



**SAN ANTONIO
RIVER AUTHORITY**
Leaders in Watershed Solutions

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

MISSION: The San Antonio River Authority's mission is to sustain and enrich life in the San Antonio River Watershed.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The State of Texas has empowered the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) to preserve, protect and manage the resources and environment of the San Antonio River and its tributaries. Our district spans Bexar, Goliad, Karnes and Wilson counties, yet our concern for the quality and quantity of water extends our focus beyond these boundaries, as factors outside the district contribute to the health and well being of the river and our communities. Through the knowledge and skill of professional and technical staff, we continue to develop and sustain the expertise needed to fulfill our service mission.

SARA'S ROLE IN BASIN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES



SARA is a leader on environmental issues within the San Antonio River Basin. We use our scientific expertise to help improve the health of the basin's water-related resources and establish the environmental standards within our basin based upon scientifically sound methodologies and techniques.

SARA utilizes a watershed management approach in the conservation, development and protection of the basin's water-related resources. SARA works with federal, state, regional and local agencies on projects throughout the basin. SARA will continue to work closely with our communities and partnering agencies to foster the watershed management approach and to maximize the environmental benefits of the region's water-related projects.

ONGOING WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAMS

• Clean Rivers Program (CRP) Monitoring

SARA monitors 43 sites with most locations being monitored 6 times per year under this program. The program's goal is to maintain and improve the quality of the water within the San Antonio River Basin. Under the program, SARA has established an Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) which serves as the CRP Steering Committee that provides public input into local and regional water quality issues. For information on the program or the steering committee, contact Charles Lorea, (210) 302-3674 or clorea@sara-tx.org.

• SARA Stream Monitoring

This program monitors 10 sampling sites to characterize water quality conditions throughout the San Antonio River Basin. Samples are collected monthly under this program. For more information, contact Karen Sablan at (210) 302-3673 or karens@sara-tx.org.

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SPECIALIZED WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAMS

In addition to its on-going proactive monitoring programs, SARA develops programs that respond to community input and emergency situations. Below are two examples:

• Texas Instream Flows Planning Project

SARA staff has expressed to the State Agencies preference to be engaged in the lower San Antonio River stream flow study as an active partner. The Environmental Sciences Department (ESD) Instream Flows Planning Project provides a budget for engaging a consultant to conduct instream flows studies according to the State's methodology, and to make instream flow recommendations to River Authority Staff. Project activities will also include planning, document and data review/comment, correspondence, attendance at meetings and keeping SARA management and the Board of Directors informed. For more information, contact Rebecca Reeves, (210) 302-3670 or rreeves@sara-tx.org.

• Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation in the Upper San Antonio River Basin, Salado Creek, and Walzem Creek (Project Completed 2010)

This project will produce a document that will serve as a guide towards abatement control of non-point source pollution of coliform bacteria in the Upper San Antonio River and Salado Creek watersheds. Data, plans, information, and input from the BRWM partners, stakeholders and the public will form the basis for the Implementation Plan (IP). The IP will compliment the TCEQ TMDL effort by establishing the framework needed for implementation through public outreach, awareness, and input efforts, as well as collaboration with partners and stakeholders. The project will set short and long term goals for pollutant reduction in the watershed. For more information, contact Ernest Moran, (210) 302-3668 or emoran@sara-tx.org.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS AND DATA

• Basin Highlights Report

Required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), this annual report documents and analyzes data collected at each Clean Rivers Program (CRP) monitoring site in the San Antonio River Basin. For more information, contact Patricia Carvajal, (210) 302-3672 or pacarvajal@sara-tx.org.

• Basin Summary Report

Also required by TCEQ, this report documents and analyzes data collected over a 5-year period at the CRP monitoring sites. The report was last published in 2008, with the next report to be published in 2013.

For information, contact Patricia Carvajal, (210) 302-3672 or pacarvajal@sara-tx.org.

• Historical Water Quality Data

SARA's Website houses CRP and other historical water quality data available to citizens, students, and teachers. To access historical water quality data and the reports above, log onto www.sara-tx.org and click on the Texas Clean Rivers Program link.

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES:

SARA's Environmental Sciences Department Laboratory was the first River Authority Laboratory to complete and successfully obtain NELAC accreditation under the TCEQ program. This laboratory is utilized to conduct weekly tests of drinking water and/or wastewater for cities within the basin in order to improve water quality, habitats and the environment.

Responds to emergencies affecting the environment to protect and ensure the health of the ecosystem.

PUBLIC INPUT AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

• Clean Rivers Program (CRP) Steering Committee

SARA established the CRP Steering Committee to provide a forum for public discussion of water-related issues within the San Antonio River Basin and to give members the opportunity to steer future monitoring efforts. SARA's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) also serves as the CRP Steering Committee. The EAC meets quarterly, with one meeting per year typically dedicated solely to the CRP. For more information, contact Charles Lorea, (210) 302-3674 or clorea@sara-tx.org.

• Community and Education Outreach

SARA routinely participates in community activities, including making presentations to schools, hosting educational booths and holding targeted public meetings. Contact Steven Schauer, (210) 302-3644 or sschauer@sara-tx.org.