

Clean Rivers Program

2021 Colorado River Water Quality Advisory
Committee Meeting



David Allen Bass

May 29, 1968 – July 11, 2021





AGENDA

- Clean Rivers Program Activities and Updates
- TITAN Analysis of Macroinvertebrate and Periphyton Communities in Response to Nutrients
- Harmful Algae in the Highland Lakes
- Stakeholder Updates
 - Austin Youth River Watch
 - Hill Country Alliance
 - Colorado River Alliance
- Open Discussion on Water Quality Topics in the Basin



Activities and Updates Clean Rivers Program

Lisa Benton

Lower Colorado River Authority

CRP History and Structure

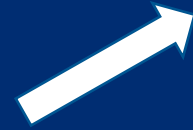
*Working together for clean
water and science-based
decisions*



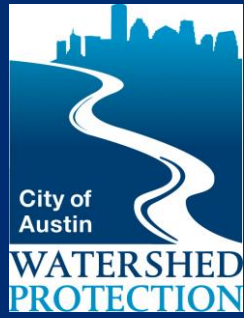
1991
Texas Legislature
passes the
Clean Rivers Act



WATER QUALITY DATA
REPORTING
STAKEHOLDER EDUCATION



+
Other Texas
River
Authorities /
Water Districts

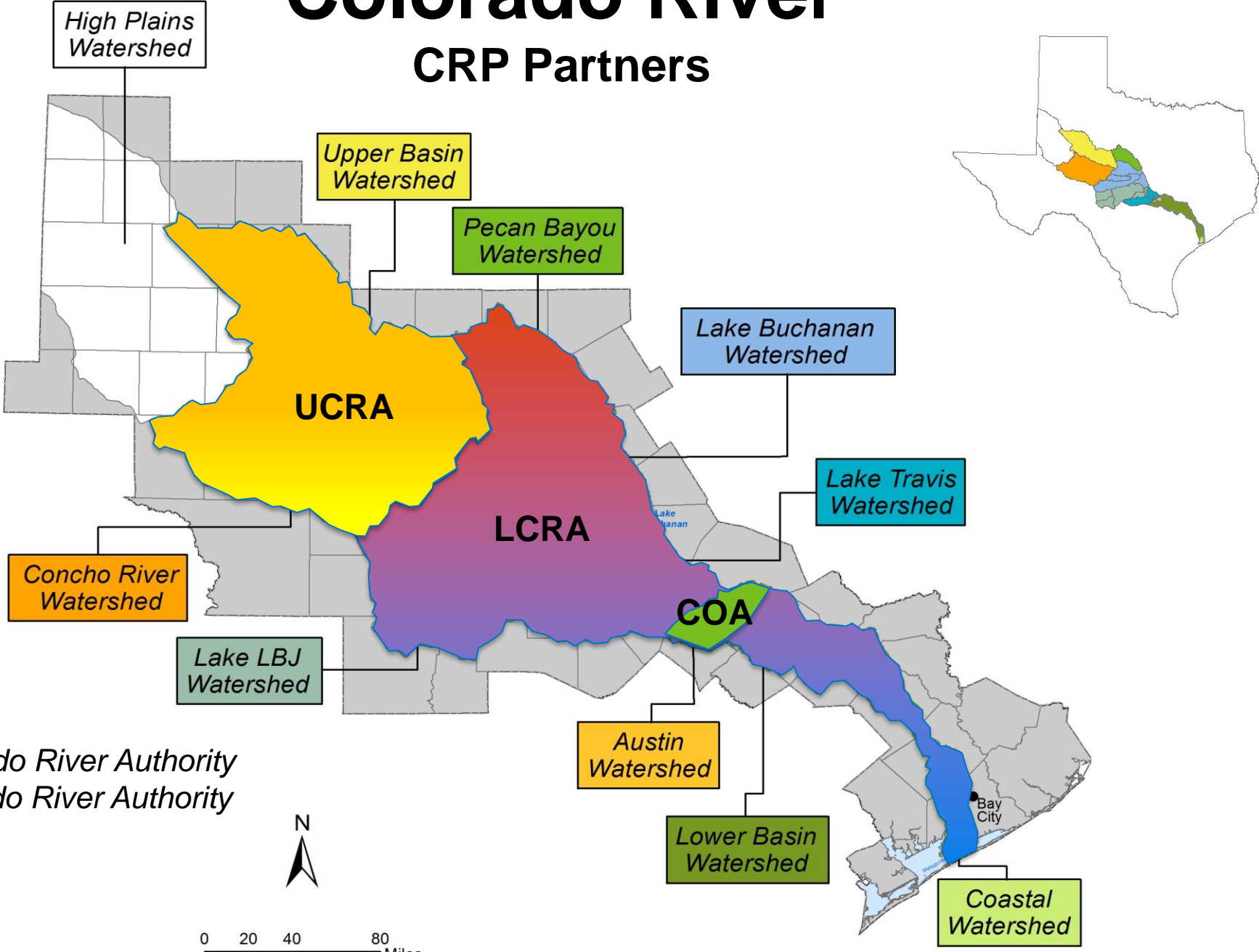


City of Austin
provides data
in-kind



Colorado River

CRP Partners



UCRA = Upper Colorado River Authority
LCRA = Lower Colorado River Authority
COA = City of Austin

ucra.tx.org

UCRA

upper colorado river authority

PROTECT . PRESERVE . ENHANCE

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Welcome to the Watershed Protection Department

Watershed Protection protects lives, property and the environment of our community by reducing the impact of flood, erosion and water pollution.

Austin is particularly vulnerable to these problems due to our torrential downpours and rocky landscape. We have a multi-tiered approach including a wide variety of ongoing programs such as Grow Green and the Lady Bird Lake Cleanup Crew; construction projects such as stormwater ponds and streambank restorations; and regulations to help prevent future problems. We are mostly funded by the [drainage charge](#) on utility bills.

Call **3-1-1** to report a **drainage problem**. To report potential pollution, please call our **24-hour pollution hotline** at **512-974-2550**. There is more contact information on our [About](#) page.

Recent News



August 6, 2021

[City of Austin investigates potential harmful algae in Bull Creek](#)

June 1, 2021

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☆ [Welcome to the Watershed Protection Department](#)

State of Our Environment



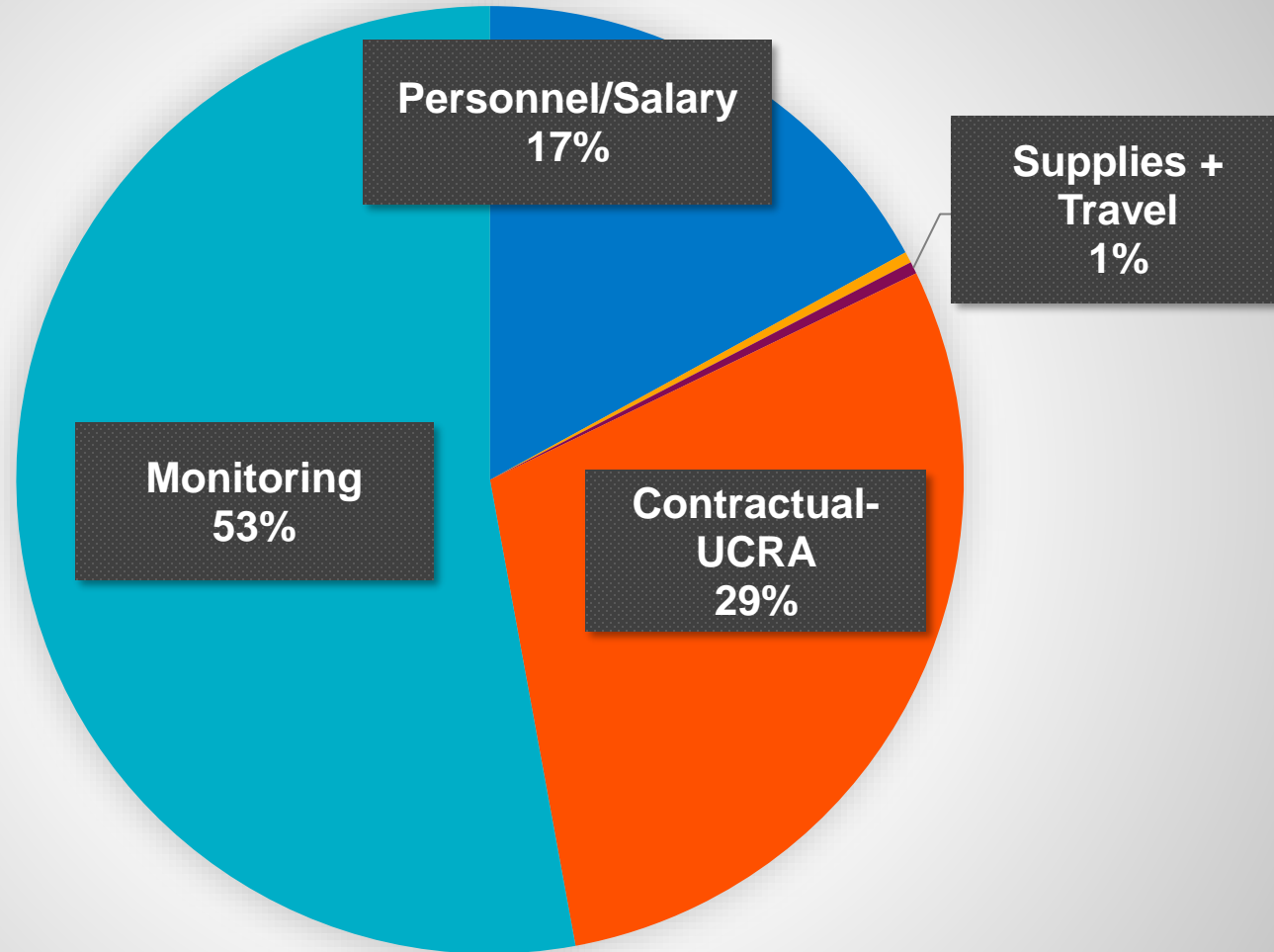
Find Watershed on Facebook



Watershed is on Twitter

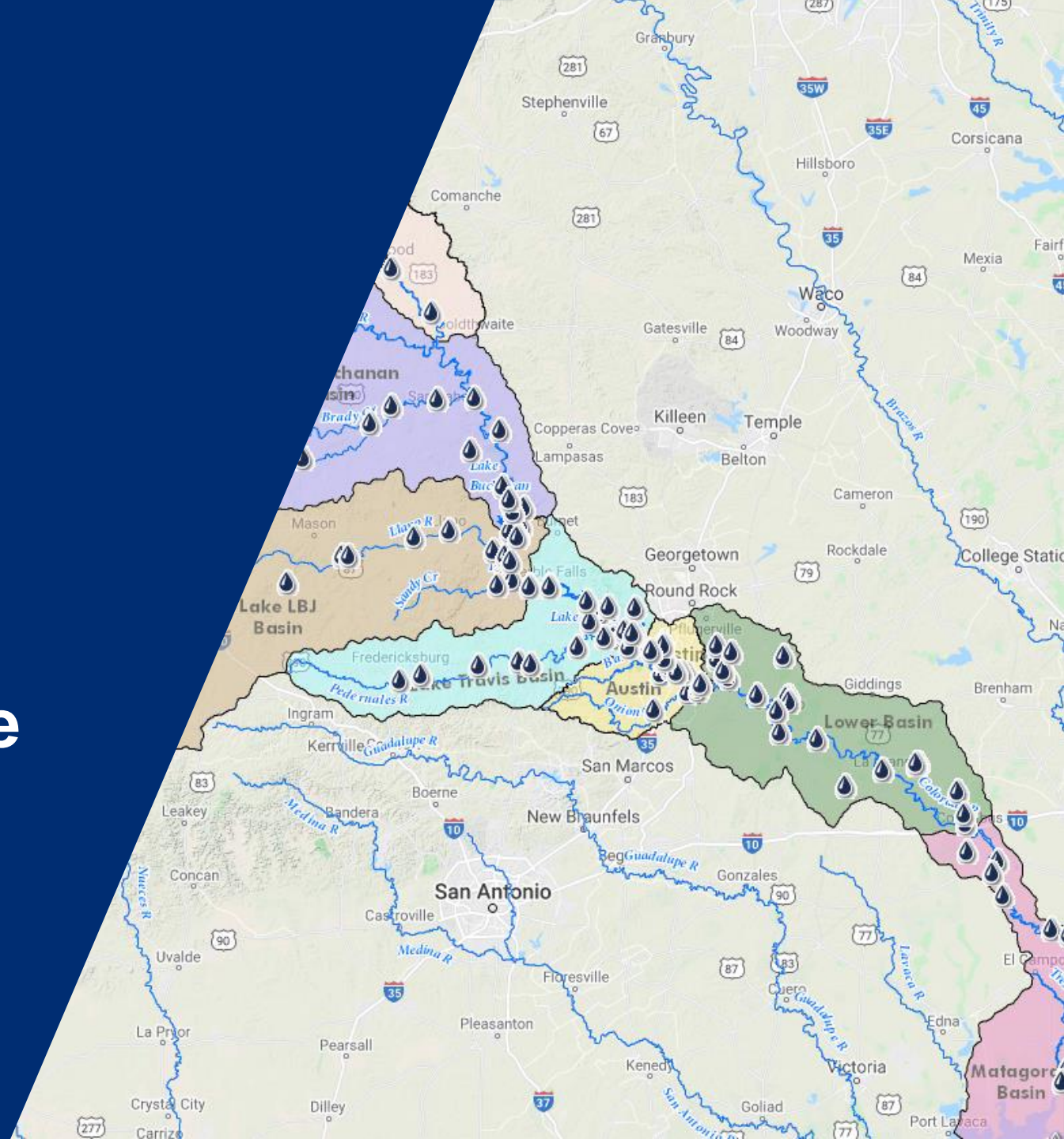


LCRA CRP Allocation of Funds FY 18-21 (\$1,850,941)



Texas Integrated Report

Statewide assessment of the
status of state waters



Texas Integrated Report and 303(d) List

- Statewide assessment of the status of state waters
 - Compares water quality data to approved water quality standards and screening levels
 - Evaluates all readily available data
 - Identifies impaired waters for TMDLs on the 303(d) List
- Required by:
 - Federal Clean Water Act, Sections 305(b) and 303(d)
- Conducted every two years
 - Draft due to EPA on April 1 of even numbered years

2020 Texas Integrated Report and 303(d) List

Approved by EPA on May 12, 2020

Period of Record: 12/01/2011 – 11/30/2018

Statewide

- 1485 water bodies evaluated
- 1090 water bodies assessed
- 556 impaired water bodies

Colorado River Basin

- 137 water bodies evaluated
- 89 water bodies assessed
- 20 impaired water bodies

Texas Clean Rivers Program

— 2021 Basin Highlights Report

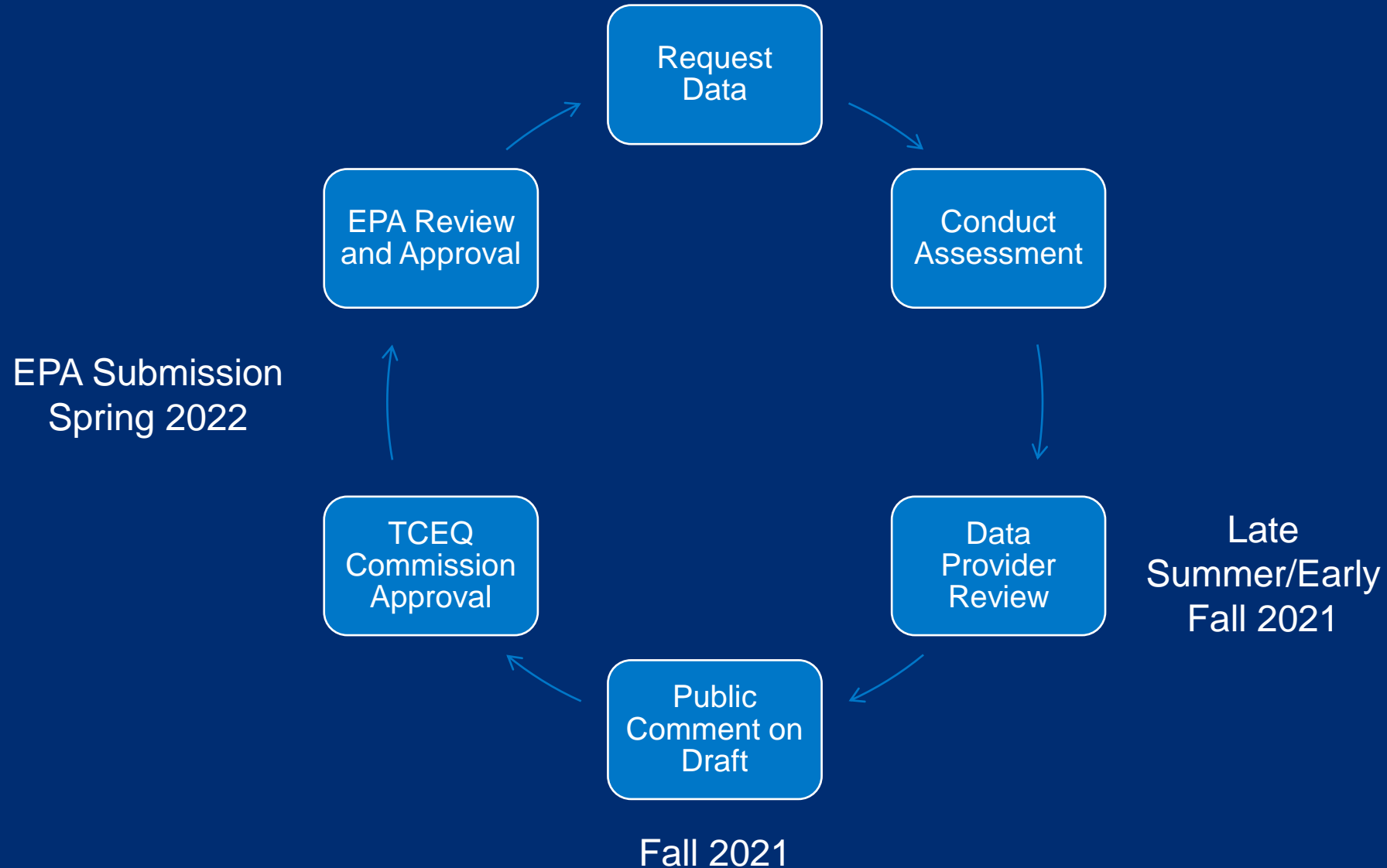
A Characterization of
Impaired Water Bodies in the
Lower Colorado River Basin

May 15, 2021

lcra.org/water/quality



Assessment Cycle – Timeline for 2022 IR



Coordinated Monitoring Meeting Recap

*Decisions on monitoring for
2022 Fiscal Year*



Site Additions

- **Buckners Creek (Fayette County)**
 - additional 24-hour dissolved oxygen added
- **Alum Creek (Bastrop County)**
 - 6 times/year monitoring to address 2020 IR impairment
- **Gilleland Creek near headwaters (NE Austin metro)**
 - 6 times/year monitoring at new site
 - Added as a result I-Plan stakeholder meeting discussion
- **Lake Austin**
 - 2 additional months (now 8 times/year)
 - Added to the schedule to inform study of harmful algae dynamics

Biological Monitoring

2 sites this summer:

- **Cummins Creek** (near Columbus)
- **Piney Creek** (in Bastrop)



Native Freshwater Mussels

Livers of the Rivers



Native Mussel Updates

- **4 Candidate Species in our Basin for Listing under the Endangered Species Act**
 - *Texas Fatmucket*
 - *Texas Pimpleback*
 - *Texas Fawnsfoot*
 - *Balcones Spike*
- **LCRA Draft Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) being discussed with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
- **Proposal decision expected by this fall**
- **Once proposed, there is one year until a final listing decision is made**

Zebra Mussels

All Highland Lakes now infested

