

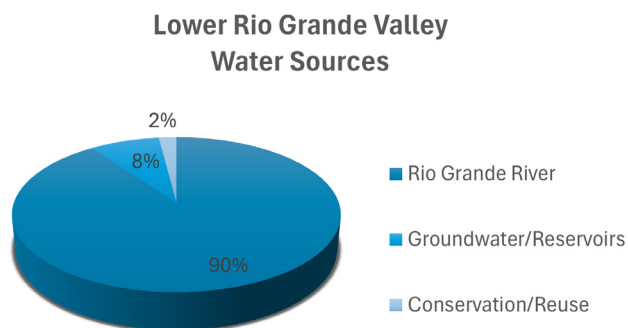
The Water Management Plan for the Lower Rio Grande Valley is a coordinated regional effort to help communities, water providers, irrigation districts, groundwater districts, and elected officials to identify long-term, sustainable water solutions.

Led by the County Commissioners of Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy counties, in partnership with the North American Development Bank (NADBank), the project will create a regional road map to strengthen water reliability, improve drought resilience, and enhance coordination across the four-county region.

WHY THIS PROJECT MATTERS

The Lower Rio Grande Valley depends heavily on the Rio Grande River as its primary water source, while demand for water continues to rise.

Figure. 1 LRGV Current Water Sources



- ▶ Rapid growth and expanding development
- ▶ Persistent drought and declining reservoir levels
- ▶ Increasing municipal and agricultural water demands
- ▶ Changing weather patterns and extreme events
- ▶ Aging and fragmented water infrastructure systems
- ▶ Limited opportunities for traditional water supplies

Regional Water Needs

Without coordinated regional planning water shortages could threaten economic growth, agricultural, public health, and long-term community resilience. As population growth and development continue across the region, municipal water demand is projected to rise significantly placing additional pressures on existing water resources. At the same



time, agriculture will remain the region's largest water user and critical economic driver. Proactive regional solutions are needed to ensure a reliable water supply, particularly during future drought conditions, and to support the long-term water management of individual communities and the region.

WHY REGIONALISM MATTERS

Historically, many water projects in the Valley have been planned independently by individual utilities or jurisdictions. This effort focuses on building a coordinated, long-term regional framework that:

This effort will emphasize collaboration over competition and seeks solutions that benefit the broader region while respecting local needs.

1. Aligns cities, utilities, irrigation and drainage districts, and groundwater districts under a shared vision
2. Encourages regional interconnections and shared infrastructure
3. Improves drought resiliency through diversified supplies
4. Creates economics of scale that lower costs
5. Strengthens competitiveness for the state and federal funding
6. Balances municipal growth with agricultural sustainability

KEY PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Regional Coordination

Regional coordination will be accomplished by convening of the two groups, a **County Judges Steering Committee**, which includes the county judges from Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties; and a regional **Advisory Committee**. The Advisory Committee composition includes water suppliers, irrigation districts, groundwater districts and local governments and to build regional consensus and future water priorities.

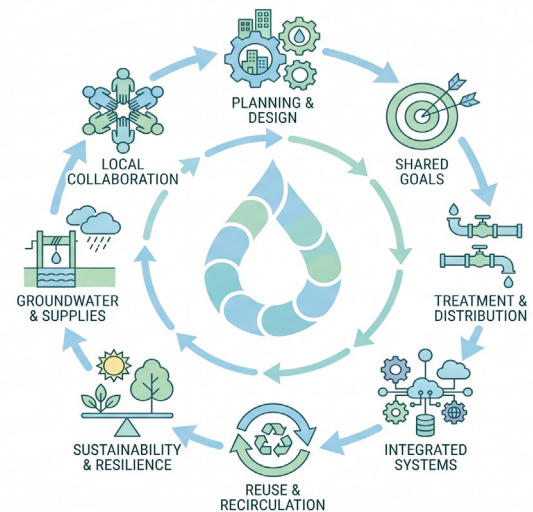
Technical Planning & Analysis

- ▶ Evaluate future water demands and population growth scenarios
- ▶ Assess drought risk and other extreme events
- ▶ Identify future water supply gaps
- ▶ Review existing and planning water supply projects
- ▶ Analyze opportunities for regional interconnections and shared infrastructure

PROJECT PARTNERS



Figure. 2 Regional Collaboration Model



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

By the end of the project the Lower Rio Grande Valley will have:

- ▶ A coordinated regional water management framework
- ▶ A clearer understanding of future water supply and demand risks
- ▶ Prioritized regional supply and infrastructure strategies
- ▶ A roadmap for phased implementation and investment
- ▶ Stronger partnerships between water providers, districts, and local governments
- ▶ Improved readiness for future drought, growth, and climate challenges