

# San Antonio Bay Partnership

## Steering Committee Meeting

1:30pm – 4pm

May 4, 2010

**700 Main Center, Room 115C  
700 N. Main St., Victoria, TX 77901  
(Corner of N. Main St. & North St.)**

*(see attached map for location & directions to meeting room)*

*You may join in this meeting by conference call using the following dial-in directions:*

- 1) Dial the toll-free conference system access number: **866-590-5055** and
- 2) When prompted, enter the conference access code: **8463538**, then hit the # sign; you will be automatically added to the conference call.

*The conference call will be initiated at 1:20pm -- you may dial in anytime after that.*  
*If you have any problems, call James Dodson on his cell phone : 361-649-1518*

## Agenda

- I. Welcome and Meeting Objectives (John Kisalus, Chair)
- II. Role Call
- III. Review and Approve Agenda
- IV. Report on Activities since the March 10, 2010 Initial Steering Cmte Meeting (J. Dodson)
  - Review of March 10, 2010 Meeting Outcomes
    - i. Work Plan thru end of 2010
    - ii. Mission Statement
    - iii. Additional Steering Committee Members
  - SARA Funding for San Antonio Bay Scientific and Technical Information
  - SABP Website
- V. San Antonio Bay Partnership Steering Committee - Forming Subcommittees:
  - Goals & Governance, Funding, Outreach & Events
- VI. June 24, 2010 General Stakeholder Meeting: Arrangements & Agenda
- VII. Other Business
- VIII. Steering Committee Comments
- IX. Set next meeting date
- X. Adjourn

## San Antonio Bay Partnership

### May 4, 2010 Steering Committee Meeting Summary

The Steering Committee for the San Antonio Bay Partnership (SABP) met in Victoria, Texas at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, May 4, 2010. Those present, either in person or by teleconference, included:

Steering Committee Members: John Kusalus (Chair), Gary Burns (Vice-Chair), Terry Baiamonte, Norman Boyd, Jack Campbell (new member), Roy Foley, Carla Guthrie, Beau Hardegree, Brian Koch, Danny May, Bob McCan, and Bryan Serold (new member).

Others: James Dodson (facilitator), Steve Raabe, Brian Mast, Jerry James, Chance Crossland, Rex May and Barbara Keeler.

Mr. Kusalus chaired the meeting. After review and approval of the meeting agenda, Mr. Dodson provided a report on activities since the March 10, 2010 SABP Steering Committee meeting. He began by identifying the new Steering Committee Members:

- Mr. Jack Campbell – Calhoun County Westside Navigation District
- Commissioner Kenny Finster – Precinct 4, Calhoun County
- Ms. Rhonda Cummins – Sea Grant Marine Extension Agent, Calhoun County
- Mr. Everett Johnson – Publisher, Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine
- Mr. Bryan Serold – Operations Manager, GBRA Lower Basin Division

Mr. Dodson noted that the addition of these new members brings the total number of Steering Committee members to seventeen.

Mr. Dodson then discussed the charge, from the previous Steering Committee meeting, to draft a Work Plan through the end of 2010 and a Mission Statement. He indicated that he felt it would be more appropriate to have members of the Steering Committee, working in subcommittees, undertake this task so that the work products reflect their ideas, rather than his own.

Following up on this concept, Mr. Kusalus then discussed the proposal to form four subcommittees of the Steering Committee:

- Goals and Governance
- Funding
- Outreach and Events, and
- Scientific and Technical

The Steering Committee agreed to establish these subcommittees. Mr. Kusalus then asked for volunteers to serve on each one, and offered to head up the “Goals and Governance” Subcommittee. Mr. Kusalus proposed that this subcommittee would draft the Work Plan and Mission Statement, with input from the other subcommittees.

The resulting membership on each subcommittee is as follows:

- Goals and Governance: John Kusalus, Terry Baiamonte and James Dodson (advisory)

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- Outreach and Events: Rhonda Cummins, Danny May, Roy Foley, Brian Koch and Terry Baiamonte
- Funding: Bob McCan, Gary Burns, Roy Foley, Beau Hardegree, and Brian Koch
- Scientific and Technical: Beau Hardegree, Carla Guthrie, Norman Boyd, Brian Koch, Bryan Serold and Steve Raabe (advisory)

Mr. Kisalus asked the Subcommittees to meet prior to the next SABP Steering Committee to develop a plan for their subcommittee for the remainder of the year.

Mr. Dodson then reported on the progress of work under the contract between the San Antonio River Authority and the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program for the collection, compilation, archiving and dissemination of scientific and technical reports and data related to the San Antonio Bay System. He noted that he has been working to identify GIS programs that could assist “users” in accessing this information via a map interface. Mr. Dodson showed slides of several map images to demonstrate how layers of information can be accessed and displayed on various base maps. (*Copies of these slides are found in Attachment 1, at the end of these notes*).

Mr. Dodson then displayed the SABP website, explaining that while it is still “under construction,” some information is available on various pages already in place and demonstrated how to navigate to those pages. He noted that more information would be added to these pages and that he hoped to use the website as an integral part of the SABP program.

Mr. Dodson then discussed the time and place for the next general Stakeholders meeting, noting that Roy Foley had offered that the meeting could again be held at the University of Houston – Victoria, this time in the UHV Multipurpose Room, which can accommodate up to 150 persons, and that UHV could provide lunch for up to 125 persons. Mr. Dodson asked the Steering Committee for approval of these arrangements, which they provided, so he could begin issuing advance notice of the meeting to the stakeholders.

Mr. Dodson mentioned that he had received a request from Steering Committee member Art Dohman to have a presentation about a recent channel gains/losses study conducted on the San Antonio River, particularly with respect to the study findings regarding ground water contributions to stream flow and estuary inflow. Mr. Dodson suggested that presentation be one of the topics included on the agenda for the stakeholder meeting, along with one or two other presentations to be determined by the Outreach and Events subcommittee.

Mr. Kisalus called for items under “Other Business.” Brian Koch noted that the U.S. House of Representatives had passed HR 4715, which reauthorizes the National Estuary Program within the EPA, under the Clean Water Act. He indicated that if the bill is passed into law, he thought it might make some funding available to SABP. Ms. Barbara Keeler, who is in the EPA Region 6 office and was on the conference call, shared her information on the status of the bill and stated that, most likely, funding for new NEP programs would not be available, but, rather, any newly available funds would go to increasing funding levels for existing programs.

There was, next, more discussion about agenda items for the June 24, 2010 Stakeholder meeting, including presentations by someone from the Texas General Land Office (TGLO) regarding the federal funds available through the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) and their Pilot Programs, as well as information on the Coastal Coordination Council, which is housed within TGLO’s Coastal Management Program offices. Mr. McCan, a member of the Coastal Coordination Council, offered to contact the appropriate TGLO staff to make arrangements.

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Mr. Dodson displayed some photographs taken during a recent “San Antonio River In-Stream Flows Monitoring” event held on the lower San Antonio River, just upstream of Hwy. 77. Steve Raabe, who is in charge of this program for the San Antonio River Authority, provided information on the types of monitoring work involved in this effort to provide data on the effect of varying stream flow regimes on river ecosystems.

Mr. Serold noted that the Texas Water Development Board is in the process of hiring Mr. Jonathan Philips, a geomorphologist, to assist in a geomorphology study of the lower reaches of the San Antonio River, from the bridge at Hwy. 77 downstream to the Fagan Bridge. Mr. Serold also noted some of the ongoing activities being supported by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) intended to provide information on the San Antonio Bay System, including:

- Support for two real-time salinity monitoring stations in San Antonio Bay, operated under the Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network (TCOON);
- Support for Phase II of the whooping crane studies being conducted by Dr. Doug Slack of Texas A&M University; and
- Continued support of studies regarding San Antonio Bay by Dr. George Ward, UT-Austin Center for Research in Water Resources;

Mr. Kusalus then opened discussion on the date of the next Steering Committee meeting. It was decided that the next meeting would be held on the afternoon of June 4, 2010.

There being no other business, the Steering Committee meeting adjourned at 3pm.

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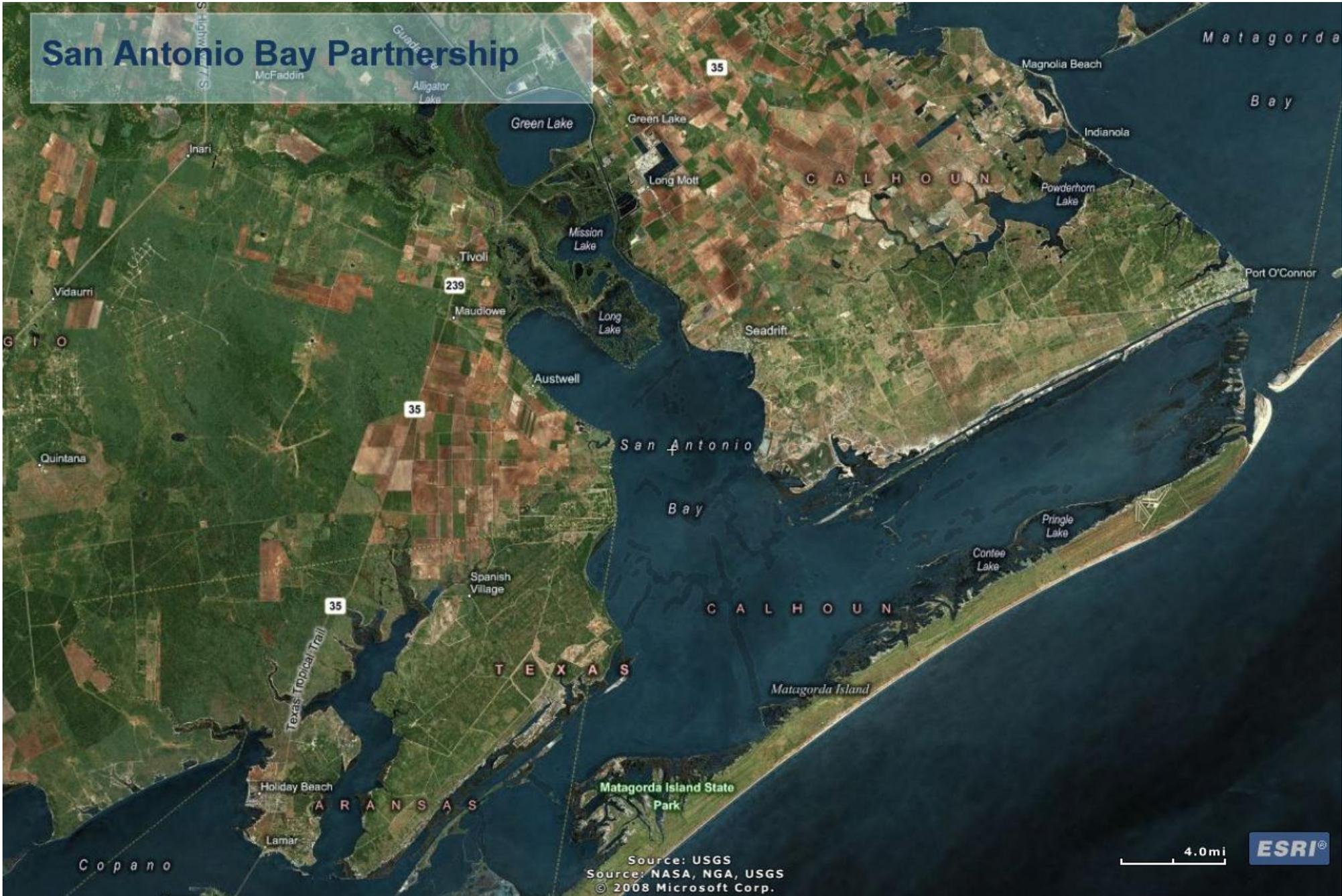
Addendum: Subsequent to the Steering Committee meeting, Mr. Art Dohman indicated that he would like to serve on the Science-Technical Subcommittee.

Meeting Summary prepared by James Dodson – for comments or questions, please contact him at 361-649-1518, or [jdodson27@gmail.com](mailto:jdodson27@gmail.com)

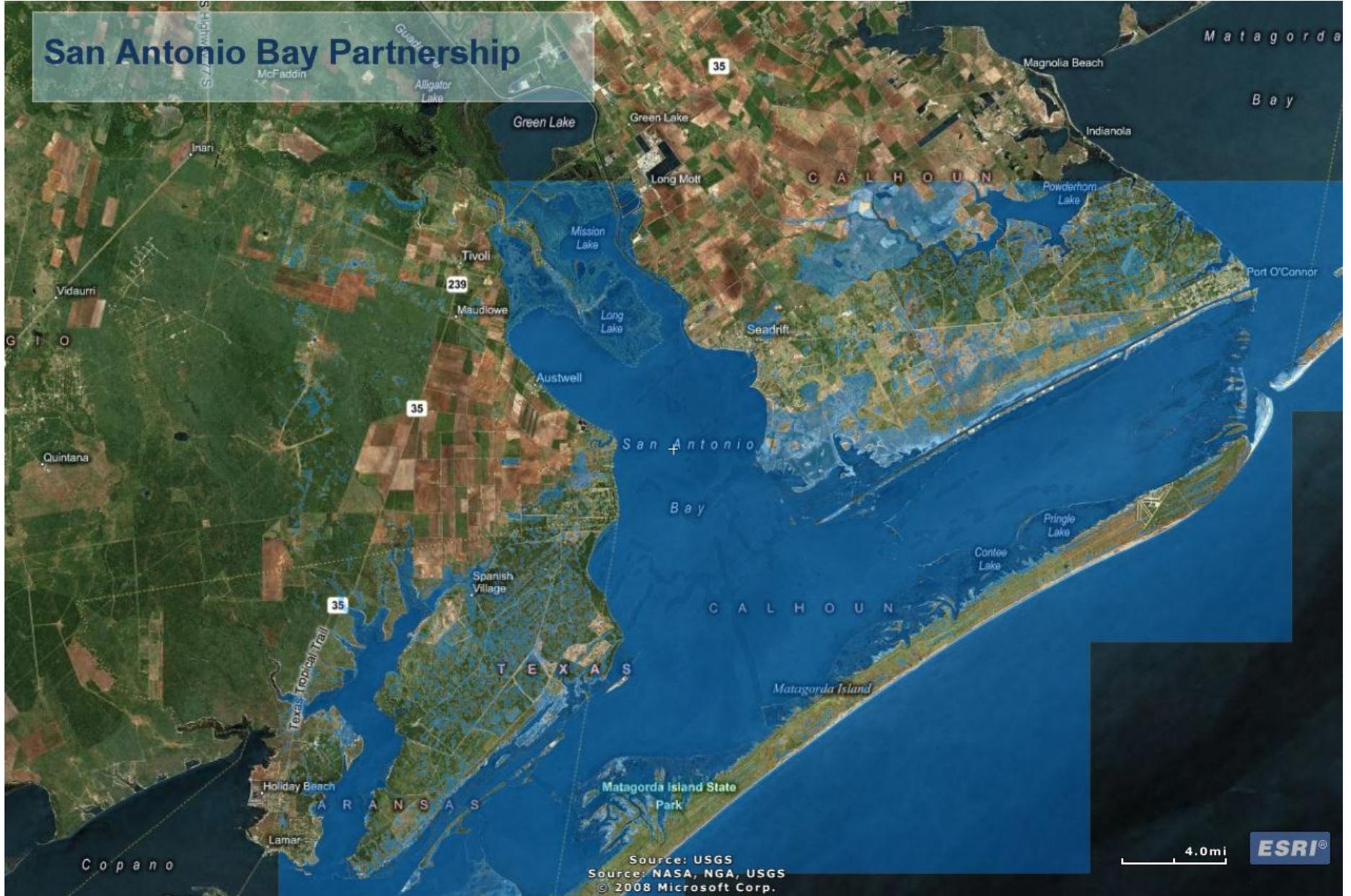
**Attachment 1**

**Slides of Map Images**

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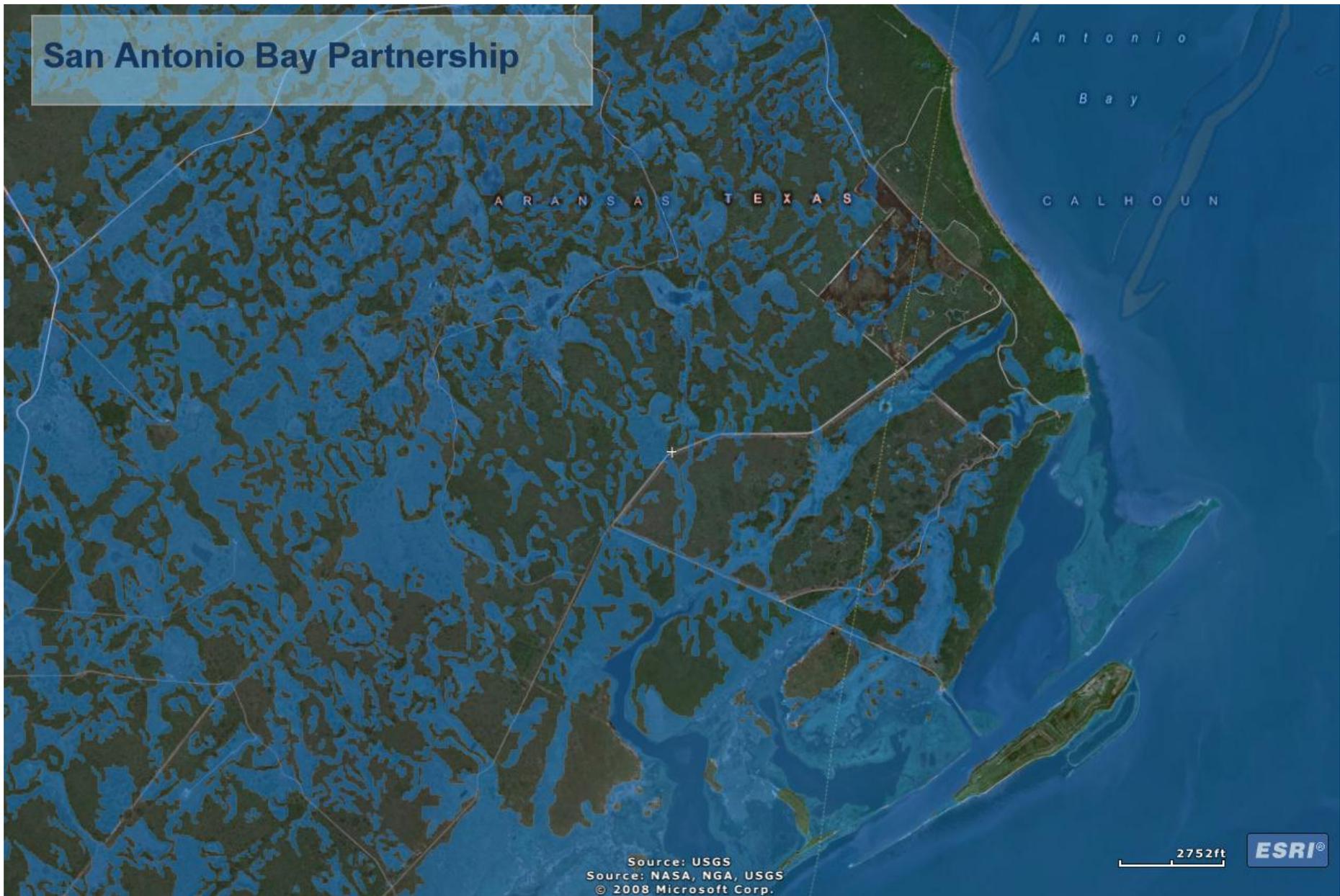
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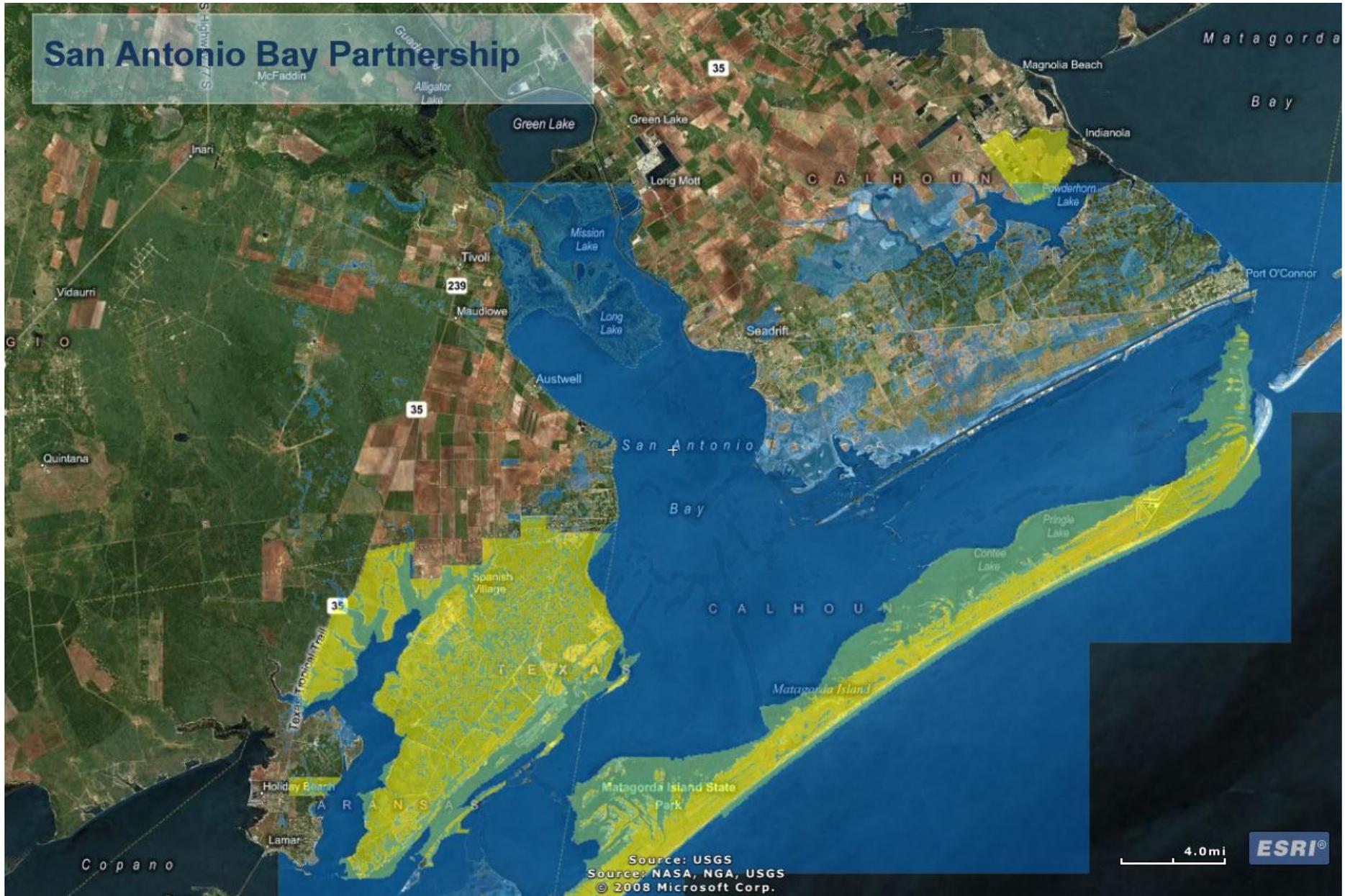
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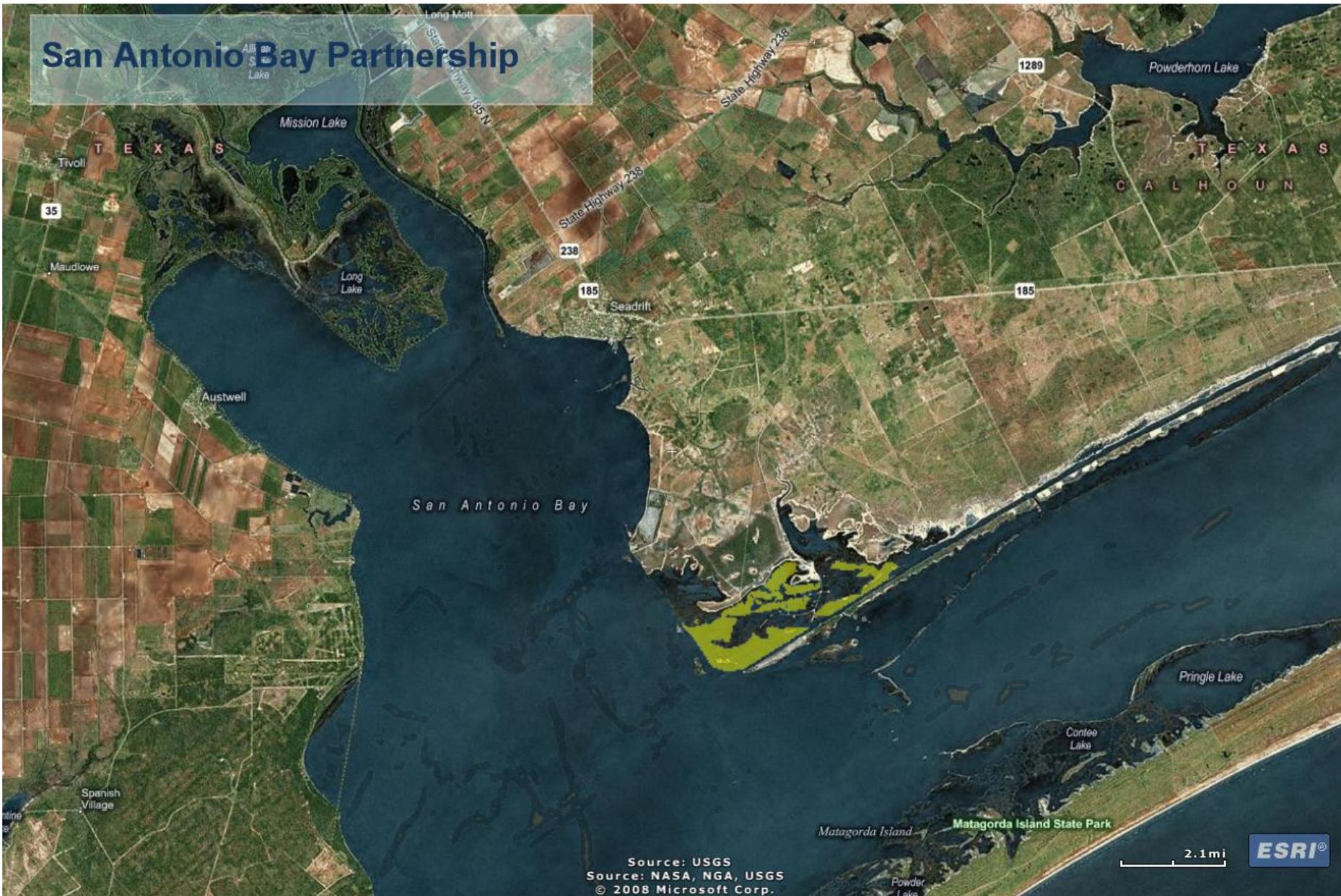


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