

**Quarterly Progress Report:** Assessment of PFAS concentrations and loadings in the Lavaca Bay watershed

Contract No. 071

Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Texas Water Resources Institute

March 7, 2025

**Investigators:**

- Michael Schramm (PI)
- Samuel Ma, PhD. (Co-PI)
- Tommy McDonald, PhD. (Co-PI, pending)

**Reporting Period:** Q2, 2024-12-01 through 2025-02-29

**Summary of Q2 Updates:**

Work focused on getting monthly data collection started, including field reconnaissance and coordination with boat captain for site access. The sampling work successfully started on 01-29-2025. We are also working on senior personnel changes due to Dr. Sharma no longer being employed at Texas A&M.

**Task 1. Project Administration:**

The project team is continuing to work with Texas A&M Sponsored Research Services to ensure reports, status updates, invoices and other obligations are delivered on time. Co-PI Dr. Sharma left the University effective 12-31-2024. The team is working on getting Dr. McDonald to replace him on the project. The project team met in person on 12-17-2024 to coordinate sample delivery, finalize methods, sample volumes, and other communication and logistic details.

**Task 2. Data Collection and Laboratory Analysis:**

The field team conducted a field reconnaissance trip in January, followed by a slightly delayed first sampling trip on 01-29-2025. The original trip was scheduled for two weeks earlier but postponed due to hazardous weather conditions (snow and ice). The second trip was conducted on 02-19-2025. Due to extreme-low tide conditions, some of the Lavaca Bay sites were inaccessible.

Due to the change in co-PI's nutrient and DOC analysis was skipped on the current samples. Our goal is to have nutrient and DOC analysis up and running by the April monitoring trip.

**Task 3. Data Analysis**

Work on this task has not started.

**Task 4. Project Outreach**

Work on this task has not started.