



***Self-Evaluation Report  
Sunset Advisory Commission  
September 1, 2017***

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**NUECES RIVER AUTHORITY  
Self-Evaluation Report**

**I. Agency Contact Information**

A. Please fill in the following chart.

**NUECES RIVER AUTHORITY  
Exhibit 1: Agency Contacts**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Telephone &amp; Fax Numbers</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
<b>Agency Head</b>	Con Mims	P.O. Box 349 Uvalde, TX 78802	Tel. 830-278-6810 Fax 830-278-2025	cmims@nueces-ra.org
<b>Agency's Sunset Liaison</b>	Con Mims	P.O. Box 349 Uvalde, TX 78802	Tel. 830-278-6810 Fax 830-278-2025	cmims@nueces-ra.org

Table 1 Exhibit 1 Agency Contacts

**II. Key Functions and Performance**

A. Provide an overview of your agency's mission, objectives, and key functions.

Nueces River Authority's (NRA's) mission is to conserve, reclaim, protect and develop the state's natural resources within the Nueces River Basin for the benefit of the public.

Our objectives are to carry out our duties as described by our enabling Act (Article 8280-115 VTCS) to the best of our ability with the resources available to us; to be of service to the public without taxation and with limited regulation; and, to protect the natural conditions of the rivers, streams, bays and estuaries to the maximum extent possible. In our orientation presentation to new Directors, our objectives are described, as follows: "Our hope is that, years from now, future generations will still be able to enjoy our clear flowing Hill Country streams, and have access to that resource for their beneficial use; that our Brush Country wildlife will continue to exist unthreatened by hazardous waste; that our beaches, bays and estuaries will continue to thrive while our citizens have adequate clean water; and, that the Nueces River Authority will have been of importance in helping to make this possible".

Our key functions include water quality sampling and reporting, assisting other governmental entities with water resource issues, public education, resource development, resource protection, and water related utility development.

**B. Do your key functions continue to serve a clear and ongoing objective? Explain why each of these functions is still needed. What harm would come from no longer performing these functions?**

Our key functions continue to serve the clear and ongoing objectives described in “A”, above.

NRA is the only regional agency having jurisdiction in water matters exclusive to the Nueces River Basin. As such, among other things, we serve as an interface between local and regional water interests and state-level policy makers; we bring water concerns of our constituents before state-level regulatory agencies and the Texas Legislature; and, we promote broad goals of water policy on the regional and local level.

No other entity is conducting water quality sampling throughout the Nueces Basin and its adjoining coastal basins, collecting data for future use, involving the public in the process and reporting. If this program no longer existed, areas with water quality problems could go undetected, an extensive water quality data base would, eventually, lose its value, and an opportunity for public involvement in resource protection would disappear.

If we no longer assisted other governmental entities with water resource issues, such improvements as NRA’s Leakey Regional Wastewater Project, would be more difficult to achieve. This project replaces malfunctioning septic tanks in the City of Leakey and adjacent subdivisions with a modern wastewater collection and treatment system, protecting public water supply and the quality of the Frio River upstream of Garner State Park. We brought a city, a county, and several subdivisions together to make the project possible.

If we had not co-sponsored Choke Canyon Reservoir with the City of Corpus Christi, it may not have been built because of opposition to the permit from entities throughout the upper Nueces Basin. We brought parties together through our Directors who lived throughout the river basin.

As for public education, there is no other entity that is bringing water resource education to grade schools and the public on a regional basis, nor is there one wanting to provide this service, to our knowledge. Without NRA, thousands of children and adults, each year would not receive instruction in where their water comes from, why it needs to be protected, and the roles they can play. Targeted stakeholder training in riparian protection and water quality protection on a regional scale, likely, would not be assumed by others.

Our resource development function, as noted, facilitated creation of Choke Canyon Reservoir and the Leakey Regional Wastewater project. We can bring parties with divergent interests together to accomplish things, because we are a regional entity with no local conflicts or special interests. NRA’s absence could leave a void in this type of problem resolution.

On numerous occasions over the years, NRA has joined others in opposing issuance of permits that could threaten the Basin’s water resources. The fact that we are a regional public agency with resource protection responsibilities has lent credibility to the oppositions, most of which have been successful. Without NRA, there would be no regional public entity with resource protection responsibilities that the public could look to for assistance.

Municipalities and counties have no problem developing their own utilities. NRA, however, can bring multi parties together to develop regional utility projects that can be more efficient and economically feasible.

**C. What evidence can your agency provide to show your overall effectiveness and efficiency in meeting your objectives?**

The best evidence is found in our awards for outstanding performance. They include:

2004 – National Wetlands Award (to a NRA employee)

2008 – Senate Proclamation #339 recognizing NRA as recipient of the Texas Environmental Excellence Award

2008 – Texas House of Representatives congratulating NRA on receiving the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Environmental Excellence Award

2010 – Coastal Bend Bays Foundation Conservation and Environmental Stewardship Award for Public Service (to a NRA employee)

2013 – U.S. Department of Interior Partners in Conservation Award in recognition of outstanding conservation achievements attained through collaboration and partnerships with others

2014 – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Outstanding Land Stewardship through Education and Outreach award

2015 (and 2008) – State of Texas Honoring NRA as Finalist in taking care of Texas through Outstanding Efforts in Environmental Protection and Pollution Prevention

**D. Does your agency's enabling law continue to correctly reflect your mission, objectives, and approach to performing your functions?**

Yes.

**E. Have you recommended changes to the Legislature in the past to improve your agency's operations? If so, explain. Were the changes adopted?**

In 1985, we asked the Legislature to include within our statutory boundaries all of San Patricio, Nueces and Jim Wells counties, instead of only the portions of those counties that were within the drainage area of the Nueces River. Legislation was passed and has facilitated NRA's operations in the coastal region of the Nueces Basin.

**F. Do any of your agency's functions overlap or duplicate those of another state or federal agency? Explain if, and why, each of your key functions is most appropriately placed within your agency. How do you ensure against duplication with other related agencies?**

Not to our knowledge. Our key functions are most appropriately placed within our agency, as opposed to a state or federal agency, because we are closer to the public and have interests and expertise specific to the Nueces Basin. The “other related agency” would be the San Antonio River Authority which adjoins NRA on the east. We have a polite understanding that before either of us conducts activities within the boundaries of the other, we notify the other and obtain its consent. In addition, as we contract our services to others, we and those with whom we contract are sensitive to whether the service being contracted is duplicative of services being provided by others.

**G. In general, how do other states carry out similar functions?**

We do not know, but understand that the river authority concept in Texas is admired by other states.

**H. What key obstacles impair your agency’s ability to achieve its objectives?**

The principal obstacle is lack of adequate funding.

**I. Discuss any changes that could impact your agency’s key functions in the near future (e.g., changes in federal law or outstanding court cases).**

We are aware of no changes other than what may occur through this Sunset review.

**J. What are your agency’s biggest opportunities for improvement in the future?**

Once the Leakey Regional Wastewater Project is completed, we will have personnel and equipment available allowing us to offer our services to other communities in the operation and maintenance of their water and wastewater facilities.

**K. In the following chart, provide information regarding your agency’s key performance measures included in your appropriations bill pattern, including outcome, input, efficiency, and explanatory measures. See Exhibit 2 Example. Please provide information regarding the methodology used to collect and report the data.**

Not Applicable. Please note that NRA receives no state appropriations.

**L. Please discuss any “high-value data” your agency possesses, as defined by Section 2054.1265 of the Government Code. In addition, please note whether your agency has posted those data sets on publically available websites as required by statute.**

Not applicable. Please note that NRA is not a state agency.

### III. History and Major Events

Provide a timeline of your agency's history and key events, including:

- the date your agency was established;
- the original purpose and responsibilities of your agency; and
- major changes in responsibilities or statutory authority.

Also consider including the following information if beneficial to understanding your agency:

- changes to your policymaking body's name or composition;
- significant changes in state/federal legislation, mandates, or funding;
- significant state/federal litigation that specifically affects your agency's operations; and
- key changes in your agency's organization (e.g., a major reorganization of the agency's divisions or program areas).

Preface:

This chronology shows how the Nueces River Authority (NRA) started with nothing and has been a leader in protecting the water resources of the Nueces River Basin and a partner in developing those resources for the public benefit. The underlying message of this timeline is that NRA brings people together to get things done.

1935

Nueces River Authority (NRA) is created as the Nueces River Conservation and Reclamation District (District) by act of the 44<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature which became effective November 1, 1935 and codified as Article 8280-115 Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes. Its purpose and responsibilities were, basically, the same as those of the present Nueces River Authority, being the conservation and development of the state's natural resources within the Nueces River Basin. The original Act placed emphasis on preparing a master plan for control of flood waters and allowed for creation of separate, subordinate, districts, neither of which is found in later revisions.

1939

Article 8280-115 is amended to remove all of Webb County from the District. This amendment took effect on April 24, 1939.

1954 – 1960

The Board prepares a Master Plan for water development in the Nueces Basin. Public hearings are held and, in 1960, the Plan is accepted by the Texas Board of Water Engineers.

Note: Except for completing the Master Plan in 1958, from its creation in 1935 until the mid-1960's, the Nueces River Conservation and Reclamation District was relatively inactive. The Board of Directors met infrequently and had no funds, staff or office. Most of the Board's time was spent in promoting construction of reservoirs found in its Master Plan, but none were affordable in the sparsely populated and agriculturally oriented Nueces Basin.

#### 1960's

In the 1960's, Corpus Christi started planning for new water supplies to meet growing municipal and industrial water demands in the Coastal Bend. Two Nueces Basin projects were being considered, being the R&M Reservoir on the lower Nueces River, below Lake Corpus Christi, and Choke Canyon Reservoir on the Frio River, a tributary of the Nueces River. NRA enters into the debates over which reservoir should be built, siding with Choke Canyon, and its activities increased, dramatically.

#### 1970

The NRA Board hires its first employee, a part time Executive Director. Donated office space is provided by the local newspaper in Uvalde. Annual solicitations of financial contributions from counties and industries within NRA support the organization. Total assets are \$14,923.

#### 1971

The District's legislation is amended to change the name of the District to Nueces River Authority and expanding its power to issue bonds. That legislation became effective June 4, 1971.

#### 1972

Texas Water Rights Commission recommends construction of Choke Canyon Reservoir and designates NRA and the City of Corpus Christi as joint local sponsors.

#### 1973

NRA enters into its first revenue producing contract by contracting with the Texas Water Quality Board (now Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) to study municipal wastewater treatment needs in the Nueces Basin in fulfillment of Section 208 of the federal Clean Water Act. With this contract, it is able to employ its first secretary and one other full time employee, in addition to the part time Executive Director. Cash on hand is about \$8,000.

#### 1974

This is a turning point for NRA, financially, as it begins to issue tax exempt revenue bonds to finance construction of air and water pollution control equipment for industries within the

Basin. Fees earned from its first bond issue amounted to \$150,000, which was close to the total revenues earned by the agency during its 39 years of existence. In total, NRA issued over \$207 million of pollution control bonds, earning nearly \$800,000 in fees.

1975

Legislation is passed changing NRA's enabling Act so that it reads, substantially, as it does, today. It reduces the number of NRA Directors from 24 to 21 and provides that four have to reside in Nueces County and San Patricio and Jim Wells counties must have two Directors, each, giving the municipal/industrial oriented Coastal Bend region a guaranteed eight representatives. The remaining 13 Directors may reside in any other county lying wholly or partially within NRA's statutory boundaries, so long as no county has more than two Directors. All Directors are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. That legislation became effective September 1, 1975.

1976

A full time Chief of Plans, who became the current Executive Director, is employed. There are two full time employees and one part time employee. The City of Uvalde donates free office space in its civic center. Total cash on hand is about \$138,000. Donations and contributions, still, are being solicited.

The water rights permit for Choke Canyon Reservoir is issued to Corpus Christi and NRA and the two contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to construct the reservoir.

1977

NRA is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the San Antonio Water Resources Task Force, one of the earliest regional forums organized to consider water supply problems in the Edwards Aquifer Region, a large part of which is in the upper Nueces Basin.

1978

The Chief of Plans is promoted to Executive Director and continues to serve in that capacity, today.

NRA ends its annual solicitation of contributions. Cash on hand is \$376,975.

NRA adopts a policy to work with all affected entities to resolve the problem of over pumping the Edwards Aquifer. About 60% of the aquifer's recharge occurs in the Nueces Basin as well as a large amount of pumping for agricultural irrigation. Pumping of the Edwards Aquifer affects federally listed endangered species at Comal and San Marcos springs, flows of the San Antonio and Guadalupe rivers, freshwater inflows to San Antonio Bay and all people associated with these water resources.

NRA co-sponsors the groundbreaking ceremony for Choke Canyon Reservoir.

1979

NRA participates in Bureau of Reclamation's study of Nueces Basin water resources.

NRA issues \$13 million of its water supply revenue bonds to assist the City of Corpus Christi in financing the local share of costs involved with construction of Choke Canyon Reservoir by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

1981

NRA creates and promotes its Community Assistance Program, offering to contract its services in financing, constructing, improving, expanding and maintaining water and wastewater facilities for communities and industries.

1982

NRA initiates, with the Edwards Underground Water District (now Edwards Aquifer Authority) and the San Antonio River Authority, a 27 month water quality monitoring program on the Nueces and Frio rivers above the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone.

NRA and the City of Corpus Christi host the dedication of Choke Canyon Reservoir.

NRA rents office space in the First State Bank of Uvalde. Cash on hand is \$1,013,767.

1983

Construction of Choke Canyon Reservoir is completed. Corpus Christi owns 78% of the water rights, NRA owns 20%, and the City of Three Rivers owns 2%. NRA enters into a contract with Corpus Christi whereby the City assumes all responsibility for operating and maintaining the reservoir and selling all of the water except for Three Rivers' share. Corpus Christi pays NRA \$100,000 (as adjusted based on a formula involving water use and cost of living), annually, for the right to sell NRA's share of the water.

NRA and Corpus Christi, successfully, oppose an application for a radioactive waste disposal permit for a Chem-Nuclear, Inc. facility to be located near Pawnee in Live Oak County.

NRA successfully opposes a permit application for a hazardous waste storage facility proposed by Iso-Tex, Inc. near Cotulla.

NRA begins its multi-year opposition to Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority's plan to locate the state's disposal site in the Nueces Basin.

1984

NRA joins McMullen County in successful opposition of a proposed saltwater disposal well to be located on the bank of the Frio River at Tilden.

1985

NRA's enabling Act is amended to include within its boundaries all of San Patricio, Nueces and Jim Wells counties. That legislation became effective on August 26, 1985. See "[Attachment 1](#)". Refer to Subchapter 3 – Powers and Duties, Sections 3.01 through 3.07 for descriptions of NRA's authorities.

1986

NRA begins a three year water quality monitoring program on the Leona River at Uvalde using San Antonio River Authority laboratory facilities and City of Uvalde funding.

NRA serves on a Technical Resources Group to develop the San Antonio Regional Water Resource Study.

1987

After four years of opposition, NRA, and others, succeed in having legislation passed preventing the Texas Low Level Waste Disposal Authority from locating its facility on either of two Nueces Basin sites it had been considering.

NRA serves on a Texas Water Commission advisory committee to draft rules for the Watermaster Program in the Nueces, San Antonio and Guadalupe river basins.

NRA works with the Edwards Underground Water District to develop a water conservation and drought contingency plan for the Edwards Aquifer region.

NRA assists the Bandera County River Authority and the Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District in organizing their agencies.

1988

NRA drafts rules, adopted by Uvalde County, governing use of septic tanks in Uvalde County.

1989

NRA assists Corpus Christi in funding a water quality investigation at Lake Corpus Christi.

NRA brings together the Edwards Underground Water District, Corpus Christi, South Texas Water Authority and Texas Water Development Board as sponsors, and administers a study to determine the existing firm yield of the Choke Canyon/Lake Corpus Christi reservoir system and the potential for additional Edwards Aquifer recharge in the Nueces Basin.

NRA warns citizens in the upper Nueces Basin against altering riverbeds without necessary state or federal permits.

1990

NRA, successfully, urges Texas Water Commission to establish a technical advisory committee to recommend operating rules for the Choke Canyon/Lake Corpus Christi reservoir system that

will offer a reasonable balance between maintaining the Nueces estuaries and a viable Coastal Bend water supply and serves as a member of that committee.

NRA proposes, unsuccessfully, the organization of all of the major water using entities in the Nueces, San Antonio, Guadalupe and adjoining coastal basins into a study group which would update and consolidate all hydrological computer models for this region into a single model, and use that model to develop a water plan for the region. This was an early concept of regional water planning.

1991

NRA contracts with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to carry out the state's Clean Rivers Program in the Nueces and its adjoining coastal basins. Through this program, NRA maintains a computerized water quality data management and geographical information system.

NRA and others successfully oppose an industrial landfill planned by HALLCO, Inc. to be located in McMullen County in close proximity to the Nueces River and Choke Canyon Reservoir.

Sierra Club sues U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service claiming it has failed to protect endangered species at Comal and San Marcos springs which are fed by the Edwards Aquifer. NRA participates in a regional negotiating group, organized by the Edwards Underground Water District, to attempt to develop a local solution to Edwards Aquifer management.

1992

NRA, Corpus Christi, and other stakeholders reach agreement on Choke Canyon/Lake Corpus Christi operating rules in the form of an Agreed Order issued by the Texas Water Commission. The Agreed Order, also, creates the Nueces Estuary Advisory Council that includes representatives of state and local agencies, municipalities, industries, water districts, universities, environmentalists and special interest groups. NRA was an early promoter of NEAC and has served on NEAC since its inception.

1993 – 1997

NRA participates in the Texas Water Development Board's Trans-Texas Water Program, an early version of the state's current Regional Water Planning Program.

1993

NRA's Executive Director is elected President of the Texas Water Conservation Association.

NRA contracts with Texas Water Commission to study the effects of storm water runoff from small communities on nearby streams.

University of Texas at San Antonio demonstrates a computer model under development that contains three previously existing hydrologic models – the Nueces Basin Model by HDR

Engineering, the San Antonio-Guadalupe model by Espey, Huston & Associates, and the Edwards Aquifer model by Texas Water Development Board. UTSA was working to perfect and join the models so they can operate as one model, as NRA was promoting in 1990.

1994

NRA contracts with Texas Water Development Board to prepare a Water Supply Plan for Duval County.

1996 - 1999

As South Texas was experiencing record breaking drought conditions, additional water supplies were urgently needed in the Coastal Bend. NRA contracted with Corpus Christi to construct a 101 mile, 64" concrete reinforced pipeline and three pump stations to transport 41,840 acre-feet, annually, of water the City owned in Lake Texana in Jackson County. This was a project evaluated in the Trans-Texas Water Program. NRA issued \$118,195,000 of its water supply revenue bonds to help finance the project and contracted the Port of Corpus Christi Authority to serve as the Project Manager. The project was completed ahead of time and under budget. Out of 147 pieces of property needed, there were, only, two condemnations, and they were to clear title.

1997

The Texas Legislature creates the regional water planning process as the method for developing the State Water Plan. NRA has voting members on Regional Water Planning Groups L (South Central Texas) and N (Coastal Bend). The NRA Executive Director was elected to chair Region L for 10 consecutive years. NRA is chosen as the administrator for Region N.

1998

NRA creates its Coastal Bend Division in Corpus Christi to concentrate on providing services to Corpus Christi and others to further the protection and development of adequate water supplies for the region. It conducts its Texas Clean Rivers Program from this office.

NRA and City of Corpus Christi enter into an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Regional Water Resources Planning, Protection, and Development Services in which NRA provides various services to the City based on a workplan to be approved, annually. The Agreement provides NRA about \$100,000, annually.

2000

Using a citizens' advisory committee, NRA prepares a comprehensive, long term, water supply/water conservation/drought contingency plan for the City of Uvalde, at no cost to the City.

2000 – 2003

NRA sponsors a forum to study the growing problem of abuse of riverbeds and adjoining properties by operators of off-road vehicles in the upper Nueces Basin. The forum includes representatives of several state agencies having potential jurisdiction, local governments, and the public. When it became apparent that no one had jurisdiction in protecting the rivers from this abusive activity, NRA assumed a leading role in seeking legislation to ban use of off-road vehicles in state-owned riverbeds. That multi-year effort resulted, in 2003, with the 78<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature imposing a statewide ban on the use of motorized vehicles in state-owned riverbeds.

2001

NRA full time employment increases to six.

2003

The Leakey City Council and Real County Commissioners Court request NRA's assistance in addressing a problem of old and malfunctioning septic tanks within the City and adjoining subdivisions that were threatening the quality of the local water supply and the Frio River, which is a major destination for water oriented recreation. (See 2008, 2009, 2011, 2015, 2016)

2004

NRA creates a three year Upper Nueces Headwaters Program, funded by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, that includes an "Up2U" river litter campaign, development of a plastic relief map of the Nueces Basin to use in demonstrating how streams in the basin interconnect, development of a field guide to headwater streams, development of multi-media education tools, and sponsorship of conferences and seminars.

2006

NRA receives funding from several groundwater conservation districts to expand its water quality classroom education program.

2007 - 2012

NRA is a member of, and its Executive Director chairs, a large stakeholder committee organized to prepare an Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program to provide protection to federally listed endangered species at Comal and San Marcos springs and support an Incidental Take Permit to be issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A Habitat Conservation Plan was approved by the Service in 2012.

2008

Texas Department of State Health Services determines that a public health and safety problem exists due to a lack of adequate wastewater service within the City of Leakey and surrounding areas, all served by private septic tanks. (See 2003)

Texas Water Development Board awards NRA a \$456,000 Research and Planning Grant to develop a plan for water and wastewater improvements within the City of Leakey and surrounding areas. The water portion, later, was removed, resulting in a wastewater plan, only. (see 2003)

With funding from three non-profit foundations NRA creates a riparian landowners' education program. A first-of-its-kind in Texas field guide to riparian vegetation was published to explain how riparian plants protect water quality and supply.

2009

Texas Water Development Board awards NRA a \$2.1 million grant for purchase of land for the Leakey Regional Wastewater Project's treatment facility and irrigation system. (See 2003)

2009 – 2012

Through its Executive Director, NRA chairs a large stakeholder committee to prepare an Environmental Flows Recommendations Report in accordance with the Texas Environmental Flows Program established by Senate Bill 3, 80<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature.

2010

NRA begins a campaign to eradicate *Arundo donax* (Giant cane) from the riverbeds of the upper Nueces, Frio and Sabinal rivers. This invasive plant chokes river flows and uses large amounts of water.

2011

Texas Water Development Board approves a loan forgiveness (a loan is involved, but payment is forgiven) and a grant totaling \$11,040,000 for land acquisition, permitting, and construction of NRA's Leakey Regional Wastewater Project. (See 2003)

2012

NRA begins a three year effort, funded by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, to prepare a Lower Nueces River Watershed Protection Plan. (The Plan was completed and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2016.)

2014

NRA hires a Utility Director. Total full time employment increases to eight.

2015

NRA marks its 80<sup>th</sup> year of service to the citizens of the Nueces River Basin.

Texas Water Development Board awards NRA a final \$16.6 million grant to cover completion of construction of the Leakey Regional Wastewater Project. The Board's total funding amounts to

over \$30 million, with no paybacks required. The delay in this project has been due to the time spent by NRA in seeking these grant funds so that the project is affordable to those being served. (See 2003)

2016

Groundbreaking ceremony is held for the Leakey Regional Wastewater Project marking the beginning of construction. (See 2003)

2017

NRA, City of Corpus Christi, Live Oak County and McMullen County oppose an application for an oil and gas landfill by Petro Waste Environmental to be located within four miles of Choke Canyon Reservoir.

NRA informs Texas Parks and Wildlife Department that it opposes issuance of any permits for excavation of sand and gravel from Nueces Basin riverbeds until the impacts of those activities on stream morphology, channel and bank stability, sediment loading, water quality, aquatic habitat, and the cumulative impact of multiple disturbances, both permitted and unpermitted within a river reach have been professionally evaluated and those evaluations have been considered by TPWD in its review of permit applications. This resulted in TPWD agreeing to have a study conducted that it can use to support the issuance of future permits. NRA was commended for its position.

NRA embarks on a major upgrade of its accounting system in preparation for a new era involving utility operations. Total cash on hand is about \$1,700,000.

Closing Note:

All of this work has been accomplished by NRA with no more than eight full time employees and with no state appropriations or tax revenues.

## IV. Policymaking Structure

- A. Complete the following chart providing information on your policymaking body members.

**NUECES RIVER AUTHORITY**  
**Exhibit 3: Policymaking Body**

Member Name	Directors are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate to serve 6 year terms.  Date Appointed	Directors must be qualified electors and residents of a county lying wholly or partially within NRA's statutory boundaries	Resides
Alston Beinhorn	3-22-16	Dimmit	On ranch
Allan P. Bloxsom, III	12-8-16	Uvalde	On ranch
Rebecca Bradford	5-7-08	Nueces	Corpus Christi
Dane Bruun	5-22-13	Nueces	Corpus Christi
Eric L. Burnett	10-17-14	San Patricio	Portland
Trace Burton	3-22-16	Bexar	San Antonio
Amy M. Clark	12-8-16	Live Oak	Three Rivers
Mary Beth Delano	3-22-16	Nueces	Corpus Christi
John W. Galloway	12-21-07	Bee	Beeville
Gary A. Jones	6-17-08	Bee	Beeville
Lindsey A. Koenig	6-20-05	Jim Wells	Orange Grove
Dan Leyendecker	3-22-16	Nueces	Corpus Christi
Joe McMillian	5-22-13	Frio	Dilly
Gary W. Moore, Sr.	12-8-16	San Patricio	Portland
Travis W. Pruski	12-8-16	Wilson	Poth
David Purser	5-22-13	Karnes	Karnes City
Armandina Ramirez	5-22-13	Karnes	Karnes City
Tomas Ramirez, III	6-3-10	Medina	Devine
Fidel R. Rul, Jr.	6-20-05	Jim Wells	Alice
Roxana Proctor Tom	12-20-00	Atascosa	Campbellton
(Position Vacant)			

Table 2 Exhibit 3 Policymaking Body

- B. Describe the primary role and responsibilities of your policymaking body.

The NRA Board of Directors is the ultimate decision maker. It establishes all policies, approves all programs, approves Bylaws and amendments, hires and fires the Executive Director, approves budgets and contracts, directs the management of NRA's funds, directs staff, and oversees all aspects of NRA's operations.

**C. How is the President selected?**

The President is elected by the Directors, annually.

**D. List any special circumstances or unique features about your policymaking body or its responsibilities.**

There are no special circumstances or unique features about the NRA Board of Directors.

**E. In general, how often does your policymaking body meet? How many times did it meet in FY 2016? In FY 2017?**

The NRA Board of Directors, generally, meets 3-4 times per year. In FY 2016 it met four times and in FY 2015 it met three times.

**F. What type of training do members of your agency's policymaking body receive?**

Upon appointment, Directors are told by the Governor's Office to complete training courses covering the Texas Open Meetings Act and the Texas Public Information Act.

**G. Does your agency have policies that describe the respective roles of the policymaking body and agency staff in running the agency? If so, describe these policies.**

Those policies are the Administrative Policies, see Attachment 2, and the Bylaws, see "Attachment 3".

**H. What information is regularly presented to your policymaking body to keep them informed of your agency's performance?**

The Board receives a monthly financial report and staff reports at Board meetings, and is kept informed of activities and important developments by the Executive Director, throughout the year.

**I. How does your policymaking body obtain input from the public regarding issues under the jurisdiction of the agency? How is this input incorporated into the operations of your agency?**

The NRA website, [www.nueces-ra.org](http://www.nueces-ra.org), contains contact information and a page to register comments or questions. Those, together with letters, emails and other correspondence that the Executive Director believes need the Board's attention are forwarded to the board. The staff responds to comments made by Board members. Issues that require Board action are placed on the agenda of the next Board meeting or directed to a Board Committee that is authorized to handle the issue. At times, but infrequently, public meetings are held. Also, Board members live with the people we serve and can be contacted, directly. 21 Directors offer a lot of public exposure.

- J. If your policymaking body uses subcommittees or advisory committees to carry out its duties, fill in the following chart. *See Exhibit 4 Example.* In addition, please attach a copy of any reports filed by your agency under Government Code Chapter 2110 regarding an assessment of your advisory committees.

**NUECES RIVER AUTHORITY**  
**Exhibit 4: Subcommittees and Advisory Committees**

<b>Name of Subcommittee or Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Size / Composition / How are members appointed?</b>	<b>Purpose / Duties</b>	<b>Legal Basis for Committee</b>
Executive Committee	Five members elected by the Board, annually	As delegated by the Board	Article 8280-115 VTCS, Section 2.06 and Article IV, Section 2 Bylaws.
Finance Committee	Three members elected by the Board, annually	As defined by Article IV, Sections 3 (a)-(c), Bylaws	Article IV, Section 3, Bylaws
Administrative Committee	Five members appointed by the President	As directed by the President or the Board, work with staff and make recommendations to the Board on administrative matters including personnel, policies and procedures, information technology, accounting and asset management, office space, public relations, records management, consultants, auditing, and legal services, and other topics that may be delegated by the President or the Board	Article 8280-115 VTCS, Section 2.06 and Article IV, Section 1, Bylaws
Design and Construction Committee	Three members appointed by the President	As directed by the President or the Board. Provides oversight to specific projects that are under design or construction.	Article 8280-115 VTCS, Section 2.06 and Article IV, Section 1, Bylaws
Nominations Committee	Three members appointed by the President	Annually, submit for the Board's consideration a slate of officers to serve for the ensuing calendar year.	Article 8280-115 VTCS, Section 2.06 and Article IV, Section 1, Bylaws

Name of Subcommittee or Advisory Committee	Size / Composition / How are members appointed?	Purpose / Duties	Legal Basis for Committee
Operations Committee	Five members appointed by the President	As directed by the Board or President. Supports the Board in matters relating to development and maintenance of programs and facilities for water supply, water conservation, water quality protection, wastewater reclamation, solid waste management, drainage, flood control, and parks and recreation.	Article 8280-115 VTCS, Section 2.06 and Article IV, Section 1, Bylaws

Table 3 Exhibit 4 Subcommittees and Advisory Committees

Note: NRA is not a state agency subject to Government Code Chapter 2110.

## V. Funding

### A. Provide a brief description of your agency's funding.

NRA's funding is mostly from contracted services and grants. See Exhibit 6, below.

### B. List all riders that significantly impact your agency's budget.

NRA is not a state agency and receives no state appropriations.

### C. Show your agency's expenditures by strategy.

**NUECES RIVER AUTHORITY**  
**Exhibit 5: General Fund and Leakey Capital Project Fund Expenditures in FY2016 (Actual)**

General Fund	Amount Spent	Percent of Total	Contract Expenditures Included in Total Amount
Salaries	\$474,140	40.5	All
Payroll taxes	36,285	9.45	All
Employee medical insurance	53,246	4.55	All
Retirement	33,973	2.90	All
Directors' fees, travel and meetings	18,843	1.61	All
Travel and conferences	12,562	1.07	All
Professional fees	72,942	6.24	All
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group expense	430	0.03	All

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Amount Spent</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>	<b>Contract Expenditures Included in Total Amount</b>
Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program	1,000	0.08	All
Telephone and fax	14,316	1.22	All
Dues, subscriptions and publications	2,383	0.20	All
Insurance and bonds	9,564	0.81	All
Equipment and facilities rent	41,248	3.53	All
Office supplies, postage and delivery	3,066	0.26	All
Repairs and maintenance	603	0.05	All
Binding and printing	1,294	0.11	All
Miscellaneous	1,291	0.11	All
Clean Rivers Program	61,400	5.25	All
Public education programs	287,869	24.64	All
Administration of Region N	2,988	0.25	All
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board contract	6,122	0.52	All
San Miguel Creek water quality sampling	353	0.03	All
Petronila Creek water quality sampling	6,196	0.53	All
Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program contract	9,490	0.81	All
Supplemental Environmental Project water quality sampling	4,012	0.34	All
Oso Creek contract	12,311	1.05	All
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$1,167,927</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Leakey Capital Projects Fund</b>	<b>Amount Spent</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>	<b>Contract Expenditures Included in Total Amount</b>
Capital outlay	\$2,259,998	100%	All
<b>Total Capital Projects</b>	<b>\$2,259,998</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$3,427,925</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>All</b>

Table 4 Exhibit 5 Expenditures by Strategy

- D. Show your agency’s sources of revenue. Include all local, state, and federal appropriations, all professional and operating fees, and all other sources of revenue collected by the agency, including taxes and fines.**

**NUECES RIVER AUTHORITY  
Exhibit 6: Sources of Revenue — Fiscal Year 2016 (Actual)**

General Fund Revenue Source	Amount
Contracted services - Intergovernmental	\$645,564
Contracted services – Public Education program	309,217
Grant revenue	130,369
Investment income	16,718
Other income	19,734
Subtotal	1,121,602
Leakey Project Capital Fund Source	
Grant revenue	2,242,270
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,363,872</b>
<i>Source: FY 2016 Financial Report (See Attachment 6)</i>	

Table 5 Exhibit 6 Sources of Revenue

- E. If you receive funds from multiple federal programs, show the types of federal funding sources. See Exhibit 7 Example.**

NRA receives no federal funds other than, indirectly, through contracts with the Texas Water Development Board, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

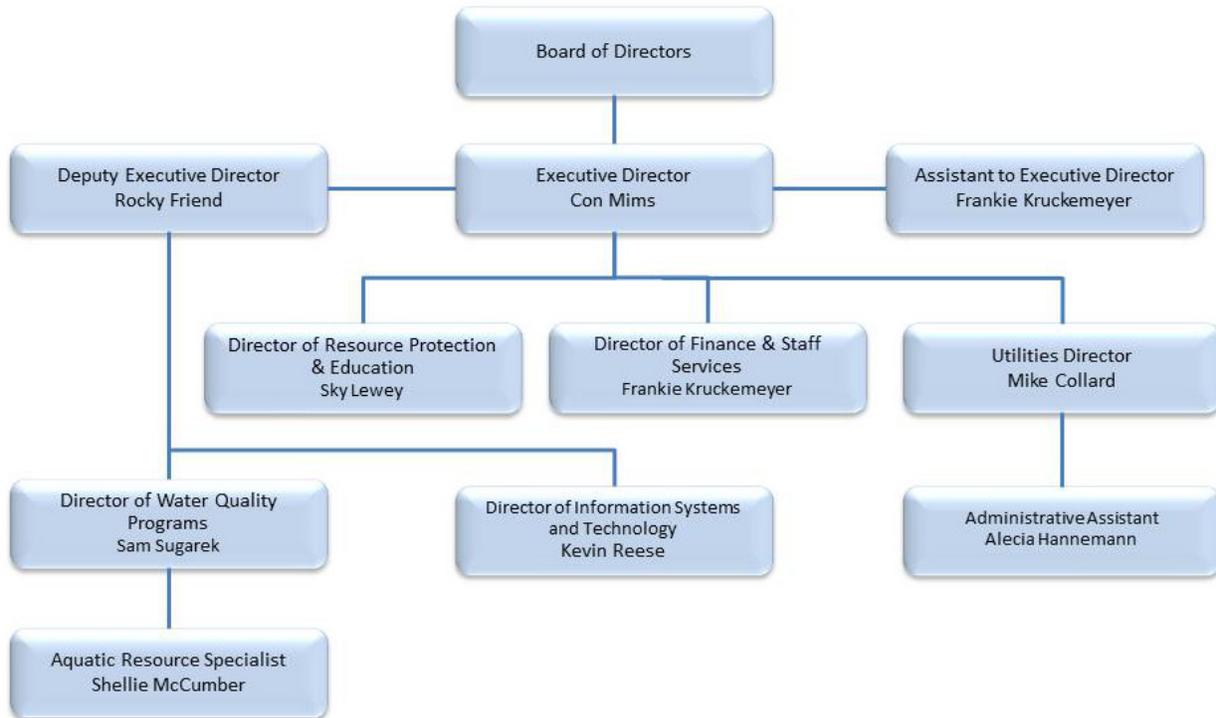
- F. If applicable, provide detailed information on fees collected by your agency. See Exhibit 8 Example.**

NRA collects no fees.

## VI. Organization

- A. Provide an organizational chart that includes major programs and divisions, and shows the number of FTEs in each program or division. Detail should include, if possible, Department Heads with subordinates, and actual FTEs with budgeted FTEs in parenthesis.

On September 1, 2017 NRA will have 9 FTE’s, all being budgeted. They are shown in the organizational chart, below. On June 1, 2016, we had 8 FTE’s, all being budgeted (See Exhibit 9).



- B. If applicable, fill in the chart below listing field or regional offices. See Exhibit 9 Example.

**NUECES RIVER AUTHORITY**  
**Exhibit 9: FTEs by Location — Fiscal Year 2016**

Headquarters, Region, or Field Office	Location	Co-Location? Yes / No	Number of Budgeted FTEs FY 2016	Number of Actual FTEs as of June 1, 2016
Headquarters	Uvalde	No	3	3
Coastal Bend Division	Corpus Christi	No	4	4
Utility Department - Leakey Regional Wastewater Project	Leakey	No	1	1

Headquarters, Region, or Field Office	Location	Co-Location? Yes / No	Number of Budgeted FTEs FY 2016	Number of Actual FTEs as of June 1, 2016
			TOTAL: 8	TOTAL: 8

Table 6 Exhibit 9 FTEs by Location

**C. What are your agency’s FTE caps for fiscal years 2016–2019?**

NRA has no FTE caps. We expect to have about 12 FTE’s by the end of FY 2019.

**D. How many temporary or contract employees did your agency have as of August 31, 2016? Please provide a short summary of the purpose of each position, the amount of expenditures per contract employee, and the procurement method of each position.**

NRA had three “part-time” employees on August 31, 2016. However, during the year, we had a total of six part time employees. All were working in our public education program. All were procured by word of mouth. The expenditures for each are as follows:

Mark Baker	Gross Salary	\$2,128.50	Travel	\$474.11
Mary Bales		\$15,510.00		\$6,824.14
Carol Kothmann		\$2,755.52		\$267.12
Mary Kate Rogers		\$2,862.75		\$-0-
Katy Fulcher		\$6,715.50		\$2,197.95
Dee Worley		\$9,116.25		\$1,276.09

**E. List each of your agency’s key programs or functions, along with expenditures and FTEs by program.**

**NUECES RIVER AUTHORITY  
Exhibit 10: List of Program FTEs and Expenditures — Fiscal Year 2016  
(Expenditures are estimated by Program)**

Program	Number of Budgeted FTEs FY 2016	Actual FTEs as of August 31, 2016	Actual Expenditures
ADMINISTRATION	4	4	\$584,401
WATER QUALITY	2	2	\$214,236
PUBLIC EDUCATION AND RESOURCE PROTECTION	1	1	\$367,876
Utilities - LEAKEY REGIONAL WASTEWATER	1	1	\$2,261,352
<b>TOTAL</b>	8	8	\$3,427,925

Table 7 Exhibit 10 List of Program FTEs and Expenditures

## VII. Guide to Agency Programs

### A. Provide the following information at the beginning of each program description.

**Name of Program or Function:** ADMINISTRATION

Note: While Administration, normally, is not considered a Program, it is included to give a complete picture of NRA's activities, revenues, and expenses.

**Location/Division:** General Office located at 200 E. Nopal, Suite 206 in Uvalde and Coastal Bend Division Office located at RTA Building, Suite 280, 602 N. Staples St. in Corpus Christi (Note: NRA'S Leakey office is more construction oriented than administrative, but is in the process of assuming more administrative responsibilities.)

**Contact Name:** General Office –Con Mims, Executive Director or Frankie Kruckemeyer, Director of Finance and Staff Services; Coastal Bend Division Office – Rocky Freund, Deputy Executive Director

**Actual Expenditures, FY 2016:** \$584,401

Note: The program categories in this report (Administration, Water Quality, Public Education and Resource Protection, and Utilities) are created to better describe our activities. However, we do not account for expenditures based on these programs. We account for expenditures based on General Office, Coastal Bend Division, Education and Resource Protection, and Leakey Regional Wastewater Project. Therefore, this expenditure is estimated, but believed to be close to actual. This expenditure includes salaries and fringe benefits of the four employees who are, primarily but not exclusively, dedicated to administration and expenses readily identified in our FY 2016 annual audit as being Administration related. The four employees are the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Director of Finance and Staff Services, and Director of Information Systems and Technology.

**Number of Actual FTEs as of June 1, 2017:** 4

**Statutory Citation for Program:** Article 8280-115 VTCS, as amended, creating the NRA

### B. What is the objective of this program or function? Describe the major activities performed under this program.

Provide office space, equipment, supplies, human resource assistance, insurance, legal and professional assistance, Board of Directors assistance, and other resources needed for the NRA Board and personnel to function, properly and efficiently. This program includes general management of NRA.

- C. What evidence can you provide that shows the effectiveness and efficiency of this program or function? Provide a summary of key statistics and outcome performance measures that best convey the effectiveness and efficiency of this function or program. Also please provide a short description of the methodology behind each statistic or performance measure.**

The effectiveness and efficiency of this program is measured by the satisfaction of NRA's Directors and employees with it, which is excellent. Complaints or issues seldom arise.

- D. Describe any important history regarding this program not included in the general agency history section, including how the services or functions have changed from the original intent.**

There is no history not covered in the general agency history section.

- E. Describe who or what this program or function affects. List any qualifications or eligibility requirements for persons or entities affected. Provide a statistical breakdown of persons or entities affected.**

This program directly affects NRA's 21 Directors and 9 full time employees and indirectly affects every entity that NRA works with.

- F. Describe how your program or function is administered, including a description of the processes involved in the program or function. Include flowcharts, timelines, or other illustrations as necessary to describe agency policies and procedures. Indicate how field/regional services are used, if applicable.**

We do not believe this request is applicable to this program, but will be pleased to follow up if desired.

- G. Identify all funding sources and amounts for the program or function, including federal grants and pass-through monies. Describe any funding formulas or funding conventions. For state funding sources, please specify (e.g., general revenue, appropriations rider, budget strategy, fees/dues).**

Funding for this program amounts to:

\$100,000 contract with City of Corpus Christi for the City's right to sell NRA's water supply from Choke Canyon Reservoir

\$100,000 contract with City of Corpus Christi for administrative services

\$252,541, approximately, from contracts for services. Those contracts include contracts with the City of Corpus Christi, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, Lavaca-Navidad River Authority, and several groundwater conservation districts, and private foundations.

\$16,718 from investment income.

No federal grants or pass-through monies are used, other than indirectly, if a contract is with a state agency that is using federal funds for our contract. There are no funding formulas or conventions. NRA is not a state agency and receives no state funding.

**H. Identify any programs, internal or external to your agency, that provide identical or similar services or functions to the target population. Describe the similarities and differences.**

There are none.

**I. Discuss how the program or function is coordinating its activities to avoid duplication or conflict with the other programs listed in Question H and with the agency's customers. If applicable, briefly discuss any memorandums of understanding (MOUs), interagency agreements, or interagency contracts.**

We do not believe this is applicable to this program, but will be pleased to follow up, if desired.

**J. If the program or function works with local, regional, or federal units of government, include a brief description of these entities and their relationship to the agency.**

We do not believe this is applicable to this program, but will be pleased to follow up, if desired.

**K. If contracted expenditures are made through this program please provide:**

- a short summary of the general purpose of those contracts overall;
- the amount of those expenditures in fiscal year 2016;
- the number of contracts accounting for those expenditures;
- the method used to procure contracts
- top five contracts by dollar amount, including contractor and purpose;
- the methods used to ensure accountability for funding and performance; and
- a short description of any current contracting problems.

We do not believe this is applicable to this program, but will be pleased to follow up, if desired.

**L. Provide information on any grants awarded by the program.**

No grants are awarded by this program.

**M. Are there any barriers or challenges that impede the program's performance, including any outdated or ineffective state laws? Explain.**

Inadequate funding impedes the program's performance.

**N. Provide any additional information needed to gain a preliminary understanding of the program or function.**

This is only an administrative function.

**O. Regulatory programs relate to the licensing, registration, certification, or permitting of a person, business, or other entity. For each regulatory program, if applicable, describe:**

- **why the regulation is needed;**
- **the scope of, and procedures for, inspections or audits of regulated entities;**
- **follow-up activities conducted when non-compliance is identified;**
- **sanctions available to the agency to ensure compliance; and**
- **procedures for handling consumer/public complaints against regulated entities.**

NRA has no regulatory programs at this time.

**P. For each regulatory program, if applicable, provide the following complaint information. The chart headings may be changed if needed to better reflect your agency's practices. Please include a brief description of the methodology supporting each measure.**

NRA has no regulatory programs at this time.

***Name of Program or Function:*** **WATER QUALITY**

***Location/Division:*** Coastal Bend Division Office, RTA Building, Suite 280, 602 N. Staples St. in Corpus Christi

***Contact Name:*** Rocky Freund, Deputy Executive Director or Sam Sugarek, Director of Water Quality Programs

***Actual Expenditures, FY 2016:*** \$214,236

Note: The program categories in this report (Administration, Water Quality, Public Education and Resource Protection, and Utilities) are created to better describe our activities. However, we do not account for expenditures based on these programs. We account for expenditures based on General Office, Coastal Bend Division, Education and Resource Protection, and Leakey Regional Wastewater Project. Therefore, this expenditure is estimated, but believed to be close to actual. This expenditure includes salaries and fringe benefits of the two employees who are, primarily but not exclusively, dedicated to water quality and expenses readily identified in our FY 2016 annual audit as being water quality related. The two employees are the Director of Water Quality Programs and the Aquatic Resource Specialist.

**Number of Actual FTEs as of June 1, 2017: 2**

**Statutory Citation for Program:** Article 8280-115 VTCS, Subchapter 1, Section 1.01 (4), Subchapter 3, Section 3.05, and Section 3.15; Texas Water Code, Section 26.0135 (Clean Rivers Program)

**B. What is the objective of this program or function? Describe the major activities performed under this program.**

About 60% of this program involves implementation of the Texas Clean Rivers Program (CRP) within the San Antonio –Nueces Coastal Basin, the Nueces River Basin, the Nueces –Rio Grande Coastal Basin, and the adjacent bays and estuaries. This is a partnership with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality that began in 1991 and involves working together with local stakeholders to identify and evaluate surface water quality issues. A full discussion of CRP is found on the NRA website [www.nueces-ra.org](http://www.nueces-ra.org).

About 40% of this program involves activities under the following contracts:

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board – Development of a Watershed Protection Plan for the Lower Nueces River

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board – Collection of water quality data to evaluate factors affecting recreational use of San Miguel Creek

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality – Targeted monitoring for chlorides, sulfates, and Total Dissolved Solids on Petronila Creek

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality – Evaluation of riparian vegetation coverage on Oso Creek

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality - A Supplemental Environmental Project involving enhanced water quality sampling at four stations

Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program – Removal of large debris from the lower Nueces River as part of implementing the Lower Nueces River Watershed Protection Plan (For more information on the Watershed Protection Plan, please see our website at [www.nueces-ra.org](http://www.nueces-ra.org) and click on the icon titled “Nueces River Watershed Partnership”.)

**C. What evidence can you provide that shows the effectiveness and efficiency of this program or function? Provide a summary of key statistics and outcome performance measures that best convey the effectiveness and efficiency of this function or program. Also please provide a short description of the methodology behind each statistic or performance measure.**

There are no performance measures, other than the fact that, over the years, NRA has contracted more than once with each of the entities shown in “B”, above. Never has there

been a dispute or complaint by any of the entities, suggesting that NRA's work under this program is effective and efficient.

**D. Describe any important history regarding this program not included in the general agency history section, including how the services or functions have changed from the original intent.**

There is no history that is not included in the general agency history section. The services and functions have not changed from their original intent.

**E. Describe who or what this program or function affects. List any qualifications or eligibility requirements for persons or entities affected. Provide a statistical breakdown of persons or entities affected.**

This program is, substantially, a data gathering function, with the data benefitting the entity with whom NRA contracts to serve and the public, in general. To the extent that the program causes improvement in water quality, it benefits those who use that water and the aquatic environment. There are no qualifications or eligibility requirements for persons or entities affected, nor is there a statistical breakdown of persons or entities affected.

**F. Describe how your program or function is administered, including a description of the processes involved in the program or function. Include flowcharts, timelines, or other illustrations as necessary to describe agency policies and procedures. Indicate how field/regional services are used, if applicable.**

NRA staff negotiates a contract to provide its services. The NRA Board either approves the contract, specifically, or approves a budget that includes the contract. Work is conducted in accordance with the terms of each contract and oversight is provided, as appropriate, by the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and/or the Resource Protection and Education Director, and the Board of Directors.

**G. Identify all funding sources and amounts for the program or function, including federal grants and pass-through monies. Describe any funding formulas or funding conventions. For state funding sources, please specify (e.g., general revenue, appropriations rider, budget strategy, fees/dues).**

Activities included in the Water Quality Program were funded in FY 2016, as follows:

- Texas Clean Rivers Program

This was funded by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in the amount of \$207,433.16.

- Development of a Watershed Protection Plan for the Lower Nueces River

This was funded by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board in the amount of \$82,515.89 of which \$82,515.89 was a pass-through of funds from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

- Collection of water quality data to evaluate factors affecting recreational use of San Miguel Creek

This was funded by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board in the amount of \$22,949.31.

- Targeted monitoring for chlorides, sulfates, and Total Dissolved Solids on Petronila Creek

This was funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in the amount of \$28,863.43.

- Evaluation of riparian vegetation coverage on Oso Creek

This was funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in the amount of \$48,439.84.

- A Supplemental Environmental Project involving enhanced water quality sampling at four stations

This was funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in the amount of \$8,555.62.

- Removal of large debris from the lower Nueces River as part of implementing the Lower Nueces River Watershed Protection Plan

This was funded by the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program in the amount of \$11,290.00.

There are no funding formulas or conventions. NRA is not a state agency and receives no state funding.

**H. Identify any programs, internal or external to your agency, that provide identical or similar services or functions to the target population. Describe the similarities and differences.**

To our knowledge, there are none.

**I. Discuss how the program or function is coordinating its activities to avoid duplication or conflict with the other programs listed in Question H and with the agency's customers. If applicable, briefly discuss any memorandums of understanding (MOUs), interagency agreements, or interagency contracts.**

Not applicable.

**J. If the program or function works with local, regional, or federal units of government, include a brief description of these entities and their relationship to the agency.**

As noted in Section G, above, under this program we have contractual relationships with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program. In addition we work or partner with the City of Corpus Christi, Nueces County, the Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi, and local representatives of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**K. If contracted expenditures are made through this program please provide:**

- a short summary of the general purpose of those contracts overall;
- the amount of those expenditures in fiscal year 2016;
- the number of contracts accounting for those expenditures;
- the method used to procure contracts
- top five contracts by dollar amount, including contractor and purpose;
- the methods used to ensure accountability for funding and performance; and
- a short description of any current contracting problems.

In FY 2016, the Water Quality Program executed two contracts for services. Their amounts, general purposes, and methods of procurement are, as follows:

1. J. M. Davidson Inc. - \$9,490

This contract was for barge and crane services to remove large debris from the lower Nueces River in connection with implementation of the Lower Nueces River Watershed Protection Plan.

When we needed this service, the contractor was onsite, with equipment in the water, working for Nueces County. Using this contractor saved mobilization and demobilization expenses.

2. Excel Helicopter LCC - \$2,190

This contract was for aerial reconnaissance in connection with evaluation of riparian vegetation on Oso Creek.

We selected this contractor after calling three helicopter services and comparing rates.

Work under both of these contracts has been completed and there were no contracting problems.

**L. Provide information on any grants awarded by the program.**

NRA does not award grants.

**M. Are there any barriers or challenges that impede the program's performance, including any outdated or ineffective state laws? Explain.**

The largest barrier to improving this program's performance is inadequate funding of NRA personnel and equipment.

**N. Provide any additional information needed to gain a preliminary understanding of the program or function.**

Basically, through this program, NRA contracts its services to others for water quality monitoring and planning.

**O. Regulatory programs relate to the licensing, registration, certification, or permitting of a person, business, or other entity. For each regulatory program, if applicable, describe:**

- why the regulation is needed;
- the scope of, and procedures for, inspections or audits of regulated entities;
- follow-up activities conducted when non-compliance is identified;
- sanctions available to the agency to ensure compliance; and
- procedures for handling consumer/public complaints against regulated entities.

NRA has no regulatory or permitting programs at this time.

**P. For each regulatory program, if applicable, provide the following complaint information. The chart headings may be changed if needed to better reflect your agency's practices. Please include a brief description of the methodology supporting each measure.**

Not applicable.

***Name of Program or Function:***      **PUBLIC EDUCATION AND RESOURCE PROTECTION**

***Location/Division:*** General Office in Uvalde

***Contact Name:*** Sky Lewey, Resource Protection and Education Director

***Actual Expenditures, FY 2016:*** \$367,876

Note: The program categories in this report (Administration, Water Quality, Public Education and Resource Protection, and Utilities) are created to better describe our activities. However, we do not account for expenditures based on these programs. We account for expenditures based on General Office, Coastal Bend Division, Education and Resource Protection, and Leakey Regional Wastewater Project. Therefore, this expenditure is estimated, but believed to be

close to actual. This expenditure includes the salary and fringe benefits of the one employee who is, primarily but not exclusively, dedicated to public education and resource protection and expenses readily identified in our FY 2016 annual audit as being public education and resource protection related. The employee is the Resource Protection and Education Director

**Number of Actual FTEs as of June 1, 2017: 1**

**Statutory Citation for Program:** Article 8280-115 VTCS Subchapter 1, Section 1.01(5); Subchapter 3, Section 3.02(b)(2)(4)(7); and Section 3.05(a)

**B. What is the objective of this program or function? Describe the major activities performed under this program.**

**(1) Public Education**

In this part of the Program, NRA works to strengthen appreciation of basin water resources and the symbiotic relationship between land and water. Our classroom education program uses a watershed model and other hands-on activities to show thousands of students each year how pollutants enter and contaminate rivers and aquifers and how everyone can help protect and conserve water resources. Local groundwater conservation districts, businesses, community groups, and others partner with us to deliver our Up2U litter prevention campaign to promote personal responsibility for clean rivers. NRA's education program received the National Wetlands Award in 2004 and the Texas Environmental Excellence Award in 2008. Additional information is available on NRA's website [www.nueces-ra.org](http://www.nueces-ra.org) by clicking on the Education tab on the homepage.

**(2) Resource Protection**

This part of the Program includes a number of activities:

- Riparian Protection

NRA created a guide to riparian plants that was the first of its kind in the state. Using this guide, NRA teaches, throughout the river basin, how a healthy riparian environment is fundamental in preserving water quality and supply. And, we contract our services in evaluating the health of specific riparian areas, such as the Oso Creek in the lower basin, for example. Please see more about the Guide on NRA's website [www.nueces-ra.org](http://www.nueces-ra.org) by clicking the icon labeled "Your Remarkable Riparian" on the homepage.

- Arundo Control and Riparian Restoration

This program combines engaged landowners, a diverse team of volunteers, experts from state and federal programs, and key contracting partners, with coordination and leadership from NRA to control the invasive plant, Arundo donax (Giant cane). This plant, found along our rivers and streams, uses large quantities of water and chokes the waterways. For more information, please see our website at [www.nueces-ra.org](http://www.nueces-ra.org) and click on the icon titled "Pull, Kill, Plant".

- Aquatic Litter Control

NRA created a water related anti-litter campaign, known as Up2U, which advocates personal responsibility for environmental protection. The campaign has been delivered in the upper reaches of the Nueces River Basin since 2004 where it has reached over 120,000 people and has been a catalyst in changing littering behavior. The campaign was re-designed for delivery in the coastal region in 2009. The cornerstone of the campaign is a logo emblazoned mesh litter bag which is both a litter prevention tool and an advertising tool. These bags are now being distributed to beach goers, boaters, students, and litter prevention advocates from the Nueces headwaters to the coast. For more information, please see our website at [www.nueces-ra.org](http://www.nueces-ra.org) and click on the icon titled “Up2U Litter Campaign”.

- Water Quality and Riverbed Protection

NRA opposes applications for Texas Commission on Environmental Quality wastewater discharge and waste disposal permits and applications for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department permits to remove sand or gravel from riverbeds when we believe their issuance could degrade water quality or the riparian environment of the rivers in the basin. The following examples are taken from Section III – History and Major Events in this Report:

1983

NRA and Corpus Christi, successfully, oppose an application for a radioactive waste disposal permit for a Chem-Nuclear, Inc. facility to be located near Pawnee in Live Oak County.

NRA successfully opposes a permit application for a hazardous waste storage facility proposed by Iso-Tex, Inc. near Cotulla.

NRA begins its multi-year opposition to Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority’s plan to locate the state’s disposal site in the Nueces Basin.

1984

NRA joins McMullen County in successful opposition of a proposed saltwater disposal well to be located on the bank of the Frio River at Tilden.

1991

NRA and others successfully oppose an industrial landfill planned by HALLCO, Inc. to be located in McMullen County in close proximity to the Nueces River and Choke Canyon Reservoir.

2017

- NRA, City of Corpus Christi, Live Oak County and McMullen County oppose an application for an oil and gas landfill by Petro Waste Environmental to be located within four miles of Choke Canyon Reservoir.

- NRA informs Texas Parks and Wildlife Department that it opposes issuance of any permits for excavation of sand and gravel from Nueces Basin riverbeds until the impacts of those activities on stream morphology, channel and bank stability, sediment loading, water quality, aquatic habitat, and the cumulative impact of multiple disturbances, both permitted and unpermitted within a river reach have been professionally evaluated and those evaluations have been considered by TPWD in its review of permit applications. This resulted in TPWD agreeing to have a study conducted that it can use to support the issuance of future permits. NRA was commended for its position.

One of NRA's major accomplishments involved securing legislation to ban motorized vehicles in state-owned riverbeds. Taken from the History section of this Report:

2000 - 2003

NRA sponsors a forum to study the growing problem of abuse of riverbeds and adjoining properties by operators of off-road vehicles in the upper Nueces Basin. The forum includes representatives of several state agencies having potential jurisdiction, local governments, and the public. When it became apparent that no one had jurisdiction in protecting the rivers from this abusive activity, NRA assumed a leading role in seeking legislation to ban use of off-road vehicles in state-owned riverbeds. That multi-year effort resulted, in 2003, with the 78<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature imposing a statewide ban on the use of motorized vehicles in state-owned riverbeds.

We are not involved in contested case hearings because of the costs. Instead, we try to resolve concerns by working with the permitting agencies and affected governmental entities and the public. Our record in resolving issues and protecting the integrity of the rivers has been very good.

### **(3) Assisting Others**

These activities are included under the discussion of this PUBLIC EDUCATION AND RESOURCE PROTECTION program as a best fit. They are not programs and are not financially accounted for, separately. But, they are major activities that have required considerable amounts of NRA resources, time, and dedication. Most of the work was managed by the Executive Director - or one FTE. We will be pleased to treat these, differently, in the Report, if you wish.

#### Choke Canyon Reservoir

In the 1970's and 1980's, NRA worked with the City of Corpus Christi to construct Choke Canyon Reservoir, which, today, is one of four sources of water that the City uses to serve the Coastal Bend Region. We issued our revenue bonds to fund the local share of costs of this Bureau of Reclamation project and we share the water rights with Corpus Christi and the City of Three Rivers. Much of our work, today, involves protecting the water quality and integrity of that reservoir.

#### Mary Rhodes Memorial Pipeline

From 1996-1999, we worked with the City of Corpus Christi, the Port of Corpus Christi Authority and the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority to build a major water supply pipeline to serve the Coastal Bend region. As is noted in the History Section of this Report, as South Texas was experiencing record breaking drought conditions, additional water supplies were urgently needed in the Coastal Bend. NRA contracted with Corpus Christi to construct a 101 mile, 64" concrete reinforced pipeline and three pump stations to transport 41,840 acre-feet, annually, of water the City owned in Lake Texana in Jackson County. This was a project evaluated in the Trans-Texas Water Program. NRA issued \$118,195,000 of its water supply revenue bonds to help finance the project and contracted the Port of Corpus Christi Authority to serve as the Project Manager. The project was completed ahead of time and under budget. Out of 147 pieces of property needed, there were, only, two condemnations, and they were to clear title.

#### Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan

In 1978, we adopted a policy to work with all affected entities to resolve the problem of over pumping the Edwards Aquifer. About 60% of the aquifer's recharge occurs in the Nueces Basin as well as a large amount of pumping for agricultural irrigation. Pumping of the Edwards Aquifer can adversely affect federally listed endangered species at Comal and San Marcos springs, flows of the San Antonio and Guadalupe rivers, freshwater inflows to San Antonio Bay and all people associated with these water resources. From 2007-2012, NRA's Executive Director chaired a large stakeholder committee organized to develop an Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program that would provide protection to the endangered species and would support issuance of an Incidental Take Permit by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A Habitat Conservation Plan resulted from this effort and was approved by the Service in 2012. NRA received a U.S. Department of Interior Partners in Conservation Award in recognition of outstanding conservation achievements attained through collaboration and partnerships with others.

#### Nueces River and Corpus Christi Bay and Baffin Bay Basin and Bay Area Stakeholders Committee (Nueces BBASC)

From July 2009 to August 2012, through its Executive Director, NRA chaired a large stakeholder committee that prepared an Environmental Flows Recommendations Report in accordance with the Texas Environmental Flows Program established by Senate Bill 3, 80<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature.

#### South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region L)

Development of the State Water Plan was placed in the hands of 16 regional water planning groups in 1997 by Senate Bill 1, 75<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature. One of the largest planning groups is Region L, covering the Edwards Aquifer region, the San Antonio and Guadalupe river basins, and San Antonio Bay. NRA, through its Executive Director, was elected to serve as its Chair for 10 consecutive years.

**C. What evidence can you provide that shows the effectiveness and efficiency of this program or function? Provide a summary of key statistics and outcome performance**

**measures that best convey the effectiveness and efficiency of this function or program. Also please provide a short description of the methodology behind each statistic or performance measure.**

The effectiveness and efficiency of this program, as with all of our programs, is demonstrated by the facts that so many entities have invited NRA to be part of their activities, and in several cases, noted above, to chair important committees. Additionally, we are the recipient of numerous financial contributions from private citizens and several private foundations, indicating their appreciation of our effectiveness and efficiency. We have never received complaints about our services. We do not have statistics or performance measures.

**D. Describe any important history regarding this program not included in the general agency history section, including how the services or functions have changed from the original intent.**

There is no history that is not included in the general agency history section and the services or functions have not changed from their original intent.

**E. Describe who or what this program or function affects. List any qualifications or eligibility requirements for persons or entities affected. Provide a statistical breakdown of persons or entities affected.**

This program benefits those to whom NRA provides its services and the public, in general. To the extent that the program causes improvement in water quality or supply, it benefits those who use that water and the aquatic environment. There are no qualifications or eligibility requirements for persons or entities affected. We do not have a statistical breakdown of persons or entities affected.

**F. Describe how your program or function is administered, including a description of the processes involved in the program or function. Include flowcharts, timelines, or other illustrations as necessary to describe agency policies and procedures. Indicate how field/regional services are used, if applicable.**

NRA staff negotiates a contract to provide its services. The NRA Board either approves the contract, specifically, or approves a budget that includes the contract. Work is conducted in accordance with the terms of each contract and oversight is provided, as appropriate, by the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and/or the Resource Protection and Education Director, as appropriate, and the Board of Directors.

**G. Identify all funding sources and amounts for the program or function, including federal grants and pass-through monies. Describe any funding formulas or funding conventions. For state funding sources, please specify (e.g., general revenue, appropriations rider, budget strategy, fees/dues).**

In fiscal Year 2016, the following activities were funded by the sources shown.

1 South Texas Land and Water Initiative

This was funded by the Ed Rachel Foundation and the Trull Foundation in the total amount of \$15,812. This was for landowner outreach related to water quality protection and enhancement.

2. Devils River Conservancy

This was funded by The Dixon Water Foundation and The Horizon Foundation in the amount of \$63,246 for Devils River resource protection, education, public outreach, and hydrological studies.

3. Evergreen Special

This was funded by the Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District in the amount of \$9,372. It involved delivering water resource education to schools within the District's boundaries.

4. Groundwater Conservation Districts Pool

Funded by: Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District

Wintergarden Groundwater Conservation District

Bee Groundwater Conservation District

Live Oak Underground Water Conservation District

Uvalde County Underground Water Conservation District

Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater Conservation District

Medina County Groundwater Conservation District

McMullen Groundwater Conservation District

in the amount of \$75,117. This involved delivering water stewardship education to school, community events, and fairs.

5. Wintergarden Special

This was funded by the Wintergarden Groundwater Conservation District in the amount of \$15,688. It involved delivering water resource education to schools and promotion of rainwater catchment as an alternative water supply.

6. Digital Riparian Network

This was funded by the Dixon Water Foundation in the amount of \$3,776. It involved creation and delivery of digital lessons on riparian function and management.

7. Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Boat Access

This was funded by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with a pass-through grant from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the amount of \$27,665. It was for control of *Arundo donax* (Giant cane) on the upper Nueces River in Zavala and Uvalde Counties.

8. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Landowner Incentive Program - Dry Frio

This was funded by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with a pass-through grant from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the amount of \$18,214. It was for control of *Arundo donax* (Giant cane) and riparian restoration on the Dry Frio River in Uvalde County.

9. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Landowner Incentive Program – Frio and Sabinal

This was funded by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with a pass-through grant from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the amount of \$1,975. It was for control of *Arundo donax* (Giant cane) on the upper Frio and Sabinal Rivers in Uvalde and Bandera Counties.

10. Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District

This was funded by the Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District in the amount of \$2,920. It was for control of *Arundo donax* (Giant cane) and delivery of riparian education in Nueces Basin streams within Bandera County.

11. Friend Fund

This was funded by private riparian landowners in the amount of \$2,572. It supported facilitation, administration, and implementation of *Arundo donax* (Giant cane) control programs in the upper Nueces Basin, as described by the activities, above.

12. Contributions

Contributions were received from participants in the Up2U litter prevention program in the amount of \$17,559 to support purchase and distribution of litter bags and litter prevention information.

13. Your Remarkable Riparian 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

This was funded by contributions from various participants in the amount of \$103,154 for research, creation, and production of the third edition of a field guide to riparian vegetation, with companion booklets.

There are no funding formulas or conventions. NRA is not a state agency and receives no state funding.

**H. Identify any programs, internal or external to your agency, that provide identical or similar services or functions to the target population. Describe the similarities and differences.**

To our knowledge there are none.

**I. Discuss how the program or function is coordinating its activities to avoid duplication or conflict with the other programs listed in Question H and with the agency's customers. If applicable, briefly discuss any memorandums of understanding (MOUs), interagency agreements, or interagency contracts.**

Not applicable.

**J. If the program or function works with local, regional, or federal units of government, include a brief description of these entities and their relationship to the agency.**

Under this program, NRA either contracts with, partners with, or works with a large number of governmental entities, including: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, Texas Water Development Board, Texas Railroad Commission, City of Corpus Christi, Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Port of Corpus Christi Authority, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Edwards Aquifer Authority, San Antonio River Authority, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District, Lavaca-Navidad River Authority, Nueces County, Uvalde County, Real County, Edwards County, Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District, Wintergarden Groundwater Conservation District, Bee Groundwater Conservation District, Live Oak Underground Water Conservation District, Uvalde County Underground Water Conservation District, Medina County Groundwater Conservation District, and McMullen Groundwater Conservation District.

**K. If contracted expenditures are made through this program please provide:**

- a short summary of the general purpose of those contracts overall;
- the amount of those expenditures in fiscal year 2016;
- the number of contracts accounting for those expenditures;
- the method used to procure contracts
- top five contracts by dollar amount, including contractor and purpose;
- the methods used to ensure accountability for funding and performance; and
- a short description of any current contracting problems.

Contracted expenditures in Fiscal Year 2016 were:

1. Devils River Conservancy

Purpose: Resource protection along the Devils River through providing education, outreach and hydrological studies.

Expenditures in FY 2016: \$36,044

Number of contracts accounting for these expenditures: 2

Method used to procure contracts:

- White Hat/Water PR. - This contractor was procured in FY 2013 by advertising a Request For Qualifications
- Southwest Research Institute – This contractor was requested by the funding source, the Devils River Conservancy.

Top five contracts by dollar amount, including contractor and purpose:

- Southwest Research Institute – \$35,000
- White Hat/Water PR - \$1,044

The methods used to ensure accountability for funding and performance include review of regular status reports, observance of timeline compliance, and consideration of the quality of the product.

There have been no contracting problems.

2. Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Boat Access

Purpose: Control of *Arundo donax* (Giant cane) on the upper Nueces River in Zavala and Uvalde Counties.

Expenditures FY 2016: \$25,750

Number of contracts accounting for those expenditures: 1

Method used to procure contracts:

- McFaddin Services – This contractor was procured in FY 2013 by advertising a Request For Qualifications

Top five contracts by dollar amount, including contractor and purpose:

- McFaddin Services - \$25,750

The methods used to ensure accountability for funding and performance: Review of spray records and plant pull records, observance of timelines, and field inspections.

There have been no contracting problems.

3. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Landowner Incentive Program - Dry Frio River

Purpose: Control of *Arundo donax* (Giant cane) and riparian restoration on the Dry Frio River in Uvalde County.

Expenditures FY 2016: \$18,214

Number of contracts accounting for those expenditures: 2

Method used to procure contracts:

- McFaddin Services – This contractor was procured in FY 2013 by advertising a Request For Proposals
- Neiman Environments/Native American Seed – This contractor was procured in FY 2013 by advertising a Request For Qualifications

Top five contracts by dollar amount, including contractor and purpose:

- Neiman Environments/Native American Seed - \$14,514
- McFaddin Services – \$3,700

The methods used to ensure accountability for funding and performance: Review of spray records and plant pull records, observing timelines, and field inspections.

There have been no contracting problems.

4. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Landowner Incentive Program – Frio and Sabinal Rivers

Purpose: Control of *Arundo donax* (Giant cane) on the upper Frio and Sabinal Rivers in Uvalde and Bandera County.

Expenditures FY 2016: \$1,975

Number of contracts accounting for those expenditures: 1

Method used to procure contracts:

- McFaddin Services – This contractor was procured in FY 2013 by advertising a Request For Qualifications.

Top five contracts by dollar amount, including contractor and purpose:

- McFaddin Services – \$1,975

The methods used to ensure accountability for funding and performance: Review of spray records and plant pull records, observance of timelines, and field inspections.

There have been no contracting problems.

5. Bandera County River Authority & Groundwater District

Purpose: Control of Arundo donax (Giant cane), restoration, and delivery of riparian education on Nueces Basin streams within Bandera County.

Expenditures FY 2016: \$1,050

Number of Contracts accounting for those expenditures: 1

Method used to procure contracts:

- McFaddin Services – This contractor was procured in FY 2013 by advertising a Request For Qualifications.

Top five contracts by dollar amount, including contractor and purpose:

- McFaddin Services – \$1,050

The methods used to ensure accountability for funding and performance: Review of spray records and plant pull records, observance of timelines, and field inspections.

There have been no contracting problems.

6. Your Remarkable Riparian 3rd edition

Purpose: To develop a guidance manual for riparian landowners along with an invasive plant identification guide.

Expenditures FY 2016: \$105,840

Number of contracts accounting for those expenditures: 1

Method used to procure contracts:

- White Hat/Water PR – This contractor was procured in FY 2013 by advertising a Request For Qualifications

Top five contracts by dollar amount, including contractor and purpose:

- White Hat/Water PR –\$105,840

The methods used to ensure accountability for funding and performance: Review of creative briefs, proofs, timelines, and quality of products.

There have been no contracting problems.

Top five contracts by dollars paid in FY 2016:

White Hat/Water PR (2 payments)	\$106,884
Southwest Research Institute	\$35,000
McFaddin Services (4 payments)	\$32,475
Neiman Environments/Native American Seed	\$14,514

**L. Provide information on any grants awarded by the program.**

NRA does not award grants.

**M. Are there any barriers or challenges that impede the program's performance, including any outdated or ineffective state laws? Explain.**

The largest barrier, as noted for the preceding programs, is inadequate funding of NRA's operations.

**N. Provide any additional information needed to gain a preliminary understanding of the program or function.**

As can be deduced, protecting Nueces Basin water resources is the foundation of this program.

**O. Regulatory programs relate to the licensing, registration, certification, or permitting of a person, business, or other entity. For each regulatory program, if applicable, describe:**

- why the regulation is needed;
- the scope of, and procedures for, inspections or audits of regulated entities;
- follow-up activities conducted when non-compliance is identified;
- sanctions available to the agency to ensure compliance; and
- procedures for handling consumer/public complaints against regulated entities.

NRA has no regulatory or licensing programs at this time.

**P. For each regulatory program, if applicable, provide the following complaint information. The chart headings may be changed if needed to better reflect your agency's practices. Please include a brief description of the methodology supporting each measure.**

Not applicable.

**Name of Program or Function:** UTILITIES

**Location/Division:** Leakey Office – 121 Oak Hill Drive, Suite 5, Leakey Texas

**Contact Name:** Mike Collard, Utility Director

**Actual Expenditures, FY 2016:** \$2,261,352

Note: The program categories in this report (Administration, Water Quality, Public Education and Resource Protection, and Utilities) are created to better describe our activities. However, we do not account for expenditures based on these programs. We account for expenditures based on General Office, Coastal Bend Division, Education and Resource Protection, and Leakey Regional Wastewater Project. Therefore, this expenditure is estimated, but believed to be close to actual. This expenditure includes the salary and fringe benefits of the one employee who is, primarily but not exclusively, dedicated to utilities and expenses readily identified in our FY 2016 annual audit as being utility related. The employee is the Utility Director.

**Number of Actual FTEs as of June 1, 2017:** 1 (currently have 2)

**Statutory Citation for Program:**

Article 8280-115 VTCS, Sections 1.01, 3.05 and 3.06.

**B. What is the objective of this program or function? Describe the major activities performed under this program.**

NRA is constructing a wastewater collection and treatment system to serve the City of Leakey and adjacent subdivisions (Leakey Regional Wastewater Project/Project). Currently, this area is served, entirely, by on-site sewage facilities (septic tanks), many of which are malfunctioning and creating a public health nuisance and a threat to the quality of the nearby Frio River. The Frio River is the source of water for this area, a major revenue generator due to water oriented recreation, and the heart of one of the most popular state parks, Garner State Park, located less than 10 miles downstream from Leakey. The Project will replace most of the septic tanks, thereby offering protection to the area's water supply and the Frio River.

At this time the major activity under this program is construction of the Project and preparing to own, operate, and maintain the Project. Eventually, we expect to contract our services to other communities to assist in operating and maintaining their water and wastewater facilities, and may expand into municipal solid waste services with development of transfer stations.

**C. What evidence can you provide that shows the effectiveness and efficiency of this program or function? Provide a summary of key statistics and outcome performance measures that best convey the effectiveness and efficiency of this function or program. Also**

**please provide a short description of the methodology behind each statistic or performance measure.**

NRA has three contracts with wholesale customers to use its services and has secured over \$30 million of grant to construct the project, indicating satisfaction with our effectiveness and efficiency on both the local and state levels. We have no statistics or performance measures.

**D. Describe any important history regarding this program not included in the general agency history section, including how the services or functions have changed from the original intent.**

There is no additional history to add and the function of this program has not changed.

**E. Describe who or what this program or function affects. List any qualifications or eligibility requirements for persons or entities affected. Provide a statistical breakdown of persons or entities affected.**

This program affects the citizens of Leakey and of those adjoining subdivisions that will be served by the Project, as well as those who are affected by the quality of the Frio River. There are no qualifications or eligibility requirements. All residences and businesses in proximity to the Project's collection system will be served. We expect about 274 residential connections and about 106 commercial connections.

**F. Describe how your program or function is administered, including a description of the processes involved in the program or function. Include flowcharts, timelines, or other illustrations as necessary to describe agency policies and procedures. Indicate how field/regional services are used, if applicable.**

The program is administered by NRA's Utility Director, with oversight by the Executive Director and Board of Directors. Design and engineering services are provided by a professional engineering firm, Naismith/Hanson in Austin and Corpus Christi. Construction is accomplished by several contractors, all secured by competitive bidding achieved in a manner acceptable to the NRA Board of Directors and the Texas Water Development Board.

**G. Identify all funding sources and amounts for the program or function, including federal grants and pass-through monies. Describe any funding formulas or funding conventions. For state funding sources, please specify (e.g., general revenue, appropriations rider, budget strategy, fees/dues).**

The estimated cost of the Project is \$32,546,418, of which \$30,214,418 has been funded by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and about \$2,332,000 is expected to be funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development (USDA-RD).

All TWDB funding has been in the form of grants or loan forgiveness. In FY 2016, \$1,764,152 of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funds were passed through TWDB's Clean Water State Revolving Fund to help fund the Project.

There are no funding formulas or conventions. NRA is not a state agency and receives no state funding.

**H. Identify any programs, internal or external to your agency, that provide identical or similar services or functions to the target population. Describe the similarities and differences.**

There are none to our knowledge.

**I. Discuss how the program or function is coordinating its activities to avoid duplication or conflict with the other programs listed in Question H and with the agency's customers. If applicable, briefly discuss any memorandums of understanding (MOUs), interagency agreements, or interagency contracts.**

Not applicable.

**J. If the program or function works with local, regional, or federal units of government, include a brief description of these entities and their relationship to the agency.**

We work with the City of Leakey and Real County, being the recipients of our services. We, also, work with the Texas Water Development Board and USDA-RD, being the funding agencies, and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, being the permitting agency. During the permitting process, we, also, worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**K. If contracted expenditures are made through this program please provide:**

- a short summary of the general purpose of those contracts overall;
- the amount of those expenditures in fiscal year 2016;
- the number of contracts accounting for those expenditures;
- the method used to procure contracts
- top five contracts by dollar amount, including contractor and purpose;
- the methods used to ensure accountability for funding and performance; and
- a short description of any current contracting problems.

NRA entered into several Utility contracts during FY2016. The general purpose of the contracts was for professional engineering and construction services associated with the Leakey Regional Wastewater Project. These contracts included expenditures of approximately \$2,690,000 in FY2016. There were five contracts accounting for those expenditures.

Procurement methods for engineering and construction contracts were primarily guided by Texas Water Development Board Disadvantaged Business Enterprise procedures. Contracted services were solicited by a combination of good faith efforts such as advertising in newspapers, internet postings, and direct contact by phone or mail. Selection of professional services was based on qualifications, while construction services were awarded to the low bidder.

The top five contracts by dollar amount are listed below, including a brief statement of the contract's purpose:

- 1) Hoover Construction, Burnet, Texas - \$1,420,941.78, General Contractor for construction of a new wastewater collection system.
- 2) Associated Construction Partners, Boerne, Texas - \$333,116.55, General Contractor for construction of a new wastewater treatment plant.
- 3) Fisher-Poirier Construction, Austin, Texas - \$159,425.48, General Contractor for renovation of a house into an office building.
- 4) Naismith/Hanson, Austin, Texas - \$59,540.46, Professional Engineering services for design, land acquisition, construction engineering, and project management.
- 5) S&GE Engineers, San Antonio, Texas - \$15,213.35, Professional Engineering services for project oversight and consulting.

Accountability was ensured by supervision from licensed professionals. Construction contracts were based on plans and specifications signed and sealed by a professional engineer licensed in the State of Texas. Plans and specifications were also reviewed as required by statute by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and TWDB. Internal quality assurance/quality control efforts were implemented in the issuance of plans and specifications. Authorization for the NRA to enter construction contracts was approved either by the NRA Board of Directors or the Board's Design and Construction Committee. When necessary, legal opinions were provided by attorneys licensed in the State of Texas. Furthermore, the TWDB grants and contracts were reviewed in a compliance audit for FY2016 by a certified public accounting firm.

Construction of the wastewater treatment plant and portions of the collection system are underway through contracts with Associated Construction Partners and Hoover Construction. No problems are currently being experienced with these contracts beyond issues typical with construction projects such as these. A problem did occur with Fisher-Poirier Construction. Due to defective work, that contract was terminated for convenience by the NRA in FY2016.

**L. Provide information on any grants awarded by the program.**

NRA does not award grants.

**M. Are there any barriers or challenges that impede the program's performance, including any outdated or ineffective state laws? Explain.**

NRA received an Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP) grant from Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to help fund construction of the Leakey Regional Wastewater Project. Texas Health and Safety Code §366.035 states “A local governmental entity that applies to the Texas Water Development Board for financial assistance under a program for economically distressed areas must take all action necessary to receive and maintain a designation as an authorized agent of the commission (to regulate on-site sewage facilities)”. That mandate is referenced in the Grant Agreement between NRA and TWDB, that says “The Authority shall provide the TWDB with evidence satisfactory to the Executive Director that the Authority has received designation as an authorized agent of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, in compliance with Texas Health and Safety Code §366.035”. This is a mandatory requirement.

The problem is that Real County is TCEQ’s authorized agent to regulate septic tanks in Real County and the authorization of NRA to provide the same service within a part of Real County is duplicative and serves no purpose. To accomplish this designation, NRA has had to adopt an Order regulating septic tanks in Real County, identical to Real County’s Order; enter into an agreement with Real County that the County will assume all of NRA’s responsibilities under the Order; and, apply to TCEQ for the authorized agent designation. We applied for that designation in February 2016 and, as of July 2017, we have, yet, to receive the designation, despite having satisfied all requirements of the application for designation. This has been a time consuming involvement for no good reason.

**N. Provide any additional information needed to gain a preliminary understanding of the program or function.**

At this time, the program only involves constructing the Leakey Regional Wastewater Project and preparing to own, operate, and maintain it.

**O. Regulatory programs relate to the licensing, registration, certification, or permitting of a person, business, or other entity. For each regulatory program, if applicable, describe:**

- why the regulation is needed;
- the scope of, and procedures for, inspections or audits of regulated entities;
- follow-up activities conducted when non-compliance is identified;
- sanctions available to the agency to ensure compliance; and
- procedures for handling consumer/public complaints against regulated entities.

NRA has no regulatory programs at this time, but that will change in the future with adoption of Orders regulating use of the wastewater project.

**P. For each regulatory program, if applicable, provide the following complaint information. The chart headings may be changed if needed to better reflect your agency’s practices. Please include a brief description of the methodology supporting each measure.**

Not applicable.

### VIII. Statutory Authority and Recent Legislation

- A. Fill in the following charts, listing citations for all state and federal statutes that grant authority to or otherwise significantly impact your agency. Do not include general state statutes that apply to all agencies, such as the Public Information Act, the Open Meetings Act, or the Administrative Procedure Act. Provide information on Attorney General opinions from FY 2011–2015, or earlier significant Attorney General opinions, that affect your agency’s operations.

Note: It is our understanding that the Sunset Commission is only asking for state and federal statutes that grant authority to or otherwise specifically impact the Nueces River Authority. Any state or federal statutes that generally apply to Texas agencies and/or water law are not included. For convenience, all statutes affecting NRA are found in Attachment 9.

**NUECES RIVER AUTHORITY**  
**Exhibit 12: Statutes / Attorney General Opinions**

**Statutes**

Citation / Title	Authority / Impact on Agency <i>(e.g., “provides authority to license and regulate nursing home administrators”)</i>
Act of October 14, 1935, 44th Leg., 1st C.S., ch. 427, §§ 1–25, 1935 Tex. Gen. Laws 1660.	Creating the Nueces River Conservation and Reclamation District (“NRCRD”); defining NRCRD’s geographic boundaries, duties, powers, method of operation and governance, funding, supervision of NRCRD, and ability of NRCRD to create subordinate districts.
Act of October 25, 1937, 45th Leg., 2nd C.S., ch. 20, §§ 1–5, 1937 Tex. Gen. Laws 1891.	Expanding NRCRD’s authority and power with regard to condemnation, amending NRCRD’s provisions relating to its board of directors, and expanding incidental work NRCRD may undertake in furtherance of its duties.
Act of April 13, 1939, 46th Leg., R.S., ch. 7, §§ 1, 1939 Tex. Gen. Laws 1074.	Removing Webb County from NRCRD’s geographic boundaries.

Citation / Title	Authority / Impact on Agency <i>(e.g., "provides authority to license and regulate nursing home administrators")</i>
Act of May 7, 1943, 48th Leg., R.S., ch. 390, §§ 1–3, 1943 Tex. Gen. Laws 701.	Amending the NRCRD’s board of directors and provisions related to the board of directors.
Act of May 16, 1945, 49th Leg., R.S., ch. 305, §§ 1–3, 1945 Tex. Gen. Laws 489.	Amending the NRCRD’s board of directors and provisions related to the board of directors and repealing a requirement to submit certain financial documents.
Act of May 26, 1971, 62nd Leg., R.S., ch. 695, §§ 1–3, 1971 Tex. Gen. Laws 2269.	Changing the name of NRCRD to Nueces River Authority (“NRA”); adopting provisions related to the powers, obligations and duties of NRA, NRA’s board of directors, and NRA funding.
Act of May 21, 1975, 64th Leg., R.S., ch. 699, §§ 1–8, 1975 Tex. Gen. Laws 2172.	Expanding the NRA’s authority and more clearly defining the NRA’s power and duties; confirming that NRA’s board of directors would consist of 21 individuals, identifying the originating county of each director, identifying conflict of interest issues, director compensation, NRA’s contracting authority, and fiscal issues, such as taxes and bonds.
Act of April 29, 1979, 66th Leg., R.S., ch. 138, §§ 1–2, 1979 Tex. Gen. Laws 264.	Defining the compensation for NRA’s board of directors.
Act of May 21, 1985, 69th Leg., R.S., ch. 665, §§ 1–4, 1985 Tex. Gen. Laws 2433.	Altering the boundaries of the NRA and required the NRA implement a water

Citation / Title	Authority / Impact on Agency (e.g., "provides authority to license and regulate nursing home administrators")
	conservation plan.
Act of May 29, 2005, 79th Leg., R.S., ch. 977, § 3, 2005 Tex. Gen. Laws 3279.	Repealing the requirement for NRA to send a copy of its audit report to the Attorney General.
Act of May, 31, 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., ch. 1148, §§ 1, 10, 22, 2015 Tex. Gen. Laws 3862.	Subjecting NRA to Sunset Review.
Act of May 28, 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., ch. 975, § 4, 2017 Tex. Gen. Laws [unknown at this time] (to be codified as an amendment to Tex. Gov. Code § 325.025(b)).	Revising the numbering of statute within Chapter 325 of the Texas Government Code concerning Sunset Review.
1 Tex. Admin. Code § 53.131.	Empowered River Authorities to issue bonds pursuant to River Authority supply contracts.

Table 8 Exhibit 12 Statutes

**Attorney General Opinions**

Attorney General Opinion No.	Impact on Agency
Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. No. V-1171 (1951).	Held House Bill No. 25, which prohibited the Board of Water Engineers from issuing a permit for the building of any dam on the Nueces River or its tributaries without the consent of a majority of the taxpaying voters in any city which may be inundated by the building of a dam, was constitutional, and not a local or special law within the prohibitions of

Attorney General Opinion No.	Impact on Agency
	The Constitution of Texas.
Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. No. GA-0098 (2003).	A River Authority’s informational meeting that is open only to the Authority’s invitees, including members of the press and community leaders, contravenes a meeting subject to the Open Meetings Act if a quorum of members of the Authority is present or otherwise participates in the deliberations. If a quorum is not present and does not otherwise participate in the deliberations, the informational meeting is not subject to the Act.

Table 9 Exhibit 12 Attorney General Opinions

**B. Provide a summary of recent legislation regarding your agency by filling in the charts below or attaching information already available in an agency-developed format. Briefly summarize the key provisions. For bills that did not pass, briefly explain the key provisions and issues that resulted in failure of the bill to pass (e.g., opposition to a new fee, or high cost of implementation). Place an asterisk next to bills that could have a major impact on the agency.**

See Tables 8 and 9, Exhibit 12, above. There has been no legislation regarding NRA that did not pass other than HB 2802, 85<sup>th</sup> Reg. Sess., repealing review of NRA by the Sunset Advisory Commission. It passed the House, but was not heard in the Senate.

## IX. Major Issues

The purpose of this section is to briefly describe any potential issues raised by your agency, the Legislature, or stakeholders that Sunset could help address through changes in statute to improve your agency’s operations and service delivery. Inclusion of an issue does not indicate support, or opposition, for the issue by the agency’s board or staff. Instead, this section is intended to give the Sunset Commission a basic understanding of the issues so staff can collect more information during our detailed research on your agency. Some questions to ask in preparing this section may include: (1) How can your agency do a better job in meeting the needs of customers or in achieving agency goals? (2) What barriers exist that limit your agency’s ability to get the job done?

Emphasis should be given to issues appropriate for resolution through changes in state law. Issues related to funding or actions by other governmental entities (federal, local, quasi-governmental, etc.) may be included, but the Sunset Commission has no authority in the appropriations process or with other units of government. If these types of issues are included,

the focus should be on solutions which can be enacted in state law. This section contains the following three components.

Response: There are no major issues.

## X. Other Contacts

- A. Fill in the following charts with updated information on people with an interest in your agency, and be sure to include the most recent email address.

### NUECES RIVER AUTHORITY Exhibit 14: Contacts

#### *Interest Groups*

*(groups affected by agency actions or that represent others served by or affected by agency actions)*

Note: Because NRA has no enforcement power and has no rules or regulations presently affecting the public, there are no interest groups, which we are aware of, that our actions are affecting. However, these are groups that have an interest in NRA.

Group or Association Name/ Contact Person	Address	Telephone	Email Address
Texas Wildlife Association David Yeates, Chief Executive Officer	3660 Thousand Oaks Drive, Ste. 126 San Antonio, TX 78247	210-826-2904	<a href="mailto:dyeates@texas-wildlife.org">dyeates@texas-wildlife.org</a>
Texas Wildlife Association David Langford	P.O. Box 1059, Comfort, TX 78013	830-995-2147	<a href="mailto:dkl@hctc.net">dkl@hctc.net</a>
Hill Country Alliance Katherine Romans, Executive Director	15315 Hwy. 71 West Bee Cave, TX 78738	512-263-9147	<a href="mailto:katherine@hillcountryalliance.org">katherine@hillcountryalliance.org</a>
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance Annalisa Peace, Chair, Program Committee on Water	1809 Blanco Road San Antonio, TX 78212	210-320-6294	<a href="mailto:Annalisa@AquiferAlliance.org">Annalisa@AquiferAlliance.org</a>
Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program Ray Allen, Executive Director	615 N. Upper Broadway, Suite 1200 Corpus Christi, TX 78401	361-336-0305	<a href="mailto:rallen@cbbep.org">rallen@cbbep.org</a>
Coastal Bend Council of Governments / Theresa Finch	2910 Leopard St. Corpus Christi, TX 78408	361-883-5743	<a href="mailto:theresa.finch.cbkog@gmail.com">theresa.finch.cbkog@gmail.com</a>
Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science – Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Larry Lloyd	NRC Building Suite 3406 6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5799 Corpus Christi, TX 78412-5799	361-825-5759	<a href="mailto:larry.lloyd@tamucc.edu">larry.lloyd@tamucc.edu</a>

<b>Group or Association Name/ Contact Person</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Center for Coastal Studies, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Brien Nicolau	NRC Building Suite 3200 6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5866 Corpus Christi, TX 78412- 5866	361-825-5807	<a href="mailto:brien.nicolau@tamucc.edu">brien.nicolau@tamucc.edu</a>
Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group Scotty Bledsoe, Co-Chair	PO Box 3 Oakville, TX 78060	361-362-5030	<a href="mailto:wsb3@aol.com">wsb3@aol.com</a>
Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group Carola Serrato, Co-Chair	PO Box 1701 Kingsville, TX 78364	361-592-9323	<a href="mailto:wsb3@aol.com">wsb3@aol.com</a>
Oso Bay Oso Creek TMDL Teresa Carrillo	730 Harrison Corpus Christi, TX 78404	361-960-8808	<a href="mailto:teresaacarrillo@gmail.com">teresaacarrillo@gmail.com</a>
Meadows Center for Water and the Environment-Texas Stream Team, Texas State University Meredith A. Miller	601 University Drive San Marcos, TX 78666	(512)245-6697	<a href="mailto:mbmiller@txstate.edu">mbmiller@txstate.edu</a>
Sul Ross State University Bonnie Warnock	PO Box C-16 Alpine, TX 79832	432-837-8488	<a href="mailto:bwarnock@sulross.edu">bwarnock@sulross.edu</a>
Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan Nathan Pence	900 E. Quincy San Antonio, TX 78215	210-477-8527	<a href="mailto:npence@edwardsaquifer.org">npence@edwardsaquifer.org</a>
Stewarts of the Nueces Jeannie or Robert Dullnig	4 Dorchester Place, San Antonio, TX 78209	210-822-9170	<a href="mailto:jdullnig@msn.com">jdullnig@msn.com</a>
Texas Water Conservation Association Dean Robbins, General Manager	3755 S. Capital of Texas Hwy., Ste. 105, Austin, TX 78704	512-472-7216	<a href="mailto:drobbins@twca.org">drobbins@twca.org</a>
The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment  Andrew Sansom	601 University Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666	512-245-9201	<a href="mailto:as22@txstate.edu">as22@txstate.edu</a>

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<b>Group or Association Name/ Contact Person</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District David Mauk, Manager	PO Box 177 Bandera, TX 78003-0177	830-796-7260	<a href="mailto:dmauk@bcragd.org">dmauk@bcragd.org</a>
City of Corpus Christi / Environmental & Strategic Initiatives/ Larijai Francis	PO Box 9277 Corpus Christi, TX 78408-9277	361-826-1670	<a href="mailto:larijaif@cctexas.com">larijaif@cctexas.com</a>
City of Corpus Christi / Water Resources Steve Ramos	PO Box 9277 Corpus Christi, TX 78408-9277	361-826-3294	<a href="mailto:estebanr2@cctexas.com">estebanr2@cctexas.com</a>
Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District Russell Labus, Manager	110 Wyoming Blvd. Pleasanton, TX 78064	830-569-4186	<a href="mailto:russell.labus@evergreenuwcd.org">russell.labus@evergreenuwcd.org</a>
Lavaca-Navidad River Authority Patrick Brzozowski, Manager	PO Box 429 Edna, TX 77957	361-782-5310	<a href="mailto:pbrzozowski@lnra.org">pbrzozowski@lnra.org</a>
San Patricio Municipal Water District Brian Williams	PO Box 940 Ingleside, TX 78362	361-777-4037	<a href="mailto:bgw@spmwd.net">bgw@spmwd.net</a>
Nueces County / Office of Emergency Management Christopher Boyce	901 Leopard Street, Suite 303 Corpus Christi, TX 78401	361-888-0513	<a href="mailto:christopher.boyce@nuecesco.com">christopher.boyce@nuecesco.com</a>
Port of Corpus Christi Authority Danielle Converse	222 Power St. Corpus Christi, TX 78402	361-882-5633	<a href="mailto:danielle@pocca.com">danielle@pocca.com</a>
Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service / Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering Ryan Gerlich	600 John Kimbrough Blvd. Suite 509 College Station, TX 77843-7101	979-458-4185	<a href="mailto:rgerlich@tamu.edu">rgerlich@tamu.edu</a>
Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service / Nueces County Jason Ott	710 E. Main Ave Suite 1 Robstown, TX 78380-3148	361-767-5217	<a href="mailto:jason.ott@ag.tamu.edu">jason.ott@ag.tamu.edu</a>

<b>Group or Association Name/ Contact Person</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
University of Texas Marine Science Institute Jace Tunnell	750 Channel View Drive Port Aransas, TX 78373	361-749-3046	<a href="mailto:jace.tunnell@austin.utexas.edu">jace.tunnell@austin.utexas.edu</a>
Texas Riparian Association Lori Hazel, President.	P.O. Box 475 Wellborn, TX 77881	254-773-8481	<a href="mailto:lhazel@tfs.tamu.edu">lhazel@tfs.tamu.edu</a>
McMullen County Groundwater Conservation District Lonnie Stewart, Manager	P.O. Box 232 Tilden, TX 78072	361-274-3365	<a href="mailto:louwcd@yahoo.com">louwcd@yahoo.com</a>
Live Oak County Groundwater Conservation District Lonnie Stewart, Manager	3460 A Hwy 281 George West, TX 78022	361- 449-1151	<a href="mailto:louwcd@yahoo.com">louwcd@yahoo.com</a>
Bee County Groundwater Conservation District Lonnie Stewart, Manager	P.O. Box 682 Beeville, TX 78104-0682	361-358-2244	<a href="mailto:louwcd@yahoo.com">louwcd@yahoo.com</a>
Medina County Underground Water Conservation District David Caldwell, Manager	1607 Ave. K Hondo, TX 78861	830-741-3162	<a href="mailto:gmmcgcd@att.net">gmmcgcd@att.net</a>
Real Edwards Conservation and Reclamation District Joel Pigg, Manager	P.O. Box 807 Camp Wood, Tx 78833	830-597-3322	<a href="mailto:joelpigg@reocrd.org">joelpigg@reocrd.org</a>
Uvalde County Underground Water Conservation District  Vic Hilderbran, Manager	P.O. Box 1419 Uvalde, Tx 78802	830-278-8242	<a href="mailto:vic@uvaldecountyuwcd.org">vic@uvaldecountyuwcd.org</a>
Edwards Aquifer Authority  Roland Ruiz, Manager	900 E. Quincy San Antonio, TX 78215	210-477-5143	<a href="mailto:r Ruiz@edwardsaquifer.org">r Ruiz@edwardsaquifer.org</a>
San Antonio River Authority  Suzanne Scott, Manager	100 E. Guenther Street, San Antonio, TX 78204	210-227-1373	<a href="mailto:sbscott@sara-tx.org">sbscott@sara-tx.org</a>

Group or Association Name/ Contact Person	Address	Telephone	Email Address
South Texas Water Authority Carola Serrato, Manager	P.O. Box 1701, Kingsville, TX 78364	361-592-9323	<a href="mailto:cserrato@stwa.org">cserrato@stwa.org</a>
Real County Commissioners Court  Judge Garry Merritt	P.O. Box 441, Leakey, TX 78873	830-232-6750	<a href="mailto:garry@merritt-law.com">garry@merritt-law.com</a>
Alto Frio Baptist Encampment  Tim Hughes, Administrator	P.O. Box 468, Leakey, TX 78873	830-232-5271	<a href="mailto:tim@altofrio.com">tim@altofrio.com</a>

Table 10 Exhibit 14 Interest Groups

**Interagency, State, or National Associations**

*(that serve as an information clearinghouse or regularly interact with your agency)*

Note: There are no entities that serve as an information clearing house for NRA. However, we do interact, regularly, with the state association shown.

Group or Association Name/ Contact Person	Address	Telephone	Email Address
Texas Water Conservation Association Dean Robbins, General Manager	3755 S. Capital of Texas Highway, Suite 105 Austin, TX 78704	512-472-7216	<a href="mailto:drobbins@twca.org">drobbins@twca.org</a>

Table 11 Exhibit 14 Interagency, State, and National Association

**Liaisons at Other State Agencies**

*(with which your agency maintains an ongoing relationship, e.g., the agency's assigned analyst at the Legislative Budget Board, or attorney at the Attorney General's office)*

Agency Name / Relationship / Contact Person	Address	Telephone	Email Address
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Carter Smith, Executive Director	4200 Smith School Road Austin, TX 78744	512-389-4802	<a href="mailto:carter.smith@tpwd.state.tx.us">carter.smith@tpwd.state.tx.us</a>

Agency Name / Relationship / Contact Person	Address	Telephone	Email Address
Texas Water Development Board Dr. Clay Schultz, Director, Regional Water Project Development	1700 North Congress Avenue Austin, TX 78701	512-463-6277	<a href="mailto:Clay.Schultz@twdb.texas.gov">Clay.Schultz@twdb.texas.gov</a>
Texas Water Development Board Bech Bruun, Chair	1700 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701	512-463-7847	<a href="mailto:boardmembers@twdb.texas.gov">boardmembers@twdb.texas.gov</a>
Texas Water Development Board / Regional Water Planning/ Temple McKinnon	PO Box 13231 Austin, TX 78711-3231	512-475-2057	<a href="mailto:temple.mckinnon@twdb.texas.gov">temple.mckinnon@twdb.texas.gov</a>
Texas Water Development Board / Regional Water Planning Connie Townsend	PO Box 13231 Austin, TX 78711-3231	512-463-8290	<a href="mailto:connie.townsend@twdb.texas.gov">connie.townsend@twdb.texas.gov</a>
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Clean Rivers Program Sarah Eagle	MC 234 12100 Park 35 Circle Austin, TX 78753	512-239-6329	<a href="mailto:Sarah.Eagle@tceq.texas.gov">Sarah.Eagle@tceq.texas.gov</a>
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality/ Region 14 Surface Water Quality Monitoring Gerardo Arrambide	NRC Building, Suite 1200 6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5839 Corpus Christi, TX 78412-5839	361-825-3100	<a href="mailto:gerardo.arambide@tceq.texas.gov">gerardo.arambide@tceq.texas.gov</a>
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality/ Region 15 Surface Water Quality Monitoring Christopher Caudle	1804 W. Jefferson Ave Harlingen, TX 78550-5247	956-430-6053	<a href="mailto:christopher.caudle@tceq.texas.gov">christopher.caudle@tceq.texas.gov</a>
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality/ Region 16 Surface Water Quality Monitoring Elsa Hull	707 E. Colton Road, Suite 304 Laredo, TX 78041-3887	956-753-0156	<a href="mailto:elsa.hull@tceq.texas.gov">elsa.hull@tceq.texas.gov</a>

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Agency Name / Relationship / Contact Person	Address	Telephone	Email Address
TCEQ / Non-point Source Program / Nicole Pearsall	MC 203 12100 Park 35 Circle Austin, TX 78753	512-239-6609	<a href="mailto:nicole.pearsall@tceq.texas.gov">nicole.pearsall@tceq.texas.gov</a>
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Jim Tolan	NRC Building, Ste 2501 6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5846 Corpus Christi, TX 78412-5839	361-825-3247	<a href="mailto:james.tolan@tpwd.texas.gov">james.tolan@tpwd.texas.gov</a>
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department/ Aquatic Invasives Monica McGarrity	4200 Smith School Road Austin, TX 78744	512-389-8292	<a href="mailto:monica.mcgarrrity@tpwd.texas.gov">monica.mcgarrrity@tpwd.texas.gov</a>
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department/ Sand, Marl and Gravel Tom Heger	4200 Smith School Road Austin, TX 78744	(512) 389-4583	<a href="mailto:tom.heger@tpwd.state.tx.us">tom.heger@tpwd.state.tx.us</a>
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board T. J. Helton	PO Box 658 Temple, TX 76503-0658	254-773-2250	<a href="mailto:thelton@tsswcb.texas.gov">thelton@tsswcb.texas.gov</a>
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Brian Koch	1120 Hodges Lane Wharton, TX - 77488-4328	979-532-6496	<a href="mailto:bkoch@tsswcb.texas.gov">bkoch@tsswcb.texas.gov</a>
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Jana Lloyd	PO Box 658 Temple, TX 76503-0658	254-773-2250	<a href="mailto:jlloyd@tsswcb.texas.gov">jlloyd@tsswcb.texas.gov</a>
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Adrian Perez	PO Box 345 Freer, TX 78357	361-207-2493	<a href="mailto:aperez@tsswcb.texas.gov">aperez@tsswcb.texas.gov</a>
Cmptrroller of Public Accounts/Economic Growth and Endangered Species Management Megan Hope	111 East 17th St. Austin, TX	(512)936-8554	<a href="mailto:Meghan.Hope@cpa.texas.gov">Meghan.Hope@cpa.texas.gov</a>

Table 12 Exhibit 14 Liaisons at Other State Agencies

## XI. Additional Information

- A. Texas Government Code, Sec. 325.0075 requires agencies under review to submit a report about their reporting requirements to Sunset with the same due date as the SER. Include a list of each agency-specific report that the agency is required by statute to prepare and an evaluation of the need for each report based on whether factors or conditions have changed since the statutory requirement was put in place. Please do not include general reporting requirements applicable to all agencies, reports that have an expiration date, routine notifications or notices, posting requirements, federally mandated reports, or reports required by G.A.A. rider. If the list is longer than one page, please include it as an attachment. See Exhibit 15 Example.**

NRA has no reporting requirements that are not applicable to other river authorities.

- B. Has the agency implemented statutory requirements to ensure the use of "first person respectful language"? Please explain and include any statutory provisions that prohibits these changes.**

No. We understand that this statutory requirement only applies to the Legislature, the Texas Legislative Council, and health and human services agencies.

- C. Fill in the following chart detailing information on complaints regarding your agency. Do not include complaints received against people or entities you regulate. The chart headings may be changed if needed to better reflect your agency's practices.**

To the best of our knowledge, NRA has never received a written, formal, complaint.

- D. Fill in the following charts detailing your agency's Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) purchases.**

We do not believe this is applicable, due to our understanding that HUB requirements only apply to state agencies.

- E. Does your agency have a HUB policy? How does your agency address performance shortfalls related to the policy? (Texas Government Code, Sec. 2161.003; TAC Title 34, Part 1, rule 20.286c)**

NRA does not have a HUB policy.

- F. For agencies with contracts valued at \$100,000 or more: Does your agency follow a HUB subcontracting plan to solicit bids, proposals, offers, or other applicable expressions of interest for subcontracting opportunities available for contracts of \$100,000 or more? (Texas Government Code, Sec. 2161.252; TAC Title 34, Part 1, rule 20.285)**

NRA does not have a HUB policy.

**G. For agencies with biennial appropriations exceeding \$10 million, answer the following HUB questions.**

NRA is not a state agency and receives no biennial appropriations.

- 1. Do you have a HUB coordinator? If yes, provide name and contact information. (Texas Government Code, Sec. 2161.062; TAC Title 34, Part 1, rule 20.296)**

Not applicable.

- 2. Has your agency designed a program of HUB forums in which businesses are invited to deliver presentations that demonstrate their capability to do business with your agency? (Texas Government Code, Sec. 2161.066; TAC Title 34, Part 1, rule 20.297)**

Not applicable.

- 3. Has your agency developed a mentor-protégé program to foster long-term relationships between prime contractors and HUBs and to increase the ability of HUBs to contract with the state or to receive subcontracts under a state contract? (Texas Government Code, Sec. 2161.065; TAC Title 34, Part 1, rule 20.298)**

Not applicable.

**H. Fill in the charts below detailing your agency’s Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) statistics. See Exhibit 18 Example.**

**NUECES RIVER AUTHORITY  
Exhibit 18: Equal Employment Opportunity Statistics  
(As of September 1, 2017)**

**1. Officials / Administration**

Year	Total Number of Positions	Percent African-American	Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent	Percent Hispanic	Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent	Percent Female	Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent
2015	5	0%	7.4%	0%	22.1%	60%	37.4%
2016	5	0%	7.4%	0%	22.1%	60%	37.4%
2017	5	0%	7.4%	0%	22.1%	60%	37.4%

Table 13 Exhibit 18 EEO Statistics for Officials/Administration

**2. Professional**

Year	Total Number of Positions	Percent African-American	Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent	Percent Hispanic	Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent	Percent Female	Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent
2015	0	N/A	10.4%	N/A	19.3%	N/A	55.3%
2016	0	N/A	10.4%	N/A	19.3%	N/A	55.3%

Year	Total Number of Positions	Percent African-American	Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent	Percent Hispanic	Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent	Percent Female	Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent
2017	0	N/A	10.4%	N/A	19.3%	N/A	55.3%

Table 14 Exhibit 18 EEO Statistics for Professionals

### 3. Technical

Year	Total Number of Positions	Percent African-American	Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent	Percent Hispanic	Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent	Percent Female	Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent
2015	2	0%	14.4%	0%	27.2%	50%	55.3%
2016	2	0%	14.4%	0%	27.2%	50%	55.3%
2017	2	0%	14.4%	0%	27.2%	50%	55.3%

Table 15 Exhibit 18 EEO Statistics for Technical

### 4. Administrative Support

Year	Total Number of Positions	Percent African-American	Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent	Percent Hispanic	Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent	Percent Female	Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent
2015	1	0%	14.8%	0%	34.8%	0%	72.1%
2016	1	0%	14.8%	0%	34.8%	0%	72.1%
2017	2	0%	14.8%	0%	34.8%	50%	72.1%

Table 16 Exhibit 18 EEO Statistics for Administrative Support

**5. Service / Maintenance**

Year	Total Number of Positions	Percent African-American	Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent	Percent Hispanic	Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent	Percent Female	Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent
2015	0	N/A	13.0%	0%	54.1%	N/A	51.0%
2016	0	N/A	13.0%	0%	54.1%	N/A	51.0%
2017	0	N/A	13.0%	0%	54.1%	N/A	51.0%

Table 17 Exhibit 18 EEO Statistics for Service and Maintenance

**6. Skilled Craft**

Year	Total Number of Positions	Percent African-American	Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent	Percent Hispanic	Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent	Percent Female	Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent
2015	0	N/A	10.6%	N/A	50.7%	N/A	11.6%
2016	0	N/A	10.6%	N/A	50.7%	N/A	11.6%
2017	0	N/A	10.6%	N/A	50.7%	N/A	11.6%

Table 18 Exhibit 18 EEO Statistics for Skilled Craft

**I. Does your agency have an equal employment opportunity policy? How does your agency address performance shortfalls related to the policy?**

Yes. The policy does not have employment goals or targets. It does state, in part, “Personnel responsible for making hiring recommendations and decisions will make those recommendations and decisions based on job related considerations only and will not permit the applicant’s race, religion, sex, color or national origin to be a factor”.

**XII. Agency Comments**

The Nueces River Authority is not a state agency and receives no state appropriations or tax revenues. Income is realized, principally, from contributions and contracting services. We are a small organization, with only 9 full time employees, yet, over the years, we have accomplished many remarkable things (See History) that have enhanced water supplies, preserved water quality, and benefitted the people and industries in the Nueces Basin. Our strength is in bringing people together to resolve problems and get things done. We have an outstanding Board of Directors and dedicated employees. One point that stands out in this report is the fact that, we have never received a formal written complaint. On the contrary, we seem to be welcomed and respected wherever we go. This Report shows that NRA is a well-managed, efficient and effective agency, providing unique public services not available from others.

## ATTACHMENTS ---

Attachment 1	Enabling Statute
Attachment 2	Administrative Policies
Attachment 3	Bylaws
Attachment 4	Directors' Biographical Information
Attachment 5	Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2015
Attachment 6	Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2016
Attachment 7	Operating Budgets for Fiscal Years 2015, 2016 and 2017
Attachment 8	Map of Jurisdictional Boundaries and Office Locations
Attachment 9	Statutes affecting Nueces River Authority – 1935, 1937, 1939, 1943, 1945, 1971, 1975, 1979, 1985, 2005, 2015, 2017 (Reference Table 8 Exhibit 12 Statutes)

We have considered the following suggested attachments and do not believe they apply:

Annual reports published by the agency from FY 2015–2017.

Internal or external newsletters published by the agency from FY 2016–2017.

List of studies that the agency is required to do by legislation or riders.

List of legislative or interagency studies relating to the agency that are being performed during the current interim.

List of studies from other states, the federal government, or national groups/associations that relate to or affect the agency or agencies with similar duties or functions. Provide links if available.

Agency's most recent rules. If lengthy, please provide electronically or just the citation to the Administrative Code.

Agency's Legislative Appropriations Request for FY 2018–2019.

Quarterly performance reports completed by the agency in FY 2015–2017.

Self-Evaluation Report

Any recent studies on the agency or any of its functions conducted by outside management consultants or academic institutions.

Agency's current internal audit plan.

Agency's current strategic plan.

List of internal audit reports from FY 2013–2017 completed by or in progress at the agency.

List of State Auditor reports from FY 2013–2017 that relate to the agency or any of its functions.

Any customer service surveys conducted by or for your agency in FY 2016–2017.

Respectfully submitted

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Con Mims, Executive Director

Nueces River Authority

August 2017