

# The meeting will begin shortly



Please mute your microphone until called for questions.



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Please enter your name and title in the chat.



Please insert questions in chat or raise hand to speak.



This meeting is being recorded.



Welcome to the first public meeting of the

# EAST FORK SAN JACINTO RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP



December 12, 2022



# MEETING OUTLINE



- Introduction
- Watershed Overview
- Water Quality
- Partnership
- Next Steps
- Discussion



# INTRODUCTION



# WHO WE ARE



## **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)**

lead state environmental management agency



## **Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)**

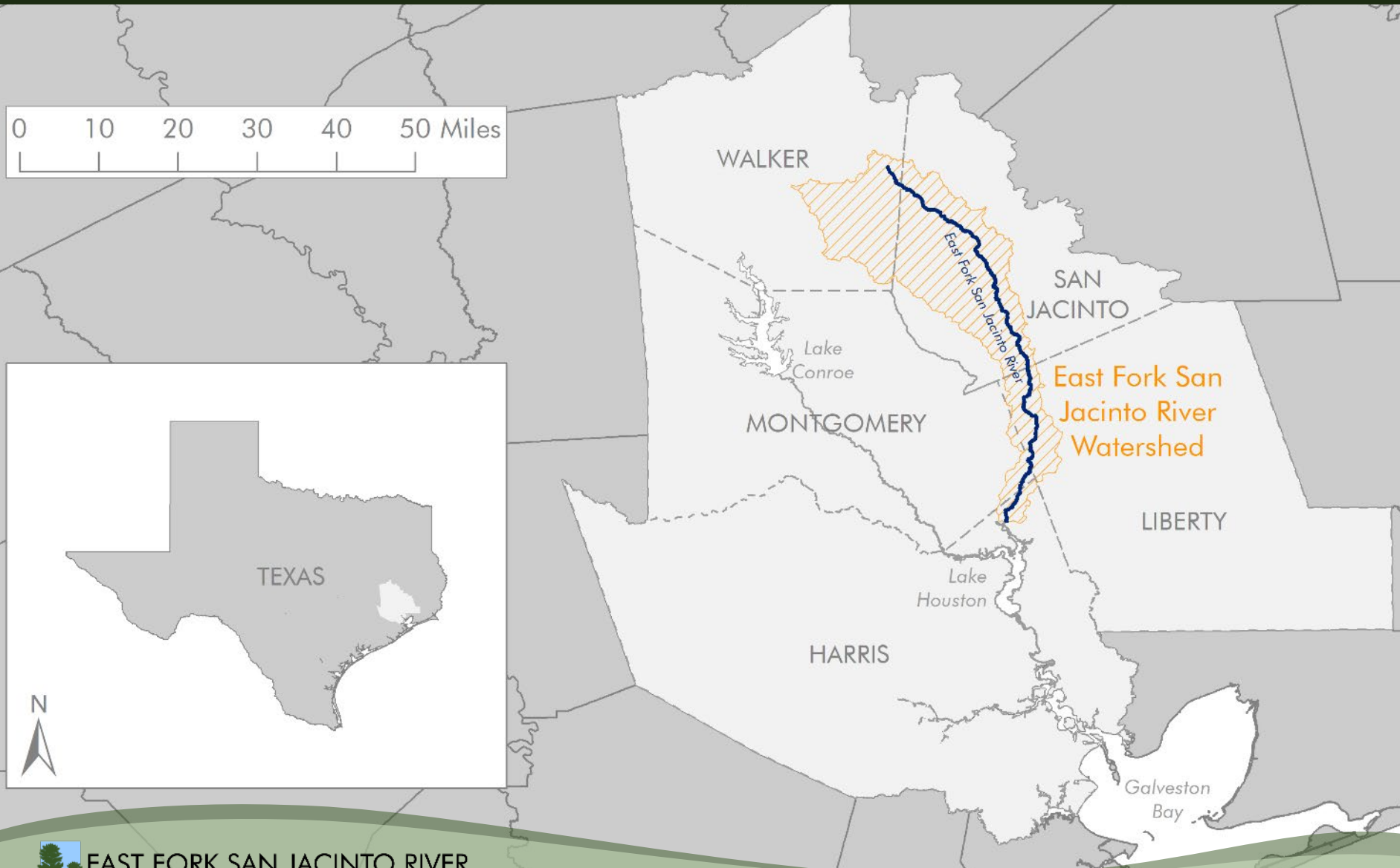
regional council of governments



## **Watershed Partnership**

local stakeholders working with TCEQ and H-GAC to develop and implement a watershed protection plan for the East Fork San Jacinto River watershed

# WHERE WE WORK



# WHY WE'RE HERE

*Surface water quality in the East Fork San Jacinto River Watershed is impaired due to high levels of fecal indicator bacteria.*

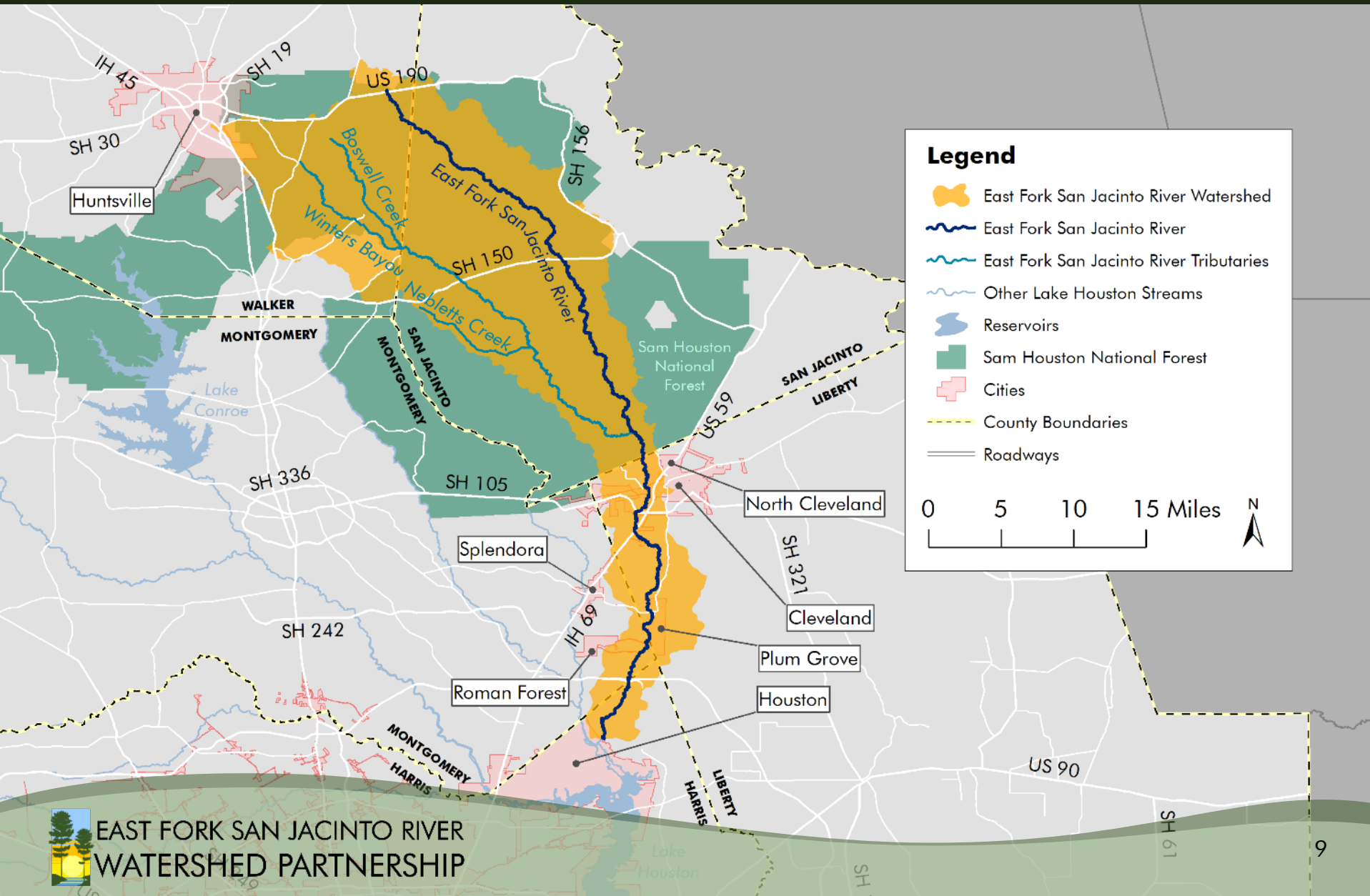


# WATERSHED OVERVIEW



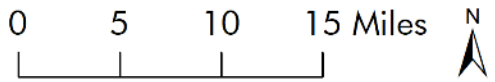


# WATERSHED AREA



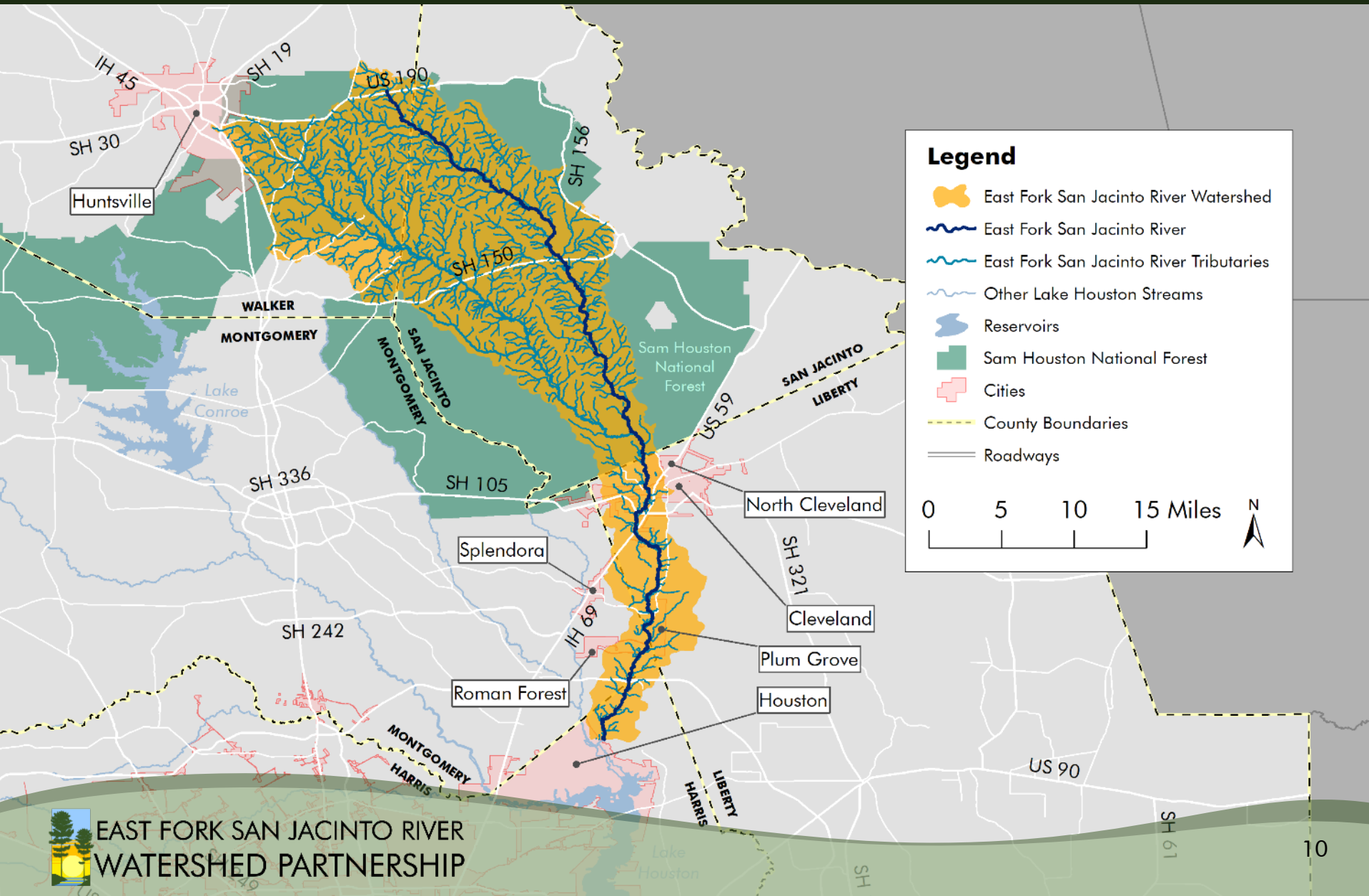
## Legend

- East Fork San Jacinto River Watershed
- East Fork San Jacinto River
- East Fork San Jacinto River Tributaries
- Other Lake Houston Streams
- Reservoirs
- Sam Houston National Forest
- Cities
- County Boundaries
- Roadways

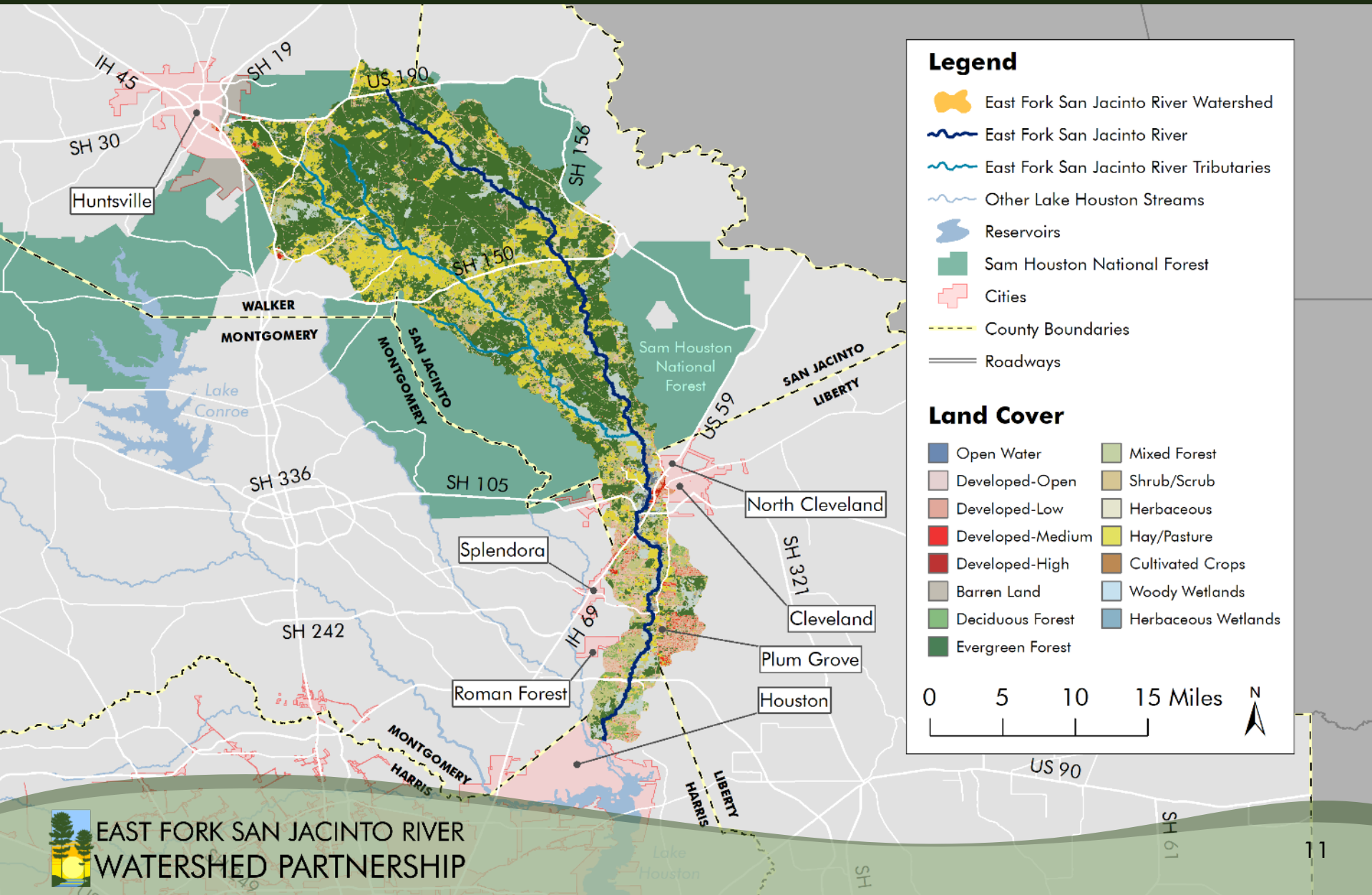


EAST FORK SAN JACINTO RIVER  
WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

# STREAM NETWORK



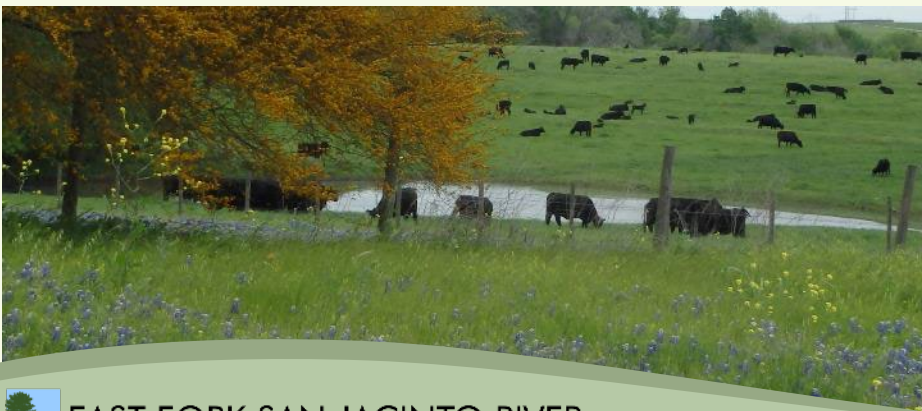
# LAND COVER



# WATER QUALITY



# SURFACE WATER USES



- Agricultural
- Municipal
- Industrial
- Recreational
- Natural



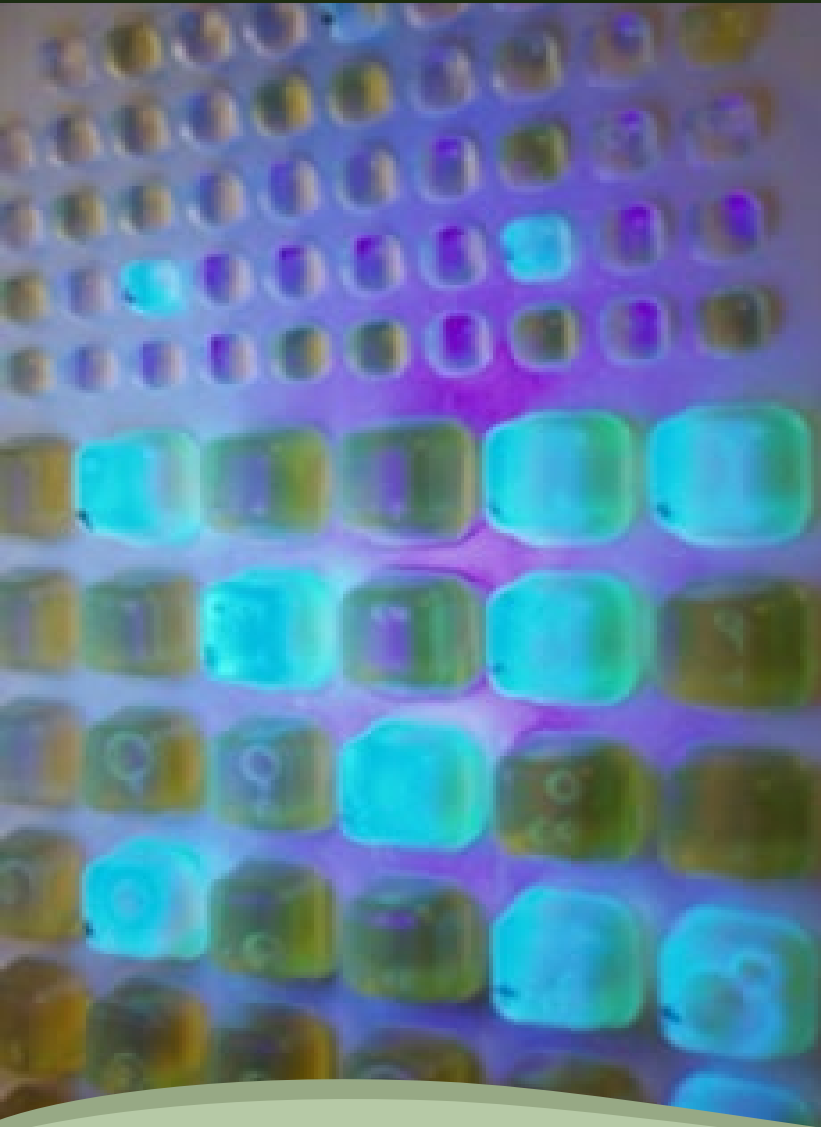
# ASSESSING WATER QUALITY



- Statewide monitoring
- TCEQ produces integrated report of results every two years
- Waterways exceeding standards are **impaired**



# STATUS OF EAST FORK SAN JACINTO RIVER



- **Impaired** for contact recreation
- High levels of bacteria *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) indicate pollution from fecal waste



# BACTERIA SOURCES



## **Human Waste**

- Wastewater
- Septic/Aerobic Systems
- Illicit Sewage

## **Domestic Animal Waste**

- Pets
- Livestock

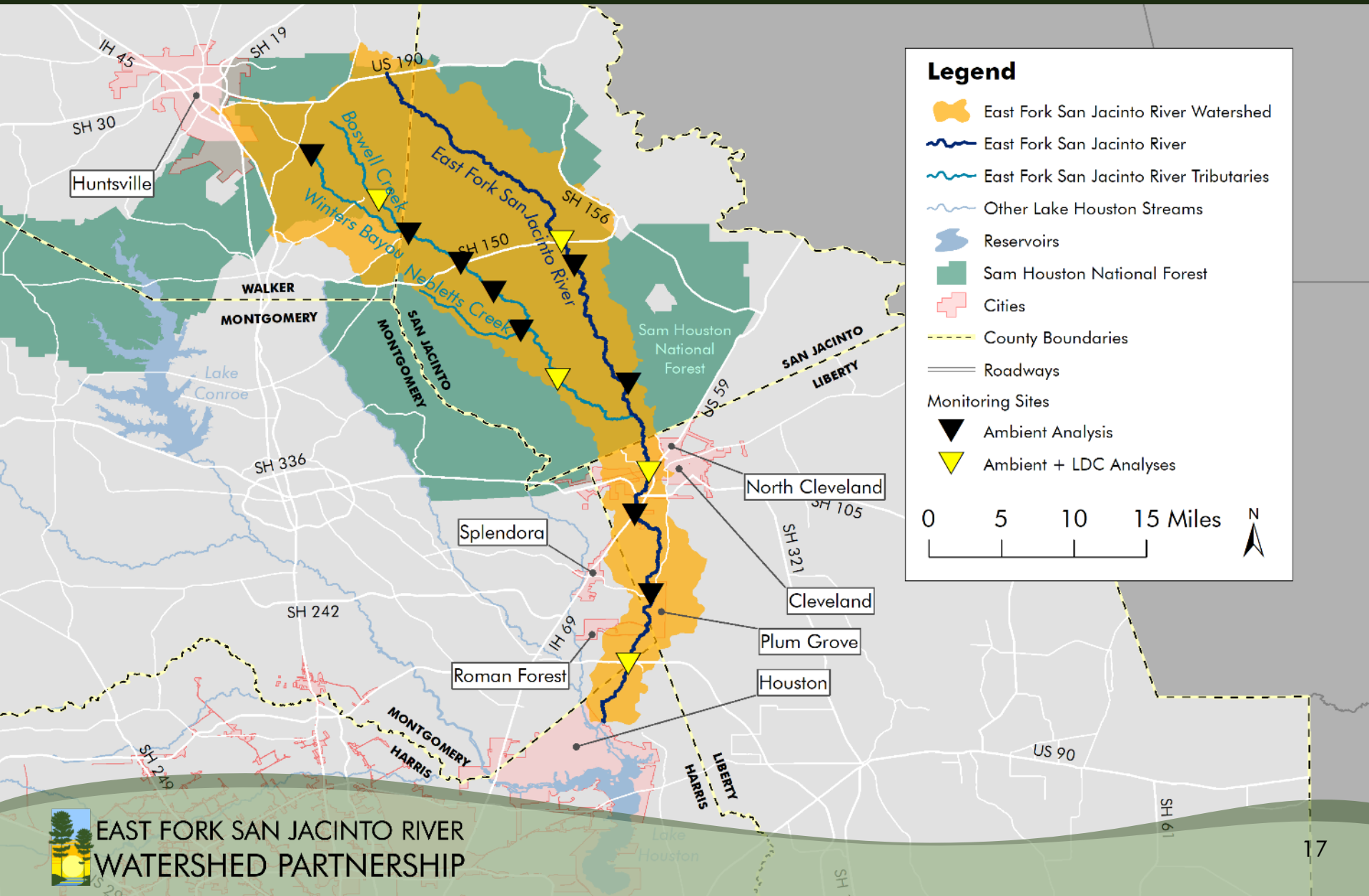
## **Wildlife and Invasive Species Waste**

- Deer and Other Wildlife
- Feral Hogs





# MONITORING

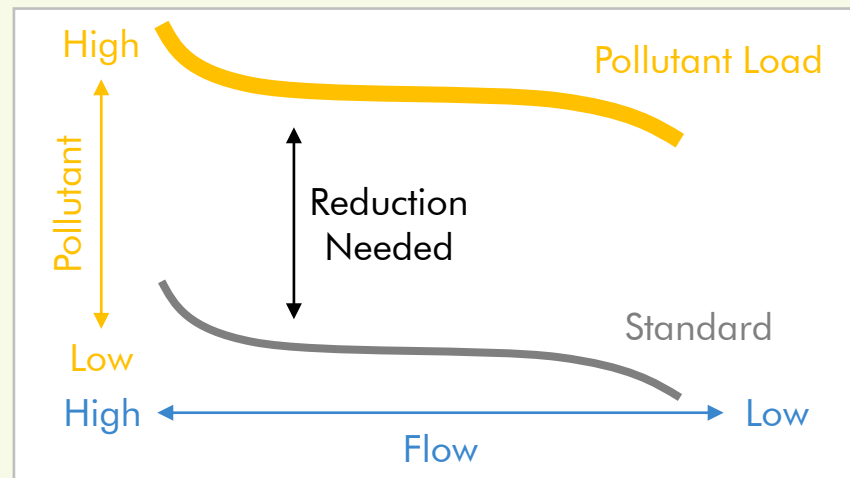
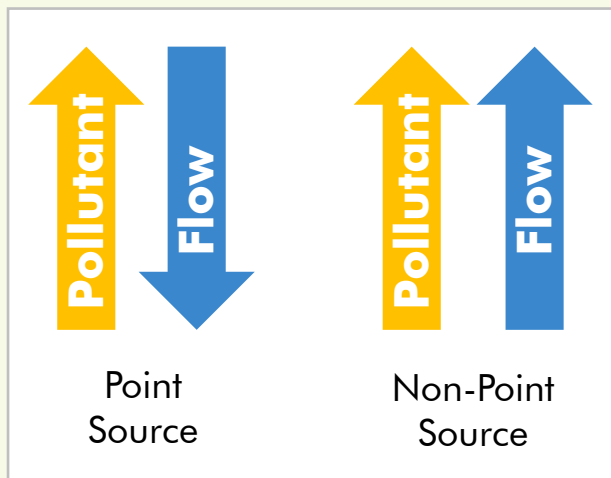


# AMBIENT ANALYSIS

Parameter	Criteria or Screening Level	Unit	Geomean Results By Segment			
			East Fork	Winters Bayou	Nebletts Creek	Boswell Creek
<i>E. coli</i>	126	CFU/100mL	199.0	172.9	103.6	182.4
Dissolved Oxygen, grab	Various	mg/L	7.2	6.3	8.6	6.9
Ammonia Nitrogen	0.33	mg/L	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Total Phosphorus	0.69	mg/L	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Nitrate	1.95	mg/L	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1



# RELATIONSHIP TO STREAMFLOW



# LOAD DURATION CURVE RESULTS

Stream Flow Conditions	<i>E. coli</i> Load Reduction Estimate				
	Upper East Fork	Middle East Fork	Lower East Fork	Boswell Creek	Winters Bayou
High Flow	95%	86%	83%	95%	70%
Moist Conditions	73%	45%	56%	57%	25%
Mid-Range Conditions	47%	4%	31%		
Dry Conditions	4%		1%		
Low Flow					



# KEY FINDINGS



- Fecal waste loads exceed the standard throughout the watershed in high flow and moist conditions
- Loading is below the standard for mid-range, dry, and low flow conditions in Boswell Creek and Winters Bayou
- Loading is variable in mid-range and dry conditions at different points on the East Fork of the San Jacinto River



# PARTNERSHIP



# TAKING ACTION

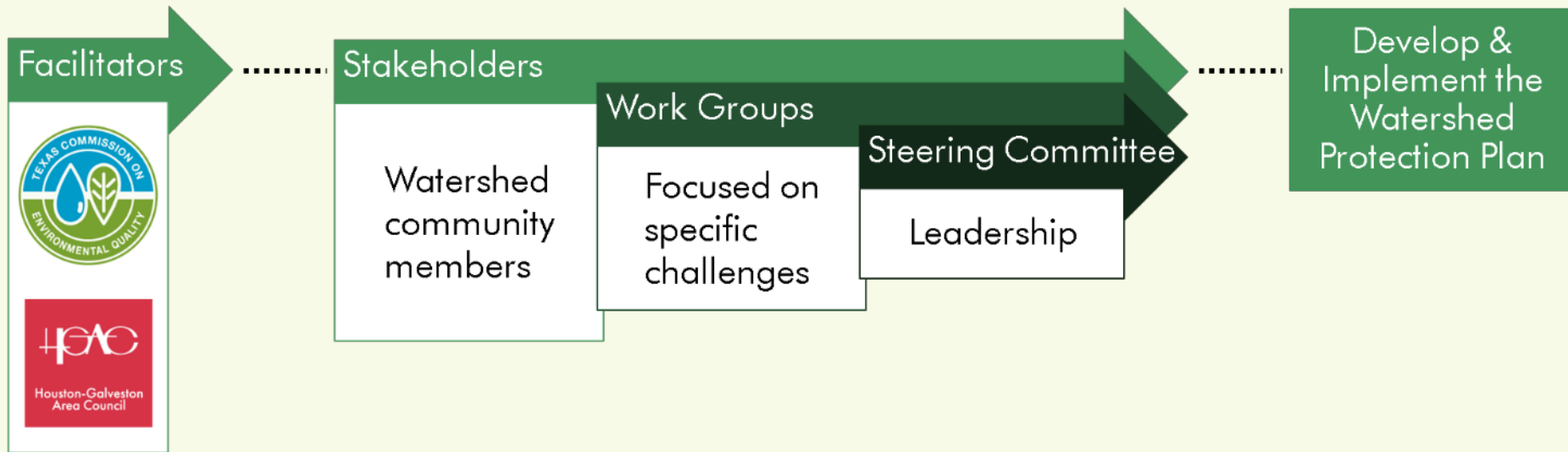


TCEQ and H-GAC need your help to develop a **Watershed Protection Plan** for the East Fork San Jacinto River Watershed

- Non-regulatory
- Roadmap and reference guide
- **Led by a local stakeholder partnership**



# PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE





# TIMELINE

You Are Here



Identify Water Quality Issues



Form Partnership



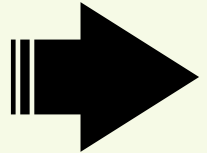
Discuss and Model



Identify Solutions



Submit WPP



Implement!

2022



2024



# HOW CAN WE HELP?



- Tell us about your projects and organizations!
- Tell us how we can:
  - Amplify
  - Collaborate
  - Coordinate



# NEXT STEPS



# SHORT TERM GOALS



- Accept nominations for the Steering Committee
- Review modeling results at next meeting in February 2023
- Refine technical information, receive your insight and feedback
- One-on-one meetings with stakeholders



# POLL QUESTION 1:

What is your preference for informational meetings (e.g., sharing results of models and analyses)? **\*Choose only one\***

- In-person
- Virtual



# POLL QUESTION 2:

What is your preference for interactive meetings (e.g., revising models, assembling sections of the watershed protection plan)?

**\*Choose only one\***

- In-person
- Virtual



# POLL QUESTION 3:

For future meetings, what time of day is preferred?

**\*Select all that apply\***

- Mornings (between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.)
- Afternoons (between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.)
- Evenings (between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.)



# POLL QUESTION 4:

For future meetings, what day of the week is preferred? **\*Select all that apply\***

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday
- Sunday





# DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS

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**EAST FORK SAN JACINTO RIVER  
WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP**