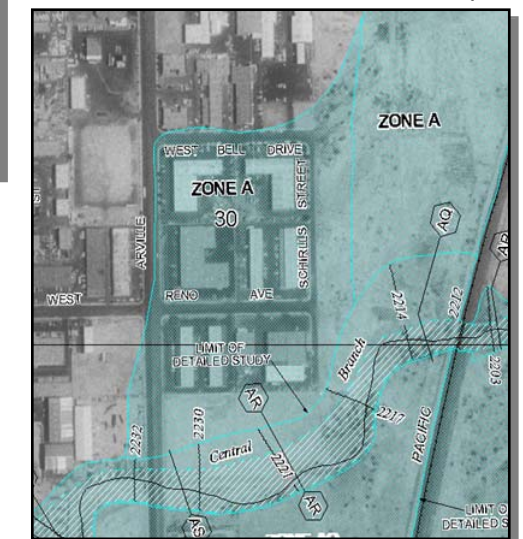
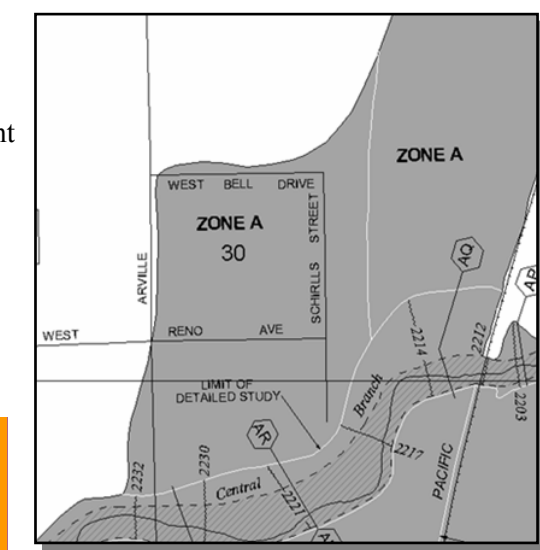


The Map2Map system uses real-time weather radar to predict flood events and improve flood warning.

Digital Mapping

BRWM will develop Bexar County Regional watershed models and digital flood insurance rate maps (DFIRMs) to identify areas where changes in floodplain management are needed and where savings to flood insurance premiums may be realized.

The new maps will reflect the county's extensive drainage improvements and development over the past 20 years and provide a much-improved picture of the flood risk in all areas of the county.



These images depict a traditional flood insurance rate map (above) and the newer digital flood insurance rate map (DFIRM-right).

"The new maps ... provide a much-improved picture of the flood risk in all areas of the county."