

Watershed Planning - An Ecosystem Based Management Approach to Managing Sediments in South Texas

Ray Allen

Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program

**Managing Sediments in the Watershed: Bringing
Dredged Material and Watershed Managers Together**

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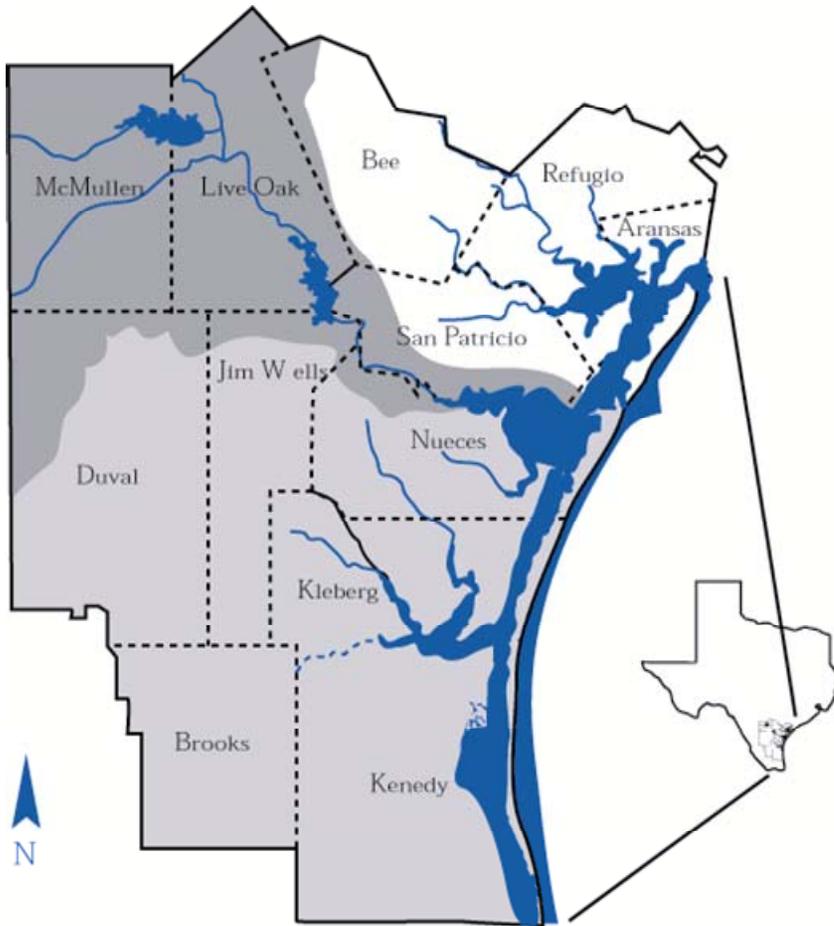
What is that?



- An estuary is where freshwater from rivers and streams meets with saltwater from the ocean.
- The most productive place on earth!



12 Counties in the Texas Coastal Bend



- 12 counties encompass 11,500 square miles of land
- 515 square miles of bays, estuaries and bayous
- Includes 3 of the 7 major estuaries in Texas: Mission-Aransas Estuary, Nueces Estuary, and the Upper Laguna Madre



CBBEP History



- 1987 – U.S. Congress established the National Estuary Program (NEP) to promote long-term planning and management of nationally significant estuaries (CWA Section 320)
- 1994 – The Texas Coastal Bend was officially established as one of 28 estuaries of “National Significance”
- 1998 - *Coastal Bend Bays Plan* approved by Texas Governor George W. Bush
- 1999 – *Coastal Bend Bays Plan* approved by the U.S. EPA
- 1999 – CBBEP established as a non-profit to implement the *Coastal Bend Bays Plan*

The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program



- Local 501(c)(3) established in 1999
- Mission – the implementation of the *Coastal Bend Bays Plan*
- Maintain healthy and productive bays & estuaries with continued economic growth and public use of the bays
- Non-regulatory, voluntary partnership effort - work with industry, environmental groups, bay users, local governments, and state and federal resource managers



Challenges of Watershed Planning:

- Building community support to get started
- Commitment to the process
- Bringing the science together
- Reaching consensus on the “PLAN”
- Moving into implementation of the Plan
- Did I mention funding?



Challenges of Managing Sediments:

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Real World Challenges :

- Moving from seeing “Problems” to seeing “Opportunities”
- Regulatory Agency “Reluctance”
- Why is it that “Opportunities” are never near where sediments are needed the most
- Did I mention funding?

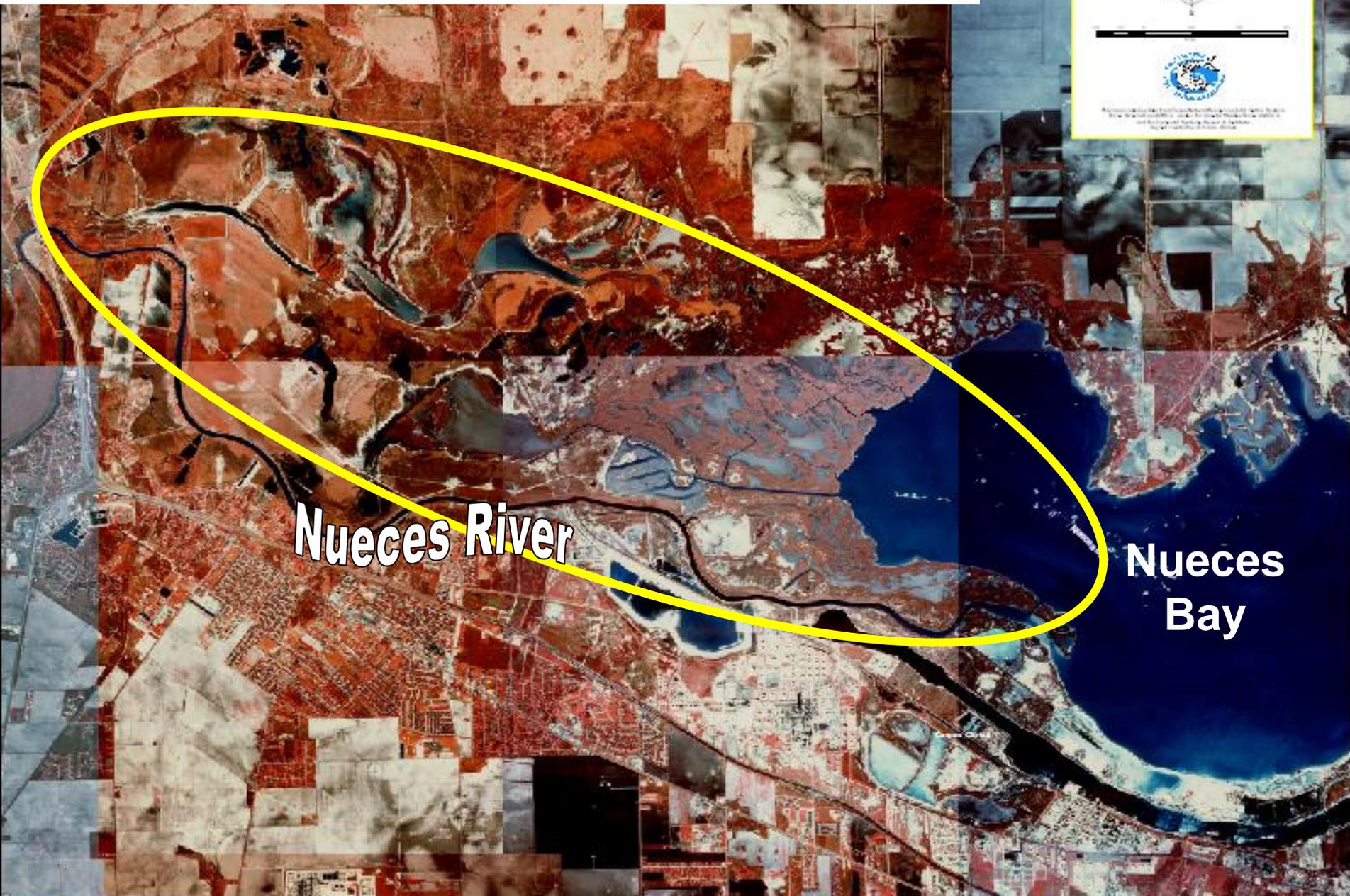






Nueces River Delta Project

Approximately 5,000 acres have been purchased



Nueces River

Nueces Bay



Nueces Bay Island Habitat Restoration Project



- ✿ CBBEP & TGLO - \$1.5 million construction project
- ✿ Dredged material from the bay, shoreline stabilized with 5,000 tons of limestone
- ✿ Restore lost island habitat & protect existing rookery islands

***Nueces Bay Island
Habitat Restoration Project***



Causeway Island



Hwy 181



