



SAN ANTONIO
RIVER AUTHORITY

Environmental Markets

Friday, October 18, 2024



River Authority Strategic Plan



STRATEGIC PLAN

SUMMARY FY25-FY30

GOAL 1:

Acquire strategic assets that increase the ability to preserve and enhance creeks and rivers throughout the basin.

Goal Statement: The River Authority upholds a commitment to providing safe, clean, and enjoyable creeks and rivers, and should position itself to meet the growing demand for recreation and water solutions throughout the San Antonio River basin while preserving and protecting natural resources.

Success Statement: The River Authority will accomplish this goal by gaining additional key assets that will encourage public use and engagement, enhance water quality, preserve aquatic and riparian habitat, support of stream stability, and reduce flood risk.

Goal 1.1: Identify strategic assets along waterways for management purposes, and for property acquisition.

Goal 1.2: Acquire strategic assets for conservation and restoration.

GOAL 2:

Grow portfolio of engagement opportunities to ensure a diversity of accessible experiences.

Goal Statement: The River Authority is a regional leader committed to providing high quality experiences that support safe, clean, and enjoyable creeks and rivers. Expanding the portfolio of engagement opportunities allows for further development of a wide range of experiences to meet the diverse needs of the community served.

Success Statement: Success of this goal involves an increasing number of people participating in our services online and in-person, in addition to activities offered in more locations:

- Social media
- Our parks
- Events
- Walking and biking on our trails
- Paddling and swimming at more locations within the basin

Goal 2.1: Identify and open swimmable locations.

Goal 2.2: Implement new access points that enable interactions with creeks and rivers.

Goal 2.3: Develop current park resources by implementing Park Master Plans.

Goal 2.4: Broaden portfolio of programming experiences.

GOAL 3:

Leverage core services throughout the basin to further preserve and enhance creeks and rivers.

Goal Statement: The River Authority is the subject matter expert in water quality, park management, and flood services. To further the organization's mission, this expertise can be leveraged within the basin to create synergies and expand services that will preserve and enhance creeks and rivers.

Success Statement: Success for this goal involves the development of new partnerships and expansion of existing partnerships that align with core competencies, actions that result in improved effluent quality, increased flood management responsibilities, and increased parks operation and maintenance activities.

Goal 3.1: Expand flood support services within jurisdictional boundaries (Bexar, Wilson, Karnes, and Goliad).

Goal 3.2: Improve and influence effluent quality and treatment systems basin-wide.

Goal 3.3: Expand responsibility for parks throughout jurisdictional boundaries.

Goal 3.4: Consolidate regional efforts to create a unified trash and floatable program.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman
Jim Campbell

Vice-Chair
Gaylon J. Oelkhe

Secretary
Jerry G. Gonzales

Treasurer
Derek J. Gauditz

Members

At-Large
Lourdes Galvan
James Fuller, M.D.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bexar County

District 1
Jerry G. Gonzales

District 2
Lourdes Galvan

District 3
Michael W. Lackey, P.E.

District 4
Jim Campbell

At-Large
Liza Barratecha
Patrice A. Melancon

Wilson County
Dominic Carvajal
Derek J. Gauditz

Karnes County
H.B. Ruskman, III
Gaylon J. Oelkhe

Goliad County
James Fuller, M.D.
John Yochem, Jr.

General Manager
Derek Boese, JD, PMP



STRATEGIC PLAN

SUMMARY FY25-FY30

KEY ENABLING ACTIVITY 1: TALENT DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

Activity Statement: Position the River Authority as a preferred employer that attracts, retains, and encourages top talent while promoting a culture of innovation, collaboration, and employee well-being through the meaningful work of the organization. Creating a talented workforce is essential for organizational success. Talented employees drive innovation, boost productivity, and provide a competitive edge, helping the organization adapt to market changes and technological advancements to ensure long-term sustainability and success.

Success Statement: The River Authority is a preferred employer that fosters a culture that boosts the attraction and retention of top talent. Increased quality job applications, high employee retention, and employee satisfaction in innovation, collaboration, and well-being mark success. Further indicators include active participation in professional development programs, more internal promotions, and achievement of industry benchmarks for top employers.

Creating a talented workforce is essential for organizational success. Success is marked by:

- Increased quality job applications
- High employee retention
- Higher satisfaction in innovation, collaboration, and well-being
- Active participation in professional development programs
- Achievement of industry benchmarks for top employers

KEY ENABLING ACTIVITY 2: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION

Activity Statement: The River Authority values strong relationships with our stakeholders and aims to enhance engagement and collaboration while increasing appreciation and awareness of natural resources within the river basin. To accomplish this the River Authority will engage and collaborate through multiple platforms, including consistently implementing the "Our River Way" communication campaign.

Success Statement: Success will be measured by the establishment of strong, lasting relationships with stakeholders, evidenced by increased knowledge of and appreciation for the River Authority, our projects, and initiatives. Specific measures of success include:

- Increased participation, engagement and community involvement through public interactions and media channels
- Heightened awareness and appreciation of natural resources among stakeholders
- Increased advocacy and support for the River Authority's vision and mission

KEY ENABLING ACTIVITY 3: INNOVATION AND ADAPTABILITY

Activity Statement: Promote a culture of innovation and technology. Develop and promote tools and data resources that strengthen and support the actions of the River Authority. By integrating innovation as a core strategy for achieving clean, safe, and enjoyable river management, the San Antonio River Authority can continually evolve, addressing challenges effectively and enhancing the overall quality of the river ecosystem for all stakeholders.

Success Statement: Enhanced operational efficiency and a culture of innovation leads to success by the following factors:

- Increased use of data-driven approaches in planning, monitoring, and evaluation of river management
- Being a regional leader in flood management
- Being a leader in water quality for protection and ecological health of the river

VISION

Inspiring Actions for Healthy Creeks and Rivers

MISSION

Committed to Safe, Clean, Enjoyable Creeks and Rivers.

We uphold our mission through:

SAFE



Preparing for, responding to, and mitigating flood risks.

CLEAN



Protecting water quality, habitats, and biodiversity.

ENJOYABLE



Providing spaces and programs that connect people to natural resources.



River Authority Strategic Plan

GOAL 1:

Acquire strategic assets that increase the ability to preserve and enhance creeks and rivers throughout the basin.

Goal Statement: The River Authority upholds a commitment to providing safe, clean, and enjoyable creeks and rivers, and should position itself to meet the growing demand for recreation and water solutions throughout the San Antonio River basin while preserving and protecting natural resources.

Success Statement: The River Authority will accomplish this goal by gaining additional key assets that will encourage public use and engagement, enhance water quality, preserve aquatic and riparian habitat, support of stream stability, and reduce flood risk.

Goal 1.1: Identify strategic assets along waterways for management purposes, and for property acquisition.

Goal 1.2: Acquire strategic assets for conservation and restoration.



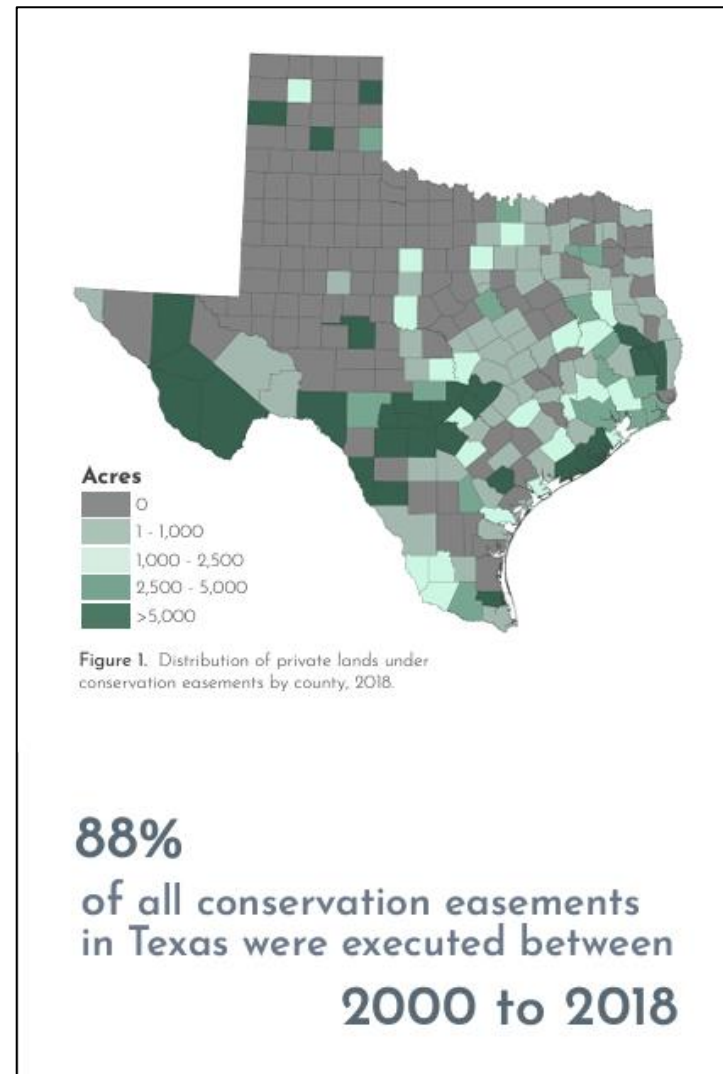
What is an Environmental Market?

- “...policy approach to leverage funding for environmental conservation on private lands.”
- “Current active and pilot markets exist for greenhouse gases, water quality, water quantity, wetlands and habitats.”
 - U.S. Department of Agriculture



Conservation Easements

- Voluntary
- Between landowner and holder
- Holder must be a governmental entity or qualified conservation organization
- Benefits to both parties





Committed to Safe, Clean, Enjoyable Creeks and Rivers.

Conservation Easements



Edwards Aquifer Protection Program:

- 178,000+ acres of protected land
- Water quality and quantity focused
- City of San Antonio



Land Trusts

- Charitable organizations
- Land and water conservations
- Started in the 1960s in Texas
- 30+ groups in Texas
- >1.9M acres in trusts across Texas



Land Trusts



The Nature Conservancy 
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™



Water Rights

- Surface water and groundwater
- Surface water:
 - Owned by the state
 - Rights are granted to holders for various uses
 - Rights can be sold, transferred and forfeited
 - Environmental flows restrictions



River Authority Water Rights

- >2,000-acre feet of diversion water rights
- Impoundment rights
- Additional wastewater rights pending
 - Salitrillo and Martinez expansion projects
- TCEQ Water Rights Viewer - [here](#)

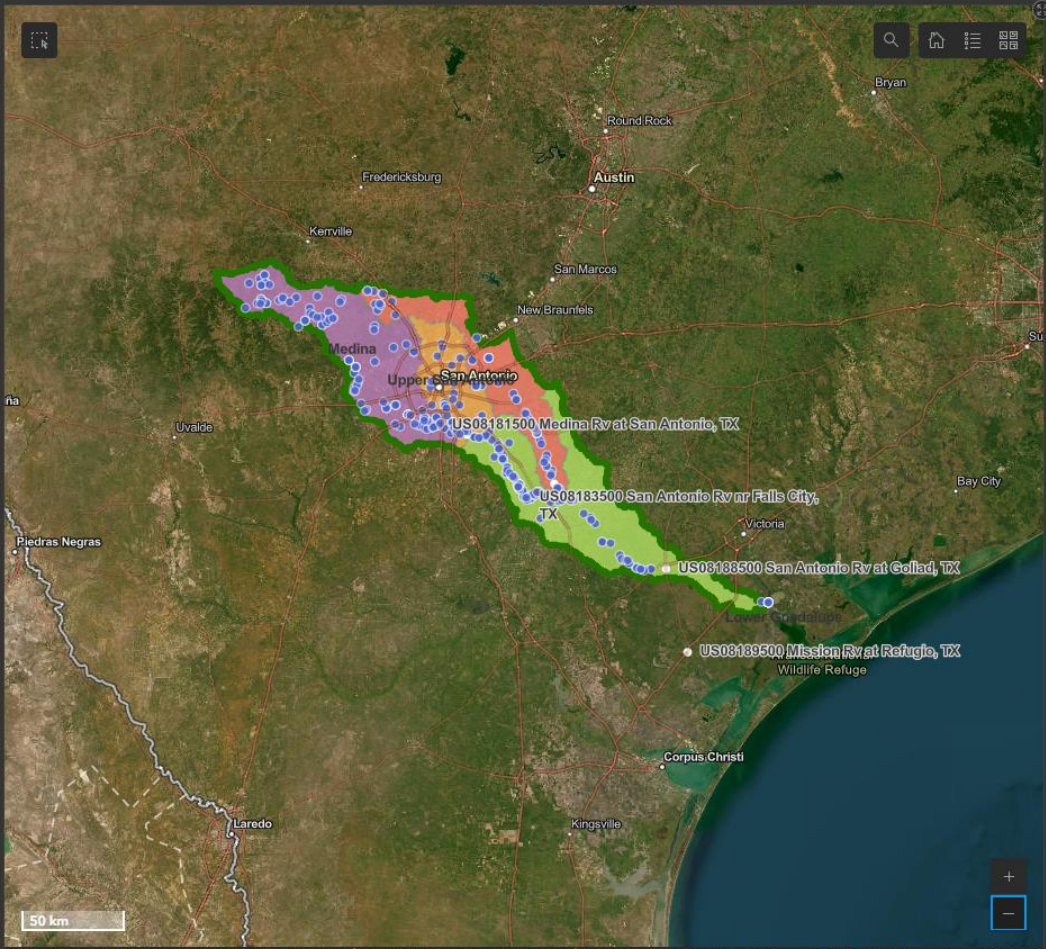




Water rights list based on selected criteria

- 571031_1
- C1142_1 JEB B MAEBIUS JR ET UX
- C1142_2 JEB B MAEBIUS JR ET UX
- C1143_1 CITY OF BOERNE
- C1143_2 CITY OF BOERNE
- C1144_1 WILLIS JAY HARPOLE
- C1144_2 WILLIS JAY HARPOLE
- C1145_1 MARGARET B HARPER ET AL
- C1146_1 CIBOLO CREEK MUNICIPAL AUTH
- C1146_2 DOUG WISE
- C1146_3 JOHN E NEWTON ET AL
- C1146_4 JOHN K KOHLHAAS
- C1148_1 ALLAN G LYNHAM ET UX
- C1149_1 RAY SMITH ET UX
- C1150_1 PAT HIGGINS ESTATE
- C1151_1
- C1152_1 BILL & MELVIN DEAGEN ET AL
- C1153_1 WAYNE H STROUD ET AL
- C1154_1 JONAH H WILSON
- C1155_1 SIESTA CATTLE COMPANY
- C1156_1 WAYNE H STROUD ET AL
- C1157_2 OSCAR SANDERS
- C1158_1 VIVA LEA MILLS
- C1159_1 DEBORAH M IRWIN ET VIR
- C1159_2 GAYLON T CLICK ET UX

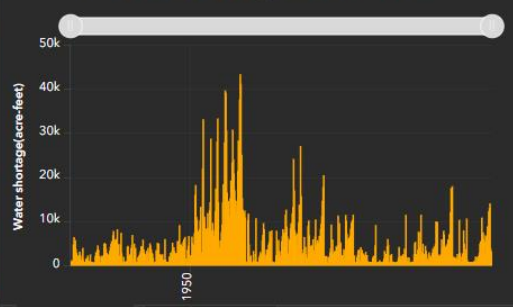
Indicators of water rights selected on this list would be shown on the right indicator panel.



Earthstar Geographics | Tim Whiteaker - The University of Texas at Austin, with data and tools from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, N... Powered by Esri

[Water rights explorer](#) [Water availability under hydrological conditions](#)

Water shortage over time



[Time series](#) [Channel Loss](#)

Availability

Monthly Delivery Estimate: 92.3 acre feet
86.63%
 Monthly Diversion Target: 106.55 acre feet

Permit
524.3k
 acre feet

Adjusted \$/AF

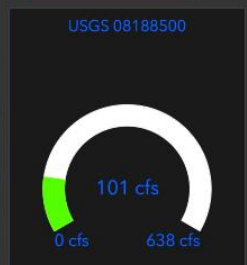
235.5

Total Price

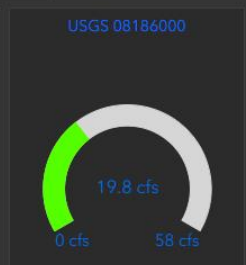
\$116M

Pricing Guidance

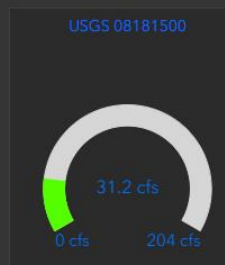
Use Type



San Antonio River at Goliad
 Last update: 19 seconds ago



Cibolo Creek near Falls City
 Last update: 19 seconds ago



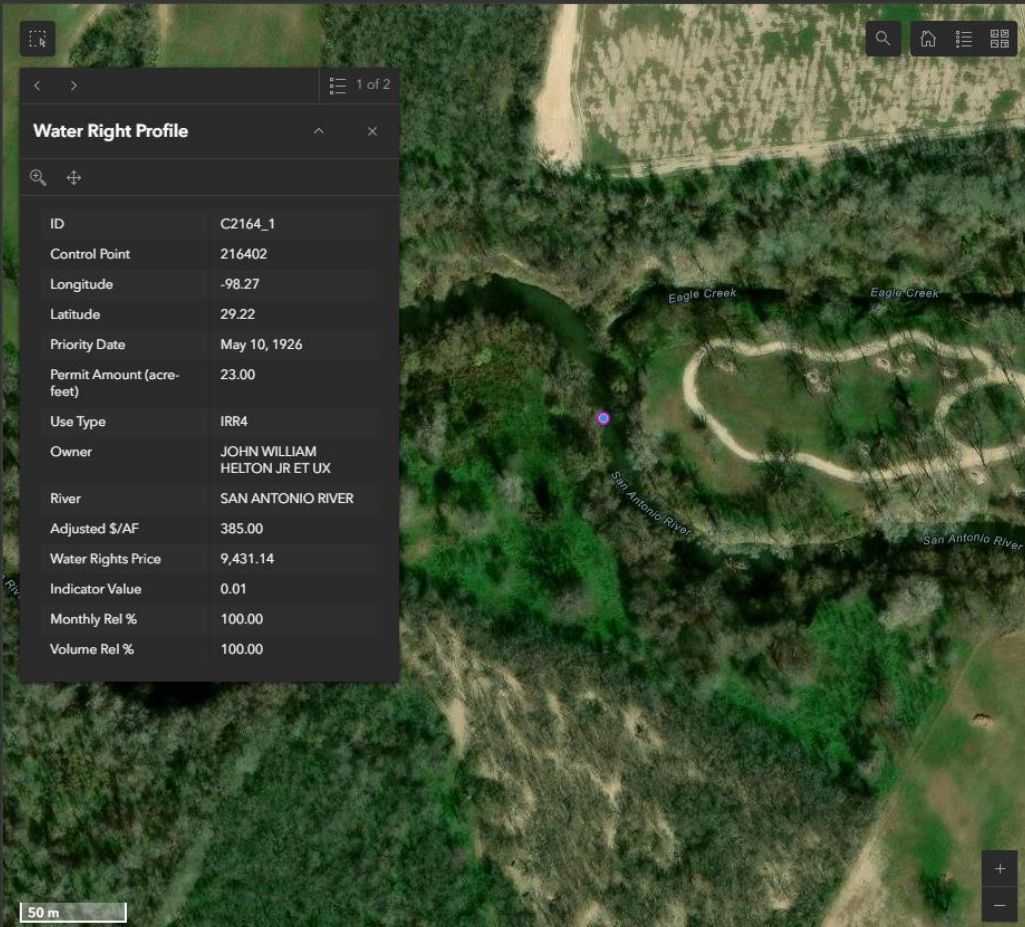
Medina River at San Antonio
 Last update: 19 seconds ago



Water rights list based on selected criteria

- C2158_1 JOE S GARCIA JR ET UX
- C2159_1 CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
- C2160_1 BEN B MORRIS ESTATE
- C2161_1 CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
- C2161_2 CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
- C2162_1
- C2162_2
- C2162_3
- C2162_4
- C2162_5
- C2163_1 CHARLES HONEYCUTT, ET AL
- C2163_2 CHARLES HONEYCUTT, ET AL
- C2164_1 JOHN WILLIAM HELTON JR ET UX
- C2164_2 JOHN WILLIAM HELTON JR ET UX
- C2165_1 ED WISEMAN MARITAL TRUST
- C2165_2 ED WISEMAN MARITAL TRUST
- C2166_1 NICK KOLENDA
- C2166_2 NICK KOLENDA
- C2167_1 TOMAS CAVAZOS
- C2168_1 H W FINCK
- C2169_1 JIMMY E HOLT ET UX
- C2169_2 RICHARD E ULLMANN ET UX
- C2170_1 HERMAN T. HERFORD FARM

Indicators of water rights selected on this list would be shown on the right indicator panel.

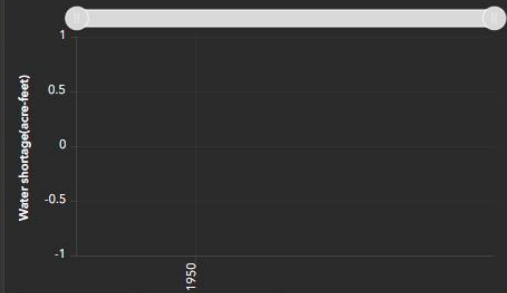


Maxar, Microsoft | Tim Whiteaker - The University of Texas at Austin, with data and tools from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, National Geographic, and Esri

Water rights explorer

Water availability under hydrological conditions

Water shortage over time



Time series

Channel Loss

Availability

Monthly Delivery Estimate: 1.92 acre feet
100%
 Monthly Diversion Target: 1.92 acre feet

Permit
23
 acre feet

Adjusted \$/AF

Total Price

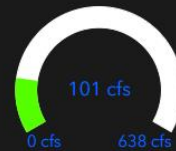
385

\$9k

Pricing Guidance

Use Type

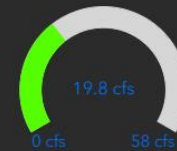
USGS 08188500



San Antonio River at Goliad

1 day update - 3 minutes ago

USGS 08186000



Cibolo Creek near Falls City

1 day update - 3 minutes ago

USGS 08181500



Medina River at San Antonio

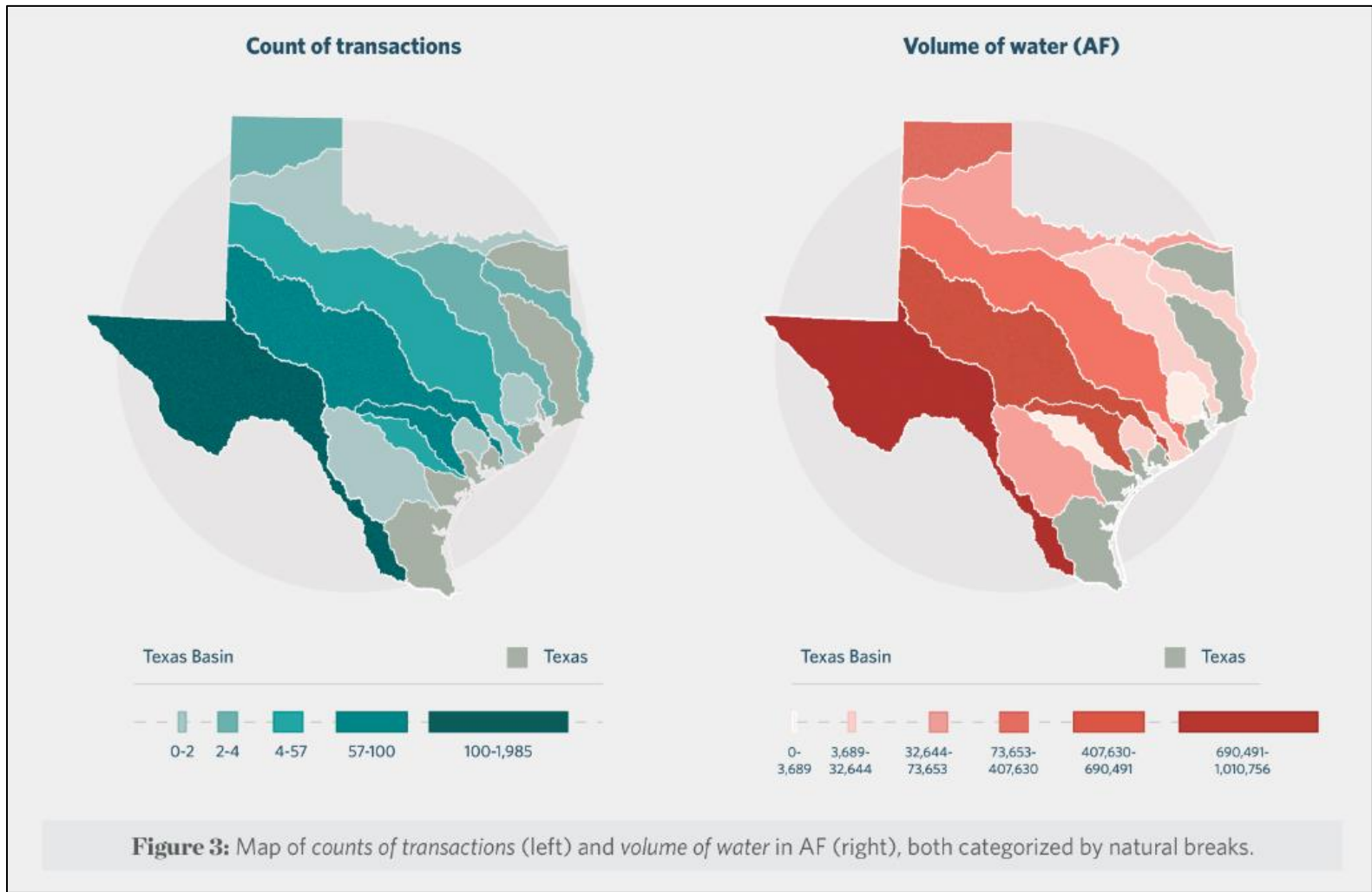
1 day update - 3 minutes ago



Water Markets

- Texas Water Development Board
 - [Texas Water Bank](#) & [Texas Water Bank Trust](#)
- Texas Water Trade
 - [Whooping Crane water purchase](#)
- The Nature Conservancy and Texas Living Waters
 - [Texas Water Markets Review: Historic Trends and Future Potential](#)





Source: *Texas Water Markets Review: Historic Trends and Future Potential, 2023*

Next Steps

- FY25 focuses on strategic plan implementation steps:
 - Tools to evaluate property and water rights of interest
 - Create our own _____ or join an existing group or market?
 - Funding sources and opportunities for collaboration





Questions?

**To learn more about the San Antonio River
Authority, visit sariverauthority.org**