

***Compiling, Archiving and Disseminating
Scientific and Technical Information
In Support of Planning and Management Programs
Pertaining to the San Antonio Bay System***

A Proposal submitted to
The San Antonio River Authority

By
The Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program
In Association with
James A. Dodson, Water Resources Consultant
(dba GroundSwell Enterprises)

On behalf of
The San Antonio Bay Partnership

DRAFT: February 18, 2010

Background

San Antonio Bay, at the terminus of the San Antonio River and the Guadalupe River, watershed, is one of the seven major estuaries along the Texas coast. The *San Antonio Bay System*, as used herein, is comprised of San Antonio Bay, proper, along with associated minor bays (Guadalupe Bay, Espiritu Santo Bay, Hynes Bay and Mesquite Bay).

The San Antonio Bay System has recently been, and will continue to be, the focus of a stakeholder-driven planning program related to the determination of freshwater inflow needs (*The SB3 Environmental Flows Program for the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas and San Antonio Bays*) and a broader estuarine management initiative (*The San Antonio Bay Partnership*).

The SB3 Environmental Flows Program charges “Bay and Basin Expert Science Team (BBEST),” appointed by the Bay and Basin Area Stakeholders Committee (BBASC), with using the “currently available science” to make a determination of a recommended freshwater inflow regime for the San Antonio Bay system.

Similarly, The San Antonio Bay Partnership will be using available scientific and technical information to assess the status and trends of the economic and ecologic resources associated with the San Antonio Bay system, and then developing management strategies to address priority issues as identified by the stakeholder group.

The success of these planning and management programs greatly depends on access to current and historical data on the environmental conditions and ecologic health of the San Antonio Bay System. This information currently resides in numerous reports and databases, only some of which are readily accessible as the original material resides in many varied locations.

Proposed Action

In order to make the available scientific and technical information more readily accessible to the stakeholders and scientists involved in the SB3 Environmental Flows Program and the San Antonio Bay Partnership, it is proposed that James Dodson, acting on behalf of the San Antonio Bay Partnership and under an agreement with the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP), locate, compile, archive and disseminate the available body of scientific and technical information regarding the San Antonio Bay system.

Scope of Activities

In order to support the efforts of the San Antonio Bay Partnership and the SB3 Environmental Flows Program for the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas and San Antonio Bays, James Dodson would:

- Contact, and coordinate with, other Principal Investigators currently being funded to locate and compile copies of reports, articles, maps and other scientific and technical data related to the San Antonio Bay system (i.e., Dr. George Ward, who has contracts with SARA and TWDB/Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority);
- Identify other existing databases and information repositories (i.e., state and federal agency sources, academic libraries, private collections of researchers and research facilities, etc.);
- Obtain copies, or document files, of available materials from sources identified above;
- Review compiled materials and index by subject;
- Archive, in PDF or other easily transferable format, compiled materials;
- Store and provide access to archived materials via the San Antonio Bay Partnership website (www.SABayPartnership.org -- now under development); and
- Convene a two-day meeting to: (*Day 1*) 1) review the state of data availability from past studies; 2) share information on current scientific and technical studies being conducted in the San Antonio Bay System, and their anticipated contributions to the knowledge base; 3) identify critical data and information gaps; (*Day 2*) 4) present results of discussions of Items 1-3, and results of recently completed scientific and technical studies, to San Antonio Bay Partnership and SB3 stakeholders; and 5) develop a prioritized list of data needs and proposed studies to support a) the development of an estuary management plan, under the auspices of the San Antonio Bay Partnership, and b) recommendations for a freshwater inflow regime, under the SB3 Environmental Flows Program for the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas and San Antonio Bays.

Level of Effort and Funding Requested

The proposed scope of activities will require approximately 320 hours of time to complete. This time would be allocated at the rate of 40 hours per month over the course of eight months (April thru November 2010).

Total funding support being requested of the San Antonio River Authority is \$25,000. This includes \$24,000 for eight months of professional services at 40 hours per month (\$3,000/month) and \$1,000 for travel and other expenses.

Note: The CBBEP has, to date, approved \$25,000 in funding to support the establishment of the San Antonio Bay Partnership. These funds include \$10,000 already spent on a professional services agreement with James Dodson for activities to identify stakeholders and issues

relevant to the San Antonio Bay System, and organizing an initial stakeholder meeting (“The Future of San Antonio Bay”) in Victoria, Texas on January 12, 2010. Additionally, on January 28, 2010, the CBBEP approved an additional \$15,000 to fund a professional services agreement with James Dodson to provide facilitation for the continued development of The San Antonio Bay Partnership. CBBEP also contributes “in-kind” staff support in areas of project management, media relations and website development.

Contractual and Funding Arrangements

The Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, Inc., a local, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, will be the legal entity to enter into an agreement with the San Antonio River Authority for the project funds being requested. CBBEP, Inc. would then contract with James A. Dodson, dba GroundSwell Enterprises, for the professional services required to perform the Scope of Activities described above.

Project Management Team

James A. Dodson, Water Resources Consultant, will be the Principal Investigator on the project. Ray Allen, CBBEP Executive Director, will provide general project oversight; Alice Sanchez, CBBEP Business Manager, will provide project contract administration and financial controls; and Beth Wilson, CBBEP Communications Manager, will assist in the areas of media relations and website development.