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News Release

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RIVER AUTHORITY MONITORS WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY IN THE EAGLE FORD SHALE

Results from Second Phase of Collaborative Study with USGS Released

SAN ANTONIO – The San Antonio River Authority in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is releasing results of the [second phase of a scientific study](#) on surface-water and streambed-sediment quality in the Eagle Ford Shale oil and gas production areas. The study did not find any substantial detections of constituents associated with energy development activities. The River Authority funded the study as it is the agency's mission to be committed to safe, clean, enjoyable creeks and rivers.

The study was conducted on the Lower San Antonio River Basin as a follow-up to the [first phase of the USGS study](#), which established a baseline where no substantial detections of the selected constituents were found in the study area. The second phase aimed to identify any changes in surface water and streambed-sediment quality from the original study. USGS scientists revisited sampling locations from the first phase and sampled at new locations to test for constituents associated with energy development activities.

Aerial imagery was also examined to determine the impact of development on land cover in the San Antonio River Basin from Eagle Ford Shale energy resources such as well pads, new roads and storage ponds. Results showed overall land cover change associated with recent (2008–2015) oil and gas activities was about one percent on the study area. Changes include addition of well pads, other oil- and gas-related features, roads, storage ponds and runoff ponds.

“Thanks to the ongoing collaboration with USGS on this study, the River Authority is keeping a close watch on water quality in the San Antonio River Basin,” said Board Chairman, Darrell T. Brownlow, Ph.D. “This is important, because we are committed to being good scientific

stewards to ensure we are doing everything we can to preserve our local waterways and enhance the quality of life for the communities in our basin.”

The River Authority is committed to protecting and enhancing local creeks and rivers. In addition to monitoring water and sediment quality, the River Authority has improved standards for when pipelines are designed and constructed to cross streams and has also published the “Best Practices Handbook To Assist Communities In The Eagle Ford Shale.” The River Authority also has a basin-wide stream restoration program and hosts annual household hazardous waste and agriculture chemical collection events to help keep our local waterways clean.

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The San Antonio River Authority was created by the 45th Texas Legislature on May 5, 1937 and reorganized in 1961 to plan, manage and implement water-related programs and projects within the San Antonio River Basin. The State of Texas empowered the River Authority to preserve, protect and manage the resources and the ecology of the San Antonio River and its tributaries. To learn more about the River Authority, visit our website at www.sara-tx.org.