

# Upper San Marcos River Supplemental Watershed Plan & Environmental Document for Dam Sites 4 & 5 in Hays County









## Welcome!

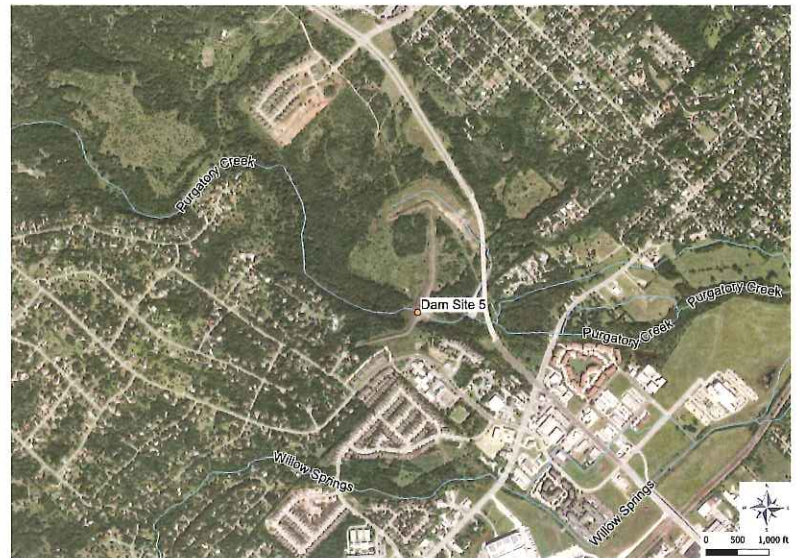
The City of San Marcos, Hays County, the Hays County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) No. 351, the Upper San Marcos Watershed Reclamation & Flood Control District (RECL & FCD), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Texas are kicking off the Supplemental Watershed Plan and Environmental Document (Plan-ED) for Upper San Marcos River Dam Sites 4 and 5 in Hays County. Tonight is the first public meeting.



Project area for Upper San Marcos River Dam Site 4

## What You Can Do

-  Sign in.
-  Pick up a project information sheet.
-  Review exhibits describing the project schedule, existing conditions, and more.
-  Talk with staff from the City, Hays County, SWCD, RECL & FCD, USDA-NRCS, and the consultant team.
-  Share thoughts on potential project issues, concerns, impacts, and/or benefits.
-  Fill out a comment form.



Project area for Upper San Marcos River Dam Site 5









# Upper San Marcos River Supplemental Watershed Plan & Environmental Document for Dam Sites 4 & 5 in Hays County



## Existing Conditions

Facts about Dam **Site 4**:

-  Built for flood risk reduction in **1985**
-  **Current age:** 38 years old
-  **Previous classification:** High hazard
-  **Current classification:** High hazard
-  **Drainage area:** 20.1 square miles (12,864 acres)
-  **Spillways:** Primary and axillary



Primary dam



Principal spillway



Auxiliary spillway



Area upstream



Area downstream



Unique features






# Upper San Marcos River Supplemental Watershed Plan & Environmental Document for Dam Sites 4 & 5 in Hays County



## Existing Conditions

Facts about Dam **Site 5**:

-  Built for flood risk reduction in **1989**
-  **Current age:** 34 years old
-  **Previous classification:** High hazard
-  **Current classification:** High hazard
-  **Drainage area:** 14.41 square miles (9,222 acres)
-  **Spillways:** Primary and axillary



PRIMARY DAM



Primary spillway



Auxiliary spillway



Area upstream



Area downstream



Unique features



# Upper San Marcos River Supplemental Watershed Plan & Environmental Document for Dam Sites 4 & 5 in Hays County



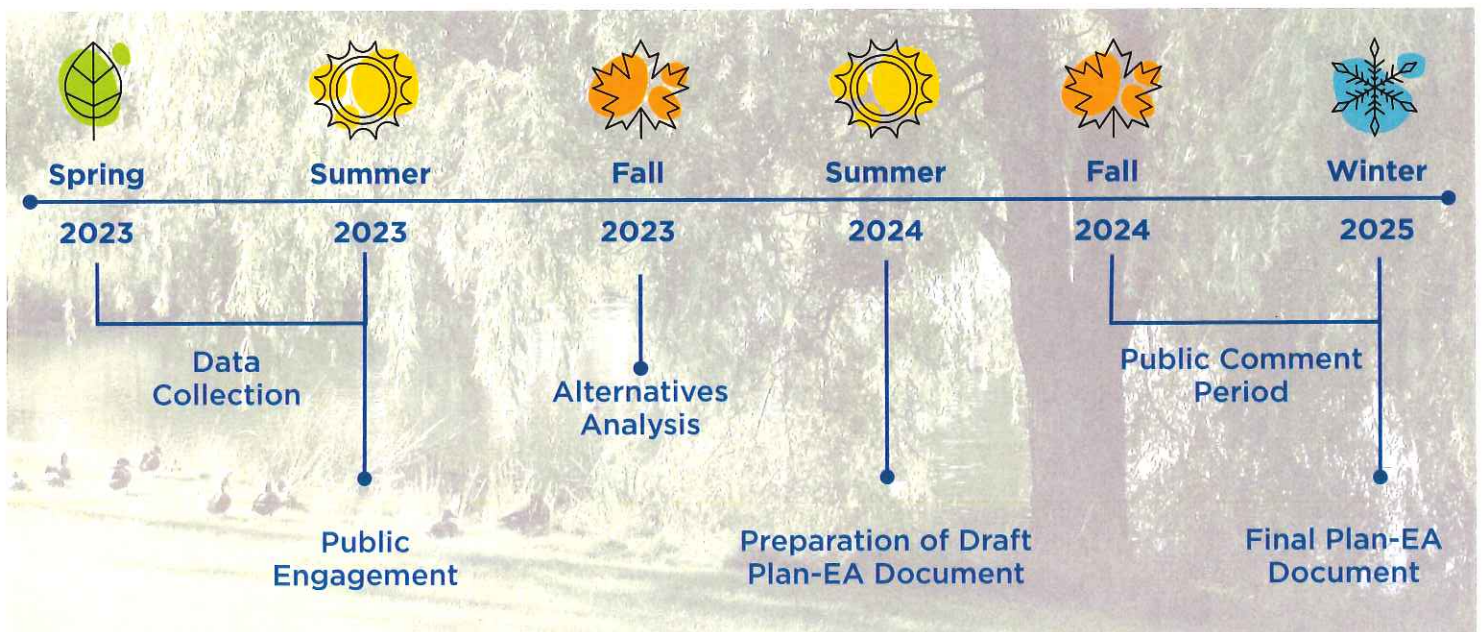
## What's Happening

- The dams' primary purpose is to provide flood risk reduction.
- Dams currently don't meet NRCS criteria for high hazard dams.
- Ensure dams continue to meet State of Texas criteria.

## Proposed Actions

- Evaluate safety concerns.
- Determine appropriate action to bring dams into compliance with NRCS and State performance standards and safety criteria.
- Maintain existing level of flood protection.

## The Schedule



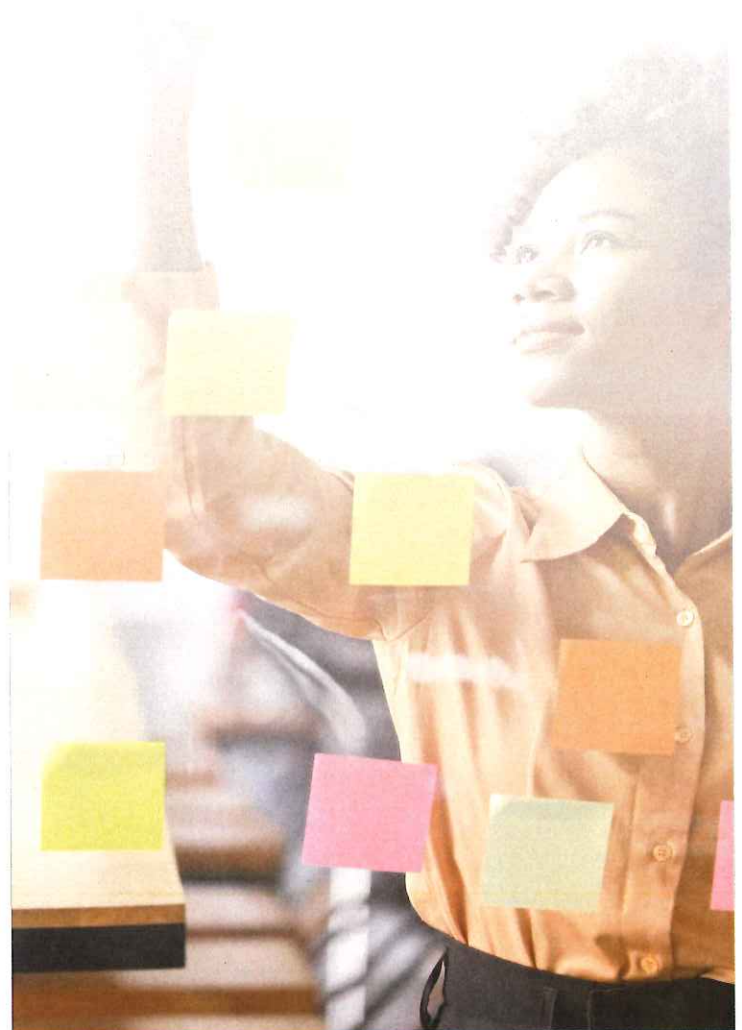
# Upper San Marcos River Supplemental Watershed Plan & Environmental Document for Dam Sites 4 & 5 in Hays County



## The NEPA Process

Following the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, the City, SWCD, RECL & FCD, USDA-NRCS, and the consultant team will blend site analyses with community feedback to develop the project's Plan-ED. They will:

-  Combine community feedback with existing condition analyses to develop a Purpose and Need Statement for the project.
-  Identify environmental issues associated with project.
-  Reference the Purpose and Need to evaluate the current NRCS hazard classification for the dams and proposed rehabilitation alternatives.
-  Analyze the environmental impacts of the alternatives.
-  Make the alternatives available for public comment and consideration during winter 2024.
-  Identify the preferred alternatives and develop the Plan-ED.
-  Make both the preferred alternatives and Plan-ED available to the public for comment during fall 2024.










# Upper San Marcos River Supplemental Watershed Plan & Environmental Document for Dam Sites 4 & 5 in Hays County



## Resource Concerns

The following resource concerns will be considered during the project:

- Air quality
- Fish and wildlife habitats 
- Threatened and endangered species
- Migratory birds and eagles
- Invasive species 
- Riparian areas
- Natural areas
- Recreation
- Socioeconomic 
- Hazardous waste
- Historic and cultural
- Land use
- Environmental justice 
- Public health and safety
- Local and regional economy
- Scenic beauty 
- Soils
- Erosion and sedimentation
- Prime and unique farmland
- Surface water quality 
- Surface water quantity
- Water supply
- Wetlands 
- Floodplain management




# Upper San Marcos River Supplemental Watershed Plan & Environmental Document for Dam Sites 4 & 5 in Hays County




## Community Feedback Needed




Please talk with staff and/or fill out a comment card. We'd like to know:

 What kind of impact would you like the dam project to have on nearby properties?

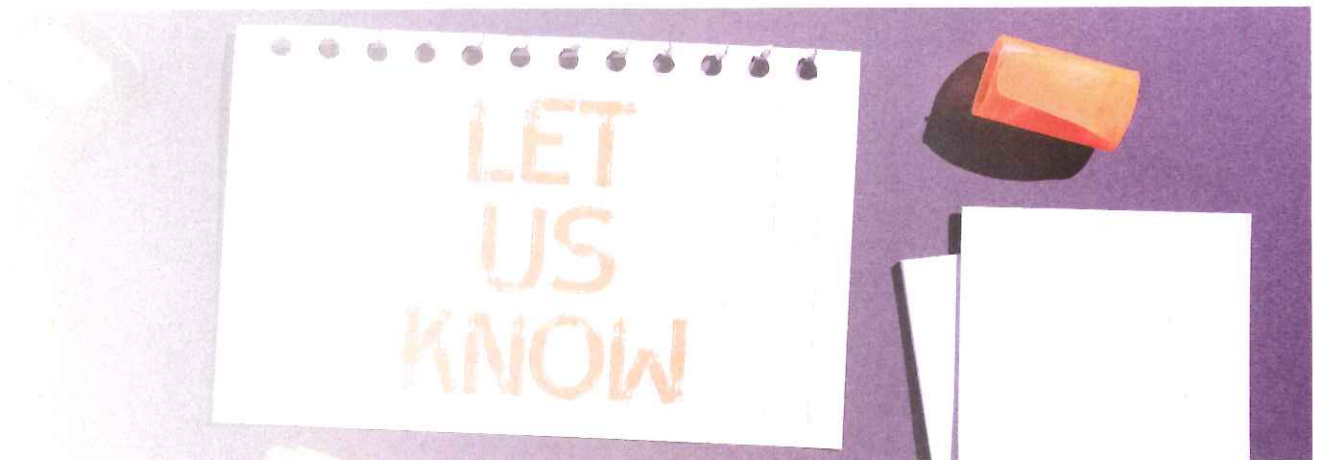
 What kind of impact would you like the dam project to have on safety?

 What kind of impact would you like the dam project to have on local agriculture?

 What potential benefits would you like the dam project to provide?

 What kind of impact would you like the dam project to have on natural and community resources?

 What other comments, questions, or concerns do you have about the project?



## Upper San Marcos River Supplemental Watershed Plan & Environmental Document for Dam Sites 4 & 5 in Hays County



# Thank You!

Thanks for attending this evening's meeting. For more information about the project or to comment, please call, email, or write us.

### [Rationale for the Project and Funding for Watershed Planning](#)

Mark Northcut  
USDA-NRCS  
Landscape Planning Staff Leader  
[mark.northcut@usda.gov](mailto:mark.northcut@usda.gov)  
(254) 742-9824

### [Watershed Planning Process and Details](#)

Matt Harper  
Ad Astra  
Project Manager  
[mharper@wrs-rc.com](mailto:mharper@wrs-rc.com)  
314-458-7852

