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2.5 Socioeconomics

This section describes the socioeconomic resources that have the potential to be impacted by the construction and operation of nuclear power units at the VCS site and is divided into four subsections: demographics, community characteristics, historic properties, and environmental justice. These subsections include descriptions of spatial and temporal considerations, where appropriate.

For purposes of socioeconomic analysis, Exelon has collected and analyzed regional socioeconomic data, including the transit of workers between Victoria County and its neighboring counties, to determine the appropriate socioeconomic region of influence. Based on this analysis, Exelon determined that the socioeconomic region of influence for this project includes Victoria County and the following counties bordering it: Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, and Refugio. Because the socioeconomic effects would be most evident in these counties, their socioeconomic characteristics are analyzed.

2.5.1 Demography

This subsection describes the following demographic characteristics: population data by sector, population data by political jurisdiction, and transient populations. Migrant populations are characterized in Subsection 2.5.4, Environmental Justice.

2.5.1.1 Population Data by Sector

The population surrounding the proposed site, up to 50 miles, was estimated based on the 2000 U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) decennial census data. The population distribution was estimated in 16 directional sectors, each direction consisting of 22.5 degrees, and in 10 concentric bands, measured from the power block reference point (Section 2.1): 0 to 1 mile, 1 to 2 miles, 2 to 3 miles, 3 to 4 miles, 4 to 5 miles, 5 to 10 miles, 10 to 20 miles, 20 to 30 miles, 30 to 40 miles, and 40 to 50 miles. Population estimates were projected using an exponential growth rate calculated from state population projections in 10-year increments from 2010 to 2080. This period covers the period of construction through 40 years of operations plus 20 years of license renewal.

The population distribution within 50 miles of the proposed site was computed by overlaying the 2000 census block point data (the smallest unit of census data) on the grids shown in Figures 2.5.1-1 and 2.5.1-2.

SECPOP2000, a code developed for the NRC by Sandia National Laboratories to calculate population by emergency planning zone sectors, was used to determine the 2000 resident population by sector[1]. The transient population for 0 to 10 miles was added to the 2000 resident population for use in the projections, and is reflected in Table 2.5.1-1. The population projections for radii of more than 10 miles include only residents.

Once the 2000 population (resident and transient, as appropriate) was determined for each sector, projections were made for the 10-year increments from 2010 to 2080.

Growth rates were calculated for each county based on projections obtained from the Texas State Data Center. Projections provided by the Texas State Data Center include four scenarios: Zero Migration Scenario, 1990–2000 Migration Scenario, One-Half 1990–2000 Migration Scenario, and 2000–2004 Migration Scenario. These scenarios assume the same set of mortality and fertility assumptions, but differ in their net migration assumptions. The Texas State Data Center suggests using the One-Half 1990–2000 Migration Scenario for most counties for long-term planning because migration is expected, but the 1990–2000 rate is not expected to be maintained over the coming years[2]. The 2000–2004 Migration Scenario was based on post-2000 population trends (estimates) and represents too few years on which to base a meaningful long-term trend. Therefore, Exelon used the One-Half 1990–2000 migration scenario for this analysis. Once county growth rates were determined, geographic information system software (ArcGIS® 9.2) was used to determine the total land area within a sector and the percentage of the land area in each sector occupied by a particular county. The population in a sector was assumed to be evenly distributed. In any sector spanning more than one county, the percentage of land area attributed to each county was multiplied by the sector population to determine each county's portion of the sector population. Then, each county's growth rate was applied to its respective population number to determine the projected population of that portion of the sector population. The projected populations of all portions in a sector were summed to determine the total projected population of that sector. Table 2.5.1-1 presents the population projections to 2080 by sector.

Regional population density and use characteristics of the site environs, including the exclusion area, low population zone, and population center distance are presented in Subsection 2.1.3 of the Site Safety Analysis Report in Part 2 of this application.

1. The latest decennial census (2000) data was used as the basis for population projections by radius and sector. While more recent population estimates are available from the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB), these estimates are either too general (by county), or are not spatially complete (by city or town). In order to get appropriate projections, SECPOP2000 uses USCB census block data to distribute the 2000 population by sector and radius. Populations for future years are then projected from the 2000 base data. State data is not used because it is based on the USCB data and has the same formats.

2.5.1.2 Population Data by Political Jurisdiction

Exelon has also included population data by political jurisdiction to facilitate analyses in the socioeconomic sections of this Environmental Report. The area defined by a 50-mile radius from the the power block reference point (Figure 2.5.1-1) includes all or part of 16 counties in Texas (Table 2.5.1-2 and Figure 2.5.1-1).

The proposed VCS site is located approximately 13.3 miles south of Victoria, Texas, 4.3 miles northwest of McFaddin, and adjacent to Linn Lake (Figure 2.5.1-2). The site is not located within a township. The closest population center with more than 25,000 residents is the city of Victoria (Figure 2.5.1-2). The city of Victoria had a 2000 population of 60,603 and a 2006 population estimate of 62,169 (USCB 2000a; USCB 2007b). The larger municipalities in the 50-mile radius (those with populations of 5000 or greater), their 2000 populations and 2006 estimates, and locations relative to the proposed site are presented in Table 2.5.1-3.

The 50-mile vicinity includes: the Victoria, Texas metropolitan statistical area (MSA) in its entirety; portions of the Corpus Christi, Texas, MSA; and portions of the Bay City, El Campo, and Beeville micropolitan statistical areas (MiSAs) (USCB 2003a).

2. The State Demographer's Office reported, “(f)rom our analyses of these projection scenarios, we believe that the 0.5 scenario is the most appropriate scenario for most counties for use in long-term planning. This recommendation is suggested for several reasons. First, the 1990-2000 period was a period of expansive growth in the Texas economy. There has been a general slowdown in the U.S. and Texas economies since 2000 that is likely to slow population growth. Although a recovery is occurring, it is uncertain at this time when it will be complete. At the same time, we believe that the substantial changes shown for 2000-2004 for many areas are unlikely to prevail over the long run in most areas, thus its use for long term projections such as those produced here seems ill advised. The 0.5 scenario produces a statewide annual rate of growth of approximately 1.5 percent slower than 1990-2000 but still substantial growth, given the 2000 population base. It thus represents a rate of growth more moderate than the rapid growth of the 1990s but one that produces substantial population growth in the State... Second, the 2000 Census count showed a substantially larger U.S. and Texas population than was anticipated. Although the Census Bureau has not fully determined the reasons for this, it is likely that the 2000 count included persons who were missed in 1990. Since residual migration measures classify such persons as 1990-2000 migrants and three of the scenarios are based on 1990-2000 migration patterns, it is possible that the migration rates for some groups, for some periods, for some counties are too high suggesting the use of a more moderate rate of growth scenario. Third, although the scenarios use trends in births and deaths, they assume constant levels of migration. Such an assumption is used because of the lack of historical data of sufficient specificity to trend these rates over time. Our analyses of such rates suggest that it is unlikely that such trends (especially in some key groups) will continue at the level of the 1990s. At the same time, the overall direction of trends and differences among racial/ethnic groups seem likely to continue suggesting the need for the use of a scenario that is based on 1990-2000 trends in migration but shows slower growth--the 0.5 scenario. Finally, higher than expected birth rates and elderly survival rates from 2000 to 2004 resulted in an alteration of projected fertility and mortality rates so that larger populations are projected under the 0.0, 0.5 and 1.0 scenarios. Because all four projection scenarios use the same fertility and mortality projections, the projected values for the three scenarios used in the previous (2004) projections are higher in this (2006) set of projections than in the previous projections. As a result, the rates of growth shown for the 1.0 scenario have become even higher and even more difficult to sustain over the projection period. This serves as an additional factor further recommending the use of the 0.5 scenario for long-term planning purposes... As noted above, we recommend the 0.5 scenario for the long-term planning purposes for which these projections are produced. However, for those who intend to use the projections for relatively short-term (i.e., 3-10 year) planning purposes or who believe the 2000-2004 period is indicative of long-term trends, the 2000-2004 scenario may be preferable.” (TOSD 2006)

- The Victoria, Texas MSA had a 2000 population of 111,663 (USCB 2003a). It was the 305th largest MSA in the United States (out of 362). From 1990 to 2000, it grew 12.3 percent (USCB 2003a). The 2006 population estimate was 114,088 (USCB 2007b).

- The Corpus Christi, Texas MSA had a 2000 population of 403,280 (USCB 2003a). It was the 111th largest MSA in the United States (out of 362). From 1990 to 2000, it grew 9.7 percent (USCB 2003a). The 2006 population estimate was 415,810 (USCB 2007b).

- The Bay City, Texas MiSA is characterized as primarily rural, with a 2000 population of 37,957 (USCB 2003a). It was the 352nd largest MiSA in the United States (out of 560). From 1990 to 2000, it grew 2.8 percent (USCB 2003a). The 2006 population estimate was 37,824 (USCB 2007b).

- The El Campo, Texas MiSA had a 2000 population of 41,188 (USCB 2003a). It was the 303rd largest MiSA in the United States (out of 560). From 1990 to 2000, it grew 3.1 percent (USCB 2003a). The 2006 population estimate was 41,475 (USCB 2007b).

- The Beeville, Texas MiSA had a 2000 population of 32,359 (USCB 2003a). It was the 428th largest MiSA in the United States (out of 560). From 1990 to 2000, it grew 28.7 percent (USCB 2003a). The 2006 population estimate was 33,176 (USCB 2007b).

Table 2.5.1-4 presents historical and projected population and growth rate data for the counties in the region of influence and for the region of influence as a whole. For the purpose of comparison, population data for the state of Texas is included in this table. From 1990 to 2000, the populations of the six counties grew at average annual growth rates ranging from –0.2 percent in Refugio County to 1.5 percent in Goliad County. The region of influence population grew at an average annual rate of 1.0 percent. For the same period, the state of Texas population grew at an average annual rate of 2.1 percent. The 2006 population estimates for the counties in the region of influence are as follows: Calhoun County, 20,705; DeWitt County, 20,167; Goliad County, 7192; Jackson County, 14,249; Refugio County, 7596; and Victoria County, 86,191 (USCB 2007a).

Population projections are provided by the Texas State Population Estimates and Projections Program. The program's projections of the population of Texas and of each county in Texas were prepared by the Office of the State Demographer and the Texas State Data Center in the Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research at the University of Texas at San Antonio (TOSD 2006).

The population projections were completed using a cohort-component projection technique. Figure 2.5.1-3 provides a brief explanation of the technique, as provided by the Office of the State Demographer. Between 2010 and 2040 (the latest year for which data is provided), the average annual growth rates of all six counties and the state of Texas are projected to slow. By 2040, both

Goliad and Refugio Counties are projected to begin decreasing in population. The average annual growth rate for the region of influence is projected to slow to 0.4 percent.

Table 2.5.1-5 lists the age distributions of the populations in each of the six counties, and the region of influence as a whole, in 2000 and compares them to the age distribution of the population in the state of Texas.

2.5.1.3 Transient Populations

NRC RG 4.7, *General Site Suitability Criteria for Nuclear Power Stations*, Section C.4 defines transient populations as people (other than those just passing through the area) who work, reside part-time, or engage in recreational activities in a given area, but are not permanent residents of the area (U.S. NRC Apr 1998)[3]. Under this definition, transients include people in:

- Workplaces
- Places where people reside part-time, such as hotels and motels and seasonal housing
- Recreational areas or at special events

Transient information is presented in two formats: quantitatively within the 0- to 10-mile radius and qualitatively within the 10- to 50-mile radius. The transient population within 10 miles was estimated to be 1470, based on major employers, overnight accommodations (including hotels, motels, and seasonal housing), and major recreation areas. These transient populations are included in Table 2.5.1-1. Transients within the 10- to 50-mile radius are not included in Table 2.5.1-1 but are described qualitatively in this subsection and throughout Section 2.5. Because most transient data is available by political boundaries and not by radii, the transient discussion encompasses Aransas, Bee, Calhoun, DeWitt, Jackson, Goliad, Refugio, and Victoria Counties because they are the counties whose boundaries are primarily within the 50-mile radius. For the transient description, they will be called the “eight-county region,” not to be confused with the six-county socioeconomic region of influence.

A method for measuring the number of transient workers entering an area is to use worker flows in and out of counties. The USCB tracks this data, and Table 2.5.1-6 identifies the number of workers that traveled into the eight-county region for work in 2000. Workers traveling from one county to another in the eight-county region are not counted as transients. According to the data, about 7850 workers traveled into the eight-county region for work in 2000. Migrant populations are described in Subsection 2.5.4.2.

3. People living in institutional settings, such as correctional institutions and nursing homes, and non-institutional settings, such as college dormitories and military quarters, are considered, by the USCB, as permanent residents and are included in the decennial census.

Table 2.5.1-7 presents hotel and motel data for the eight-county region. Within all eight counties, in the first quarter of 2007, there were 72 hotels or motels with 313,500 room nights available and an occupancy rate of 51.7 percent. Table 2.5.1-8 quantifies seasonal housing in the eight counties. In 2000, there were 5806 vacant housing units that were designated for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Most seasonal housing is located along the coast, so seasonal population fluctuations are more apparent in places such as Port O'Connor, Seadrift, Olivia, Port Alto, and Port Lavaca. In the "resort-style" towns, the population drops in the "off season" and swells to several times the "off season" size in the "high season." Visitors to the area come to rent homes near the beach, go fishing and boating, and engage in wildlife observation activities.

Recreational facilities and major special events in the 50-mile region are described in Section 2.5.2.5.

2.5.1.4 References

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USCB 2007a. U.S. Census Bureau. *Subcounty Population Datasets,* available at http://www.census.gov, accessed March 24, 2008.

USCB 2007b. U.S. Census Bureau. *Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Estimates,* available at http://www.census.gov, accessed March 24, 2008.

U.S. NRC Apr 1998. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, *Regulatory Guide 4.7 — General Site Suitability Criteria for Nuclear Power Stations*, DG-4004, April 1998.

Table 2.5.1-1 (Sheet 1 of 6)
Current Populations and Projections, by Sector, to 2080

Radii/Distance (miles)

Sectors	Year	0–1	1–2	2–3[a]	3–4	4–5	5–10	0–10[a]	10–20	20–30	30–40	40–50	0–50[a]
N	2000	0	1	0	9	0	141	151	37,290	1,792	681	8,007	47,921
	2010	0	1	0	10	0	154	165	40,646	1,946	695	8,030	51,482
	2020	0	1	0	11	0	168	180	44,375	2,119	714	8,064	55,452
	2030	0	1	0	12	0	183	196	48,477	2,307	730	8,086	59,796
	2040	0	1	0	13	0	200	214	52,952	2,513	753	8,189	64,621
	2050	0	2	0	14	0	219	235	57,799	2,735	770	8,212	69,751
	2060	0	2	0	15	0	238	255	63,020	2,975	792	8,246	75,288
	2070	0	2	0	17	0	259	278	68,614	3,232	814	8,280	81,218
	2080	0	2	0	18	0	283	303	74,953	3,523	839	8,314	87,932
NNE	2000	0	0	0	35	0	503	538	28,296	1,151	694	327	31,006
	2010	0	0	0	38	0	548	586	30,843	1,249	725	335	33,738
	2020	0	0	0	42	0	599	641	33,672	1,358	761	344	36,776
	2030	0	0	0	45	0	654	699	36,785	1,477	798	354	40,113
	2040	0	0	0	50	0	714	764	40,180	1,606	836	365	43,751
	2050	0	0	0	54	0	780	834	43,859	1,747	879	376	47,695
	2060	0	0	0	59	0	850	909	47,820	1,898	922	388	51,937
	2070	0	0	0	64	0	926	990	52,065	2,059	965	399	56,478
	2080	0	0	0	70	0	1,011	1,081	56,875	2,241	1,015	411	61,623
NE	2000	0	0	100	0	0	1,312	1,412	1,263	1,203	7,433	3,217	14,528
	2010	0	0	100	0	0	1,430	1,530	1,377	1,286	7,805	3,378	15,376
	2020	0	0	100	0	0	1,561	1,661	1,503	1,380	8,251	3,571	16,366
	2030	0	0	100	0	0	1,706	1,806	1,642	1,480	8,697	3,764	17,389
	2040	0	0	100	0	0	1,863	1,963	1,793	1,586	9,143	3,964	18,449
	2050	0	0	100	0	0	2,034	2,134	1,958	1,704	9,663	4,189	19,648
	2060	0	0	100	0	0	2,217	2,317	2,134	1,827	10,183	4,414	20,875
	2070	0	0	100	0	0	2,414	2,514	2,324	1,956	10,704	4,639	22,137
	2080	0	0	100	0	0	2,637	2,737	2,539	2,102	11,298	4,897	23,573

Table 2.5.1-1 (Sheet 2 of 6)
Current Populations and Projections, by Sector, to 2080

Radii/Distance (miles)

Sectors	Year	0–1	1–2	2–3[(a)]	3–4	4–5	5–10	0–10[(a)]	10–20	20–30	30–40	40–50	0–50[(a)]
ENE	2000	0	0	100	0	0	2,881	2,981	1,222	800	1,549	655	7,207
	2010	0	0	100	0	0	3,140	3,240	1,331	851	1,627	690	7,739
	2020	0	0	100	0	0	3,428	3,528	1,453	909	1,720	731	8,341
	2030	0	0	100	0	0	3,745	3,845	1,586	970	1,814	773	8,988
	2040	0	0	100	0	0	4,091	4,191	1,732	1,034	1,907	816	9,680
	2050	0	0	100	0	0	4,466	4,566	1,889	1,105	2,016	864	10,440
	2060	0	0	100	0	0	4,869	4,969	2,059	1,179	2,125	914	11,246
	2070	0	0	100	0	0	5,401	5,401	2,241	1,256	2,234	964	12,096
	2080	0	0	100	0	0	5,791	5,891	2,447	1,343	2,359	1021	13,061
E	2000	0	0	0	0	0	58	58	262	262	262	262	1,106
	2010	0	0	0	0	0	63	63	281	281	281	281	1,187
	2020	0	0	0	0	0	68	68	297	297	297	297	1,256
	2030	0	0	0	0	0	74	74	318	318	318	318	1,346
	2040	0	0	0	0	0	80	80	339	339	339	339	1,436
	2050	0	0	0	0	0	87	87	360	360	360	360	1,527
	2060	0	0	0	0	0	94	94	384	384	384	384	1,630
	2070	0	0	0	0	0	101	101	409	409	409	409	1,737
	2080	0	0	0	0	0	110	110	438	438	438	438	1,862
ESE	2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	360	626	1,108	0	2,094
	2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	385	670	1,186	0	2,241
	2020	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	407	707	1,252	0	2,366
	2030	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	436	757	1,341	0	2,534
	2040	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	464	808	1,429	0	2,701
	2050	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	493	858	1,518	0	2,869
	2060	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	526	914	1,618	0	3,058
	2070	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	558	970	1,717	0	3,245
	2080	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	598	1,039	1,839	0	3,476

Table 2.5.1-1 (Sheet 3 of 6)
Current Populations and Projections, by Sector, to 2080

Radii/Distance (miles)

Sectors	Year	0–1	1–2	2–3[a]	3–4	4–5	5–10	0–10[a]	10–20	20–30	30–40	40–50	0–50[a]
SE	2000	0	0	0	0	0	12	12	1,007	1,607	2	0	2,628
	2010	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	1,053	1,695	2	0	2,763
	2020	0	0	0	0	0	14	14	1,096	1,774	2	0	2,886
	2030	0	0	0	0	0	16	16	1,146	1,872	2	0	3,036
	2040	0	0	0	0	0	17	17	1,197	1,970	3	0	3,187
	2050	0	0	0	0	0	19	19	1,248	2,069	3	0	3,339
	2060	0	0	0	0	0	20	20	1,310	2,183	3	0	3,516
	2070	0	0	0	0	0	22	22	1,365	2,292	3	0	3,682
	2080	0	0	0	0	0	24	24	1,434	2,426	3	0	3,887
SSE	2000	0	0	0	0	55	104	159	43	17	0	0	219
	2010	0	0	0	0	60	111	171	44	18	0	0	233
	2020	0	0	0	0	65	118	183	46	19	0	0	248
	2030	0	0	0	0	72	126	198	47	19	0	0	264
	2040	0	0	0	0	78	134	212	48	20	0	0	280
	2050	0	0	0	0	85	143	228	49	21	0	0	298
	2060	0	0	0	0	93	153	246	51	22	0	0	319
	2070	0	0	0	0	101	164	265	52	23	0	0	340
	2080	0	0	0	0	111	176	287	54	24	0	0	365
S	2000	0	0	0	0	0	33	33	13	122	10,397	18,948	29,513
	2010	0	0	0	0	0	34	34	13	127	10,878	20,268	31,320
	2020	0	0	0	0	0	35	35	14	132	11,359	21,650	33,190
	2030	0	0	0	0	0	37	37	14	138	11,924	23,314	35,427
	2040	0	0	0	0	0	38	38	15	144	12,489	25,103	37,789
	2050	0	0	0	0	0	39	39	15	149	13,055	27,016	40,274
	2060	0	0	0	0	0	41	41	15	156	13,639	29,083	42,934
	2070	0	0	0	0	0	43	43	16	162	14,289	31,527	46,037
	2080	0	0	0	0	0	44	44	16	169	14,958	34,157	49,344

Table 2.5.1-1 (Sheet 4 of 6)
Current Populations and Projections, by Sector, to 2080

Radii/Distance (miles)

Sectors	Year	0–1	1–2	2–3[a]	3–4	4–5	5–10	0–10[a]	10–20	20–30	30–40	40–50	0–50[a]
SSW	2000	0	0	0	0	0	34	34	17	232	1,100	6,491	7,874
	2010	0	0	0	0	0	35	35	18	239	1,147	7,530	8,969
	2020	0	0	0	0	0	36	36	18	246	1,196	8,688	10,184
	2030	0	0	0	0	0	38	38	19	253	1,248	10,089	11,647
	2040	0	0	0	0	0	39	39	19	260	1,305	11,729	13,352
	2050	0	0	0	0	0	40	40	20	267	1,365	13,606	15,298
	2060	0	0	0	0	0	42	42	20	276	1,440	15,782	17,560
	2070	0	0	0	0	0	43	43	21	283	1,512	18,380	20,239
	2080	0	0	0	0	0	45	45	21	293	1,600	21,336	23,295
SW	2000	0	0	3	0	0	18	21	21	3,697	1,825	7,802	13,366
	2010	0	0	3	0	0	19	22	22	3,815	1,894	8,577	14,330
	2020	0	0	4	0	0	20	24	22	3,935	1,964	9,417	15,362
	2030	0	0	4	0	0	21	25	23	4,056	2,033	10,390	16,527
	2040	0	0	4	0	0	22	26	24	4,177	2,109	11,534	17,870
	2050	0	0	5	0	0	23	28	24	4,298	2,179	12,772	19,301
	2060	0	0	5	0	0	24	29	25	4,456	2,273	14,259	21,042
	2070	0	0	6	0	0	25	31	26	4,580	2,350	15,933	22,920
	2080	0	0	6	0	0	26	32	27	4,741	2,445	17,850	25,095
WSW	2000	0	0	0	0	31	58	89	14	161	108	27,560	27,932
	2010	0	0	0	0	34	62	96	14	166	113	28,938	29,327
	2020	0	0	0	0	37	67	104	15	173	118	30,316	30,726
	2030	0	0	0	0	40	72	112	16	179	124	31,694	32,125
	2040	0	0	0	0	44	77	121	16	184	130	33,348	33,799
	2050	0	0	0	0	48	82	130	17	191	135	34,726	35,199
	2060	0	0	0	0	52	88	140	17	197	142	36,655	37,151
	2070	0	0	0	0	57	95	152	18	204	148	38,308	38,830
	2080	0	0	0	0	62	102	164	18	212	155	40,238	40,787

Table 2.5.1-1 (Sheet 5 of 6)
Current Populations and Projections, by Sector, to 2080

Radii/Distance (miles)

Sectors	Year	0–1	1–2	2–3[(a)]	3–4	4–5	5–10	0–10[(a)]	10–20	20–30	30–40	40–50	0–50[(a)]
W	2000	0	0	0	33	0	13	46	241	2,609	493	1,649	5,038
	2010	0	0	0	36	0	14	50	248	2,687	508	1,717	5,210
	2020	0	0	0	39	0	15	54	258	2,792	528	1,789	5,421
	2030	0	0	0	43	0	16	59	268	2,896	548	1,860	5,631
	2040	0	0	0	47	0	18	65	275	2,974	563	1,942	5,819
	2050	0	0	0	51	0	19	70	284	3,079	583	2,013	6,029
	2060	0	0	0	56	0	21	77	294	3,183	603	2,107	6,264
	2070	0	0	0	61	0	22	83	304	3,287	623	2,188	6,485
	2080	0	0	0	66	0	24	90	316	3,418	648	2,285	6,757
WNW	2000	0	4	0	0	2	52	58	643	1,147	475	2,287	4,610
	2010	0	4	0	0	2	56	62	662	1,181	488	2,350	4,743
	2020	0	5	0	0	2	61	68	688	1,227	505	2,418	4,906
	2030	0	5	0	0	3	67	75	714	1,273	520	2,481	5,063
	2040	0	6	0	0	3	72	81	733	1,308	535	2,566	5,223
	2050	0	6	0	0	3	79	88	759	1,353	551	2,629	5,380
	2060	0	7	0	0	3	85	95	785	1,399	568	2,715	5,562
	2070	0	7	0	0	4	92	103	811	1,445	585	2,783	5,727
	2080	0	8	0	0	4	101	113	843	1,503	605	2,869	5,933
NW	2000	0	0	6	16	4	814	840	1,867	916	3,525	765	7,913
	2010	0	0	7	17	4	887	915	1,945	947	3,598	783	8,188
	2020	0	0	7	19	5	969	1,000	2,042	988	3,706	808	8,544
	2030	0	0	8	21	5	1,058	1,092	2,143	1,026	3,782	827	8,870
	2040	0	0	9	23	6	1,156	1,194	2,233	1,064	3,887	853	9,231
	2050	0	0	9	25	6	1,262	1,302	2,341	1,105	3,963	872	9,583
	2060	0	0	10	27	7	1,376	1,420	2,453	1,150	4,071	899	9,993
	2070	0	0	11	29	7	1,498	1,545	2,569	1,197	4,179	926	10,416
	2080	0	0	12	32	8	1,636	1,688	2,707	1,250	4,290	953	10,888

Table 2.5.1-1 (Sheet 6 of 6)
Current Populations and Projections, by Sector, to 2080

Radii/Distance (miles)

Sectors	Year	0–1	1–2	2–3[(a)]	3–4	4–5	5–10	0–10[(a)]	10–20	20–30	30–40	40–50	0–50[(a)]
NNW	2000	0	0	4	0	0	192	196	4,680	1,616	9,705	1,206	17,403
	2010	0	0	4	0	0	209	213	5,100	1,703	9,899	1,231	18,146
	2020	0	0	5	0	0	228	233	5,567	1,807	10,190	1,268	19,065
	2030	0	0	5	0	0	250	255	6,081	1,910	10,384	1,293	19,923
	2040	0	0	6	0	0	273	279	6,641	2,029	10,675	1,329	20,953
	2050	0	0	6	0	0	298	304	7,247	2,148	10,870	1,355	21,924
	2060	0	0	7	0	0	324	331	7,901	2,283	11,161	1,392	23,068
	2070	0	0	7	0	0	353	360	8,601	2,425	11,452	1,429	24,267
	2080	0	0	8	0	0	386	394	9,394	2,584	11,743	1,466	25,581
TOTAL	2000	0	5	213	93	92	6,225	6,628	77,239	33,257	39,870	82,417	239,411
	2010	0	5	214	101	100	6,775	7,195	83,982	35,230	41,393	87,537	255,337
	2020	0	6	216	111	109	7,387	7,829	91,473	37,150	43,140	93,004	272,596
	2030	0	6	217	121	120	8,063	8,527	99,715	39,442	44,880	99,107	291,671
	2040	0	7	219	133	131	8,794	9,284	108,661	41,751	46,760	106,182	312,638
	2050	0	8	220	144	142	9,590	10,104	118,362	44,148	48,607	113,346	334,567
	2060	0	9	222	157	155	10,442	10,985	128,814	46,817	50,666	121,867	359,149
	2070	0	9	224	171	169	11,358	11,931	139,994	49,491	52,769	131,066	385,251
	2080	0	10	226	186	185	12,396	13,003	152,680	52,699	55,075	141,445	414,902

(a) Transients in ring 2 to 3 miles for the NE sector (100 people) and the ENE sector (100 people) were not escalated over time because of the finite capacity of the development.

Table 2.5.1-2
Counties Completely or Partially within the 50-Mile Region

Aransas	Karnes[(a)]
Bee	Lavaca[(a)]
Calhoun	Matagorda[(a)]
Colorado[(a)]	Nueces[(a)]
DeWitt	Refugio
Goliad	San Patricio[(a)]
Gonzales[(a)]	Victoria
Jackson	Wharton[(a)]

Source: Figure 2.5.1-1

(a) Less than approximately 50% of this county falls within the 50-mile radius

Table 2.5.1-3
Larger[(a)] Municipalities in the 50-Mile Region

Municipality	County	2006 Population	2000 Population	Distance from Proposed Site (air-miles)	Direction
Victoria	Victoria	62,169	60,603	13.3	N
Port Lavaca	Calhoun	11,696	12,035	24.5	E
Cuero	DeWitt	6,632	6,571	36.6	NNW
Edna	Jackson	5,867	5,899	34.4	NE
Yoakum	DeWitt	5,677	5,731	47.2	N

Sources: USCB 2000a; USCB 2007a; and Figures 2.5.1-1 and 2.5.1-2

(a) Municipalities with populations greater than 5000

Table 2.5.1-4
Population Data, 1970 to 2040

Year	Calhoun		DeWitt		Goliad		Jackson	
	Population	Average Annual Percent Growth	Population	Average Annual Percent Growth	Population	Average Annual Percent Growth	Population	Average Annual Percent Growth
1970	17,831	N/A	18,660	N/A	4,869	N/A	12,975	N/A
1980	19,574	0.9%	18,903	0.1%	5,193	0.6%	13,352	0.3%
1990	19,053	–0.3%	18,840	0.0%	5,980	1.4%	13,039	–0.2%
2000	20,647	0.8%	20,013	0.6%	6,928	1.5%	14,391	1.0%
2010	22,684	0.9%	20,832	0.4%	7,416	0.7%	15,571	0.8%
2020	24,427	0.7%	21,538	0.3%	7,798	0.5%	16,745	0.7%
2030	25,732	0.5%	21,902	0.2%	7,963	0.2%	17,432	0.4%
2040	26,571	0.3%	21,987	0.0%	7,921	–0.1%	17,759	0.2%

Year	Refugio		Victoria		Region of Influence		Texas	
	Population	Average Annual Percent Growth	Population	Average Annual Percent Growth	Population	Average Annual Percent Growth	Population	Average Annual Percent Growth
1970	9,494	N/A	53,766	N/A	117,595	N/A	11,196,730	N/A
1980	9,289	–0.2%	68,807	2.5%	135,118	1.4%	14,229,191	2.4%
1990	7,976	–1.5%	74,361	0.8%	139,249	0.3%	16,986,510	1.8%
2000	7,828	–0.2%	84,088	1.2%	153,895	1.0%	20,851,820	2.1%
2010	8,365	0.7%	94,143	1.1%	169,011	0.9%	24,330,612	1.6%
2020	8,660	0.3%	104,236	1.0%	183,404	0.8%	28,005,788	1.4%
2030	8,793	0.2%	112,380	0.8%	194,202	0.6%	31,830,589	1.3%
2040	8,783	0.0%	119,276	0.6%	202,297	0.4%	35,761,201	1.2%

Sources: USCB 1995; USCB 2000g; TOSD 2006
N/A – Not applicable, base year.

Table 2.5.1-5
Age Distribution, 2000

Age Group	Calhoun		DeWitt		Goliad		Jackson	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	1,616	7.8	1,093	5.5	399	5.8	1,022	7.1
5 to 9 years	1,714	8.3	1,263	6.3	481	6.9	1,001	7
10 to 14 years	1,621	7.9	1,453	7.3	530	7.7	1,125	7.8
15 to 19 years	1,524	7.4	1,424	7.1	555	8	1,227	8.5
20 to 24 years	1,197	5.8	924	4.6	276	4	752	5.2
25 to 34 years	2,556	12.4	2,188	10.9	690	10	1,631	11.3
35 to 44 years	3,077	14.9	3,229	16.1	1,043	15.1	2,123	14.8
45 to 54 years	2,598	12.6	2,727	13.6	996	14.4	1,927	13.4
55 to 59 years	1,096	5.6	1,036	5.2	397	5.7	676	4.7
60 to 64 years	909	4.4	895	4.5	353	5.1	612	4.3
65 to 74 years	1,705	8.3	1,887	9.4	659	9.5	1,194	8.3
75 to 84 years	804	3.9	1,319	6.6	400	5.8	780	5.4
85 years and over	230	1.1	575	2.9	152	2.2	321	2.2
TOTAL	20,647	100	20,013	100	6,928	100	14,391	100
Median age (years)	35.3		40.1		40.2		37.3	

Age Group	Refugio		Victoria		Region of Influence		Texas	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	466	6	6,431	7.6	11,027	7.2	1,624,628	7.8
5 to 9 years	566	7.2	6,682	7.9	11,707	7.6	1,654,184	7.9
10 to 14 years	626	8	7,051	8.4	12,406	8.1	1,631,192	7.8
15 to 19 years	616	7.9	6,925	8.2	12,271	8.0	1,636,232	7.8
20 to 24 years	346	4.4	5,167	6.1	8,662	5.6	1,536,404	7.4
25 to 34 years	875	11.2	10,745	12.8	18,685	12.1	3,162,083	15.2
35 to 44 years	1,155	14.8	12,911	15.4	23,538	15.3	3,322,238	15.9
45 to 54 years	1,029	13.1	11,109	13.2	20,386	12.2	2,611,137	12.5
55 to 59 years	423	5.4	3,884	4.6	7,509	4.9	896,521	4.3
60 to 64 years	425	5.4	3,124	3.7	6,318	4.1	107,669	3.4
65 to 74 years	689	8.8	5,557	6.6	11,691	7.6	1,142,608	5.5
75 to 84 years	438	5.6	3,346	4	7,087	4.6	691,984	3.3
85 years and over	174	22	1,156	1.4	2,608	1.7	237,940	1.1
TOTAL	7,828	100	84,088	100	153,895	100	20,851,820	100
Median age (years)	38.6		34.2		N/A		32.3	

Source: USCB 2000g

Note: Age stratification data at this level of detail is not available in 2006 estimates. Therefore, the 2000 data is the most current.

Table 2.5.1-6
Worker Flows into the Eight-County Region, 2000

Number of workers residing outside of the eight-county region but traveling into the eight-county region for work	Workplace County
1,248	Aransas
1,216	Bee
1,503	Calhoun
1,369	DeWitt
109	Goliad
502	Jackson
261	Refugio
1,644	Victoria
7,852	Eight-County In-Migrating Worker Total

Source: USCB 2003b

Table 2.5.1-7
Hotel/Motel Data, 2007, First Quarter, Eight-County Region[a]

City/Town/Place	Rate (Dollars)	Number of Hotels	Room Nights Available (in thousands)[b]	Percent Occupancy
Aransas Pass	0–39.99	1	4.1	27.1
Beeville	0–39.99	2	5.9	53.3
	40–49.99	1	4.9	43.6
	50–59.99	1	5.4	79.6
	80–89.99	1	5.5	80.3
Cuero	0–39.99	2	5.4	39.0
	70–79.99	1	2.8	78.4
Edna	40–49.99	2	5.7	49.1
Fulton	60–69.99	2	7.0	50.2
	70–79.99	1	6.6	48.0
	80–89.99	1	4.0	54.8
Goliad	0–39.99	2	5.3	55.4
Port Aransas	110–120	1	4.1	76.4
Port Lavaca	0–39.99	2	7.5	39.2
	40–49.99	1	4.8	46.9
	50–59.99	2	13.6	48.8
	80–89.99	1	4.5	73.2
Port O'Connor	40–49.99	1	3.2	19.0
	60–69.99	2	4.7	48.2
	80–89.99	1	0.7	29.2
	90–99.99	1	4.5	10.2
Refugio	0–39.99	1	1.5	36.3
	40–49.99	1	4.0	38.9
	70–79.99	1	1.4	38.3
Rockport	0–39.99	3	7.7	32.8
	40–49.99	1	5.4	45.4
	50–59.99	3	9.9	33.7
	60–69.99	2	4.2	42.5
	70–79.99	3	20.1	41.5
	80–89.99	1	4.5	55.7
	100–110	2	8.1	38.0
	120–130	2	1.6	31.0
	130+	1	7.0	46.7
Seadrift	40–49.99	2	4.3	42.2
	60–69.99	1	1.1	27.5
	80–89.99	1	1.1	55.6
Victoria	0–39.99	7	41	51.5
	40–49.99	1	7.2	76.1
	50–59.99	1	9.0	51.3
	60–69.99	5	45.1	61.1
	80–89.99	1	5.8	76.3
	90–99.99	2	11.0	79.8
Yoakum	60–69.99	1	2.3	69.5
Eight-County Total		72	313.5	51.7

Source: TOG 2007

(a) Only properties with revenues exceeding $18,000 in the current quarter.
(b) Room Nights Available — the number of rooms in a hotel multiplied by the number of nights in the current quarter.

Table 2.5.1-8
Seasonal Housing Data 2000, Eight-County Region

County	Vacant Housing for Seasonal, Recreational, or Occasional Use
Aransas	2,461
Bee	215
Calhoun	1,751
DeWitt	318
Goliad	385
Jackson	228
Refugio	187
Victoria	261
8-County Total	5,806

Source: USCB 2000b

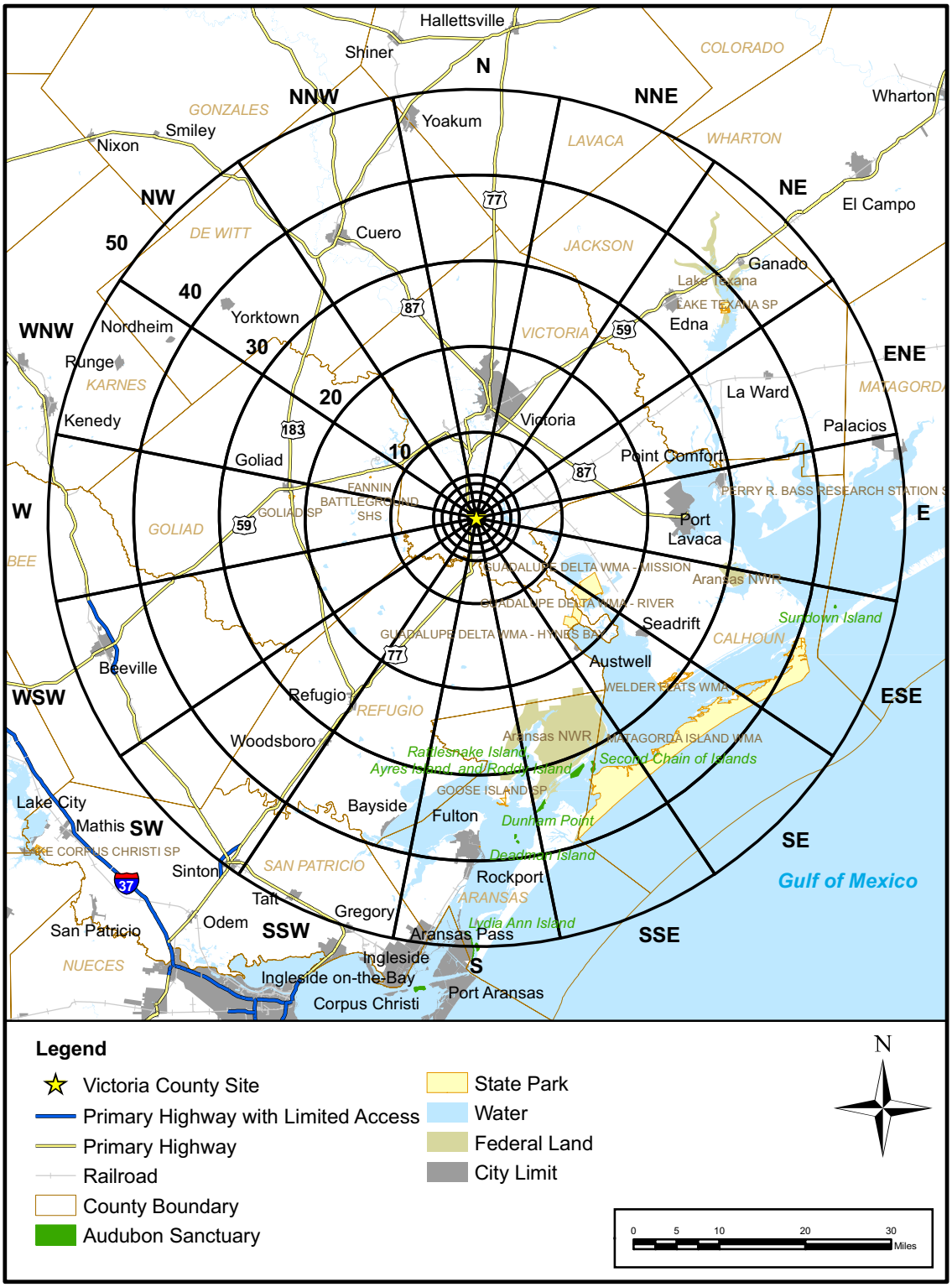

Figure 2.5.1-1 50-Mile Vicinity with Direction Sectors

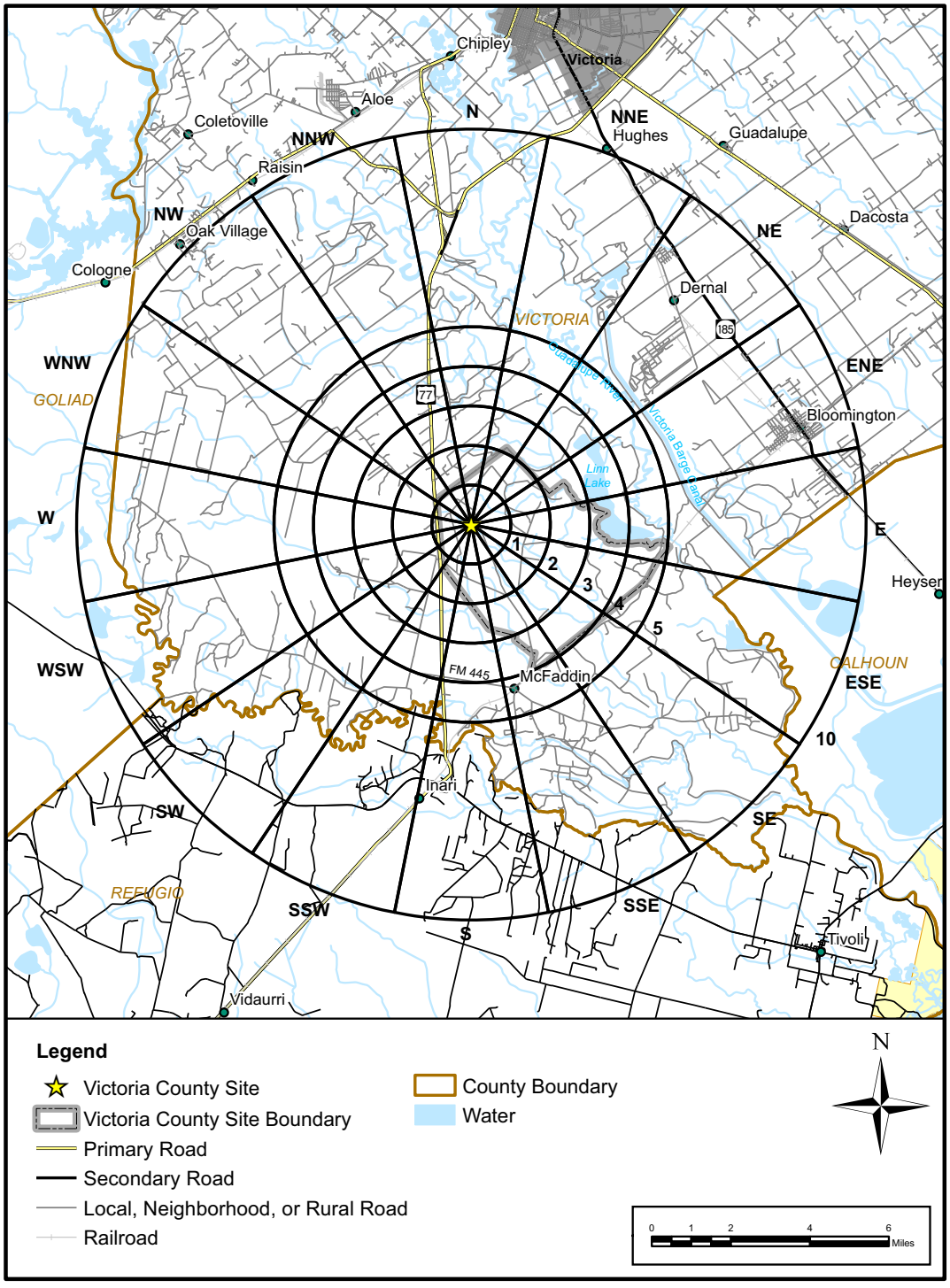

Figure 2.5.1-2 10-Mile Vicinity with Direction Sectors

The basic characteristics of this technique are the use of separate cohorts — persons with one or more common characteristics — and the separate projection of each of the major components of population change — fertility, mortality, and migration — for each of the cohorts. These projections of components for each cohort are then combined in a demographic equation as follows:

$$P_{t2} = P_{t1} + B_{t1-t2} - D_{t1-t2} + M_{t1-t2}$$

Where :

P_{t1} = the population projected at some future data $t_1 - t_2$
P_{t1} = the population at the base year t_1
B_{t1-t2} = the number of births that occur during the interval $t_1 - t_2$
D_{t1-t2} = the number of deaths that occur during the interval $t_1 - t_2$
M_{t1-t2} = the number of net migration that takes place during the interval $t_1 - t_2$

When several cohorts are used, P_{t2} may be seen as:

$$P_{t2} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} P_{ci,\,t2}$$

Where:

Pt2 is as in the equation above
Pci,t2 = population of a given cohort at time t2 and

$$P_{ci,t2} = P_{ci,\,t1} + B_{ci,\,t1-t2} - D_{ci,\,t1} + M_{ci,\,t1}$$

Where :

all terms are as noted above but are specific to given cohorts ci
In this, as in any other use of the cohort-component technique at least four major steps must be completed:

1. The selection of a baseline set of cohorts for the projections area or areas of interest for the baseline time period (usually the last census and for other dates for which detailed base data are available);
2. The determination of appropriate baseline migration, mortality, and fertility measures for each cohort for the baseline time period;
3. The determine of a method for projecting trends in fertility, mortality and migration rates over the projection period;
4. The selection of a computational procedure for applying the rates to the baseline cohorts to project the population for the projection period.

Source: TOSD 2006
Note: In performing their projection analyses, the State Demographer's Office provided projections based on four different scenarios, which produce four alternative sets of population values. These scenarios assume the same set of mortality and fertility assumptions in each scenario but differ in their assumptions relative to net migration. The net migration assumptions made for three scenarios are derived from 1990-2000 patterns which have been altered relative to expected future population trends. This is done by systematically and uniformly altering the adjusted (as noted above) 1990-2000 net migration rates by age, sex and race/ethnicity. The scenarios so produced are referred to as the zero migration (0.0) scenario, the one-half 1990-2000 (0.5) scenario, and the 1990-2000 (1.0) scenario. The fourth scenario uses 2000 to 2004 estimates of net migration with 2004 population values being taken from the Texas State Data Center age, sex, and race/ethnicity estimates.

Exelon selected the one-half 1990-2000 (0.5) scenario because it is the scenario recommended by the State Demographer's Office for long term planning. This scenario was prepared as an approximate average of the zero (0.0) and 1990-2000 (1.0) scenarios. It assumes rates of net migration one-half of those of the 1990s. The reason for including this scenario is that many counties in the State are unlikely to continue to experience the overall levels of relative extensive growth of the 1990s. This scenario suggests slower than 1990-2000, but steady, growth.

Figure 2.5.1-3 Population Projection Methodology

2.5.2 Community Characteristics

The VCS site is a greenfield site; therefore, Exelon cannot use the residential distributions of an existing nuclear plant workforce at that location as a surrogate for the residential distributions of the new plant workforce, as utilities have done when proposing new reactors on existing sites. Instead, to establish the most likely counties that would be affected by the new workforce, Exelon reviewed data from several governmental agencies, including the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB), the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), to develop a model and then arrive at a determination of which counties within 50 miles of the proposed site have strong economic linkages to the proposed project's host county, Victoria. Exelon analyzed regional socioeconomic data including, but not limited to, county populations, the location of population centers, location and sizes of overall and construction labor forces, and worker commuting patterns among counties surrounding the VCS site. Generally, counties are linked economically and share economic benefits if (1) there is a relationship between one county's labor force (size, availability, skill mix) and the use of that labor force in another county and (2) there are commuting routes of relative ease between the counties (particularly between the population centers). These factors were used to objectively determine the region of influence (ROI) analyzed in this document. Based on this analysis, Exelon has concluded that the proposed action has the potential to impact socioeconomic variables (employment, population, income, housing, infrastructure, and community services) in six counties (Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Refugio, and Victoria).

This subsection addresses the following community characteristics for the ROI: economy, taxes, transportation, land use, housing, community infrastructure and public services, and education. Subsection 2.5.2.5, Aesthetics and Recreation, contains data for the entire 50-mile radius around the site because most of the potential socioeconomic impacts to these resources should be experienced in that area. Subsection 2.5.2.8, Schools, contains data for colleges and universities within a 50-mile region for the same reason.

Throughout socioeconomics, data is presented for the most current year available. Depending on the source of the data, the most current year may vary.

2.5.2.1 Economy

The proposed VCS site is in Victoria County, near the central Texas Gulf Coast. In the ROI, Victoria, Goliad, and Calhoun Counties comprise the Victoria, Texas Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) (OMB Dec 2006). In addition, five of the six ROI counties (excluding Refugio County), along with Gonzales and Lavaca Counties to the north and east, comprise the seven-county Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC) (GCRPC Undated) and the Texas Workforce Commission's Golden Crescent Local Workforce Development Region (TWC 2007).

The ROI's principal economic centers include the six county seats: Port Lavaca (Calhoun County); Cuero (DeWitt County); Goliad (Goliad County); Edna (Jackson County); Refugio (Refugio County); and Victoria (Victoria County) (TWC 2007). Victoria is by far the largest city in the ROI; as of the 2000 Census, its population of 60,603 was more than double the combined population of the other five county seats (USCB 2000a).

The area within 10 miles of the proposed VCS site is generally rural farmland, primarily pastureland used for livestock ranching with some crop production. The ROI as a whole is also predominantly rural, with an economy based primarily on cattle ranching, crop production (rice, cotton, sorghum, and corn), oil and natural gas production, oil refining, petrochemical production, and commercial fishing (TSHA Jun 2001a; TSHA Jun 2001b; TSHA Jun 2001c; TSHA Jan 2006a; TSHA Jan 2006b; TSHA Jan 2008a; TWC 2007).

Table 2.5.2-1 details labor force, employment, and unemployment trends in the ROI, as reported by the BLS. In 2006, the ROI labor force totaled 78,157 people, representing less than 1.0 percent of the total Texas labor force (BLS 2007a). The ROI labor force increased at an average annual rate of 0.4 percent between 1996 and 2006, while the state's labor force grew at an average annual rate of 1.7 percent over the same period (BLS 2007a). As shown in Figure 2.5.2-1, the ROI labor force is concentrated in Victoria County, with 59 percent of the ROI total, followed by Calhoun and DeWitt Counties with 12 percent each (BLS 2007a). In 2006, 3391 people in the ROI were unemployed, a decline of 1.3 percent since 1996. The 2006 annual unemployment rate in the ROI was 4.3 percent, and the unemployment rate in its individual counties ranged from 4.1 percent to 4.9 percent, compared to 4.9 percent for Texas and 4.6 percent for the United States (BLS 2007a).

The BEA reports employment data by industrial sector (as defined by the North American Industrial Classification System [NAICS]) and other subcategories. The Service sector (which includes Information; Professional and Technical Services; Management of Companies and Enterprises; Administrative and Waste Services; Educational Services; Health Care and Social Assistance; Arts, Entertainment and Recreation; Accommodation and Food Services; and other services except Public Administration) is the largest source of employment in the ROI, accounting for 28.4 percent of jobs, compared to 39.6 percent for Texas. Local government provides 12.2 percent of jobs in the ROI, while the retail sector provides 11.4 percent. Manufacturing and construction each provide approximately 8 percent, and the finance, insurance, and real estate sectors together account for 6.5 percent. The rural nature of the ROI is reflected in the number of jobs in farm employment, 7.4 percent for the ROI compared to 2.2 percent for Texas (BEA 2008). Table 2.5.2-2 summarizes regional employment by industrial category and shows detailed industry sector employment by county, for the ROI, and for Texas. Figure 2.5.2-2 illustrates employment by industrial sector in the ROI as a whole.

Table 2.5.2-3 lists the ROI's major employers. The largest employers are concentrated in Victoria and Calhoun Counties, with one large plastics company located in Jackson County. The largest public employers tend to be the independent school districts (ISDs) (e.g., Victoria ISD has more than 2100 employees) and county governments. The largest private employers are in the chemical/plastics industry and the health care sector (CCEDC Undated; CDC Jul 2006; Victoria Undated b, Yoakum Undated a, TWC 2007, JCCC Oct 2007, VEDC 2007a). According to the Texas Workforce Commission, as of 2004, the ROI contained 1264 establishments with 10 or more employees. Less than 1 percent of these firms had more than 1000 employees, and 84 percent had fewer than 50 employees (TWC 2007).

In its Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, the BLS collects employment and wage data by NAICS industrial sectors. Table 2.5.2-4 presents data for 2001 through 2006 for workers in all industry sectors and in NAICS Sector 23, Construction; Sector 237, Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction; Sector 22, Utilities; and Sector 221113, Nuclear Electric Power Generation. As the table shows, the 2006 average annual wages for the total of all sectors and subsectors vary widely among the ROI counties, ranging from $26,506 in DeWitt County to $49,933 in Calhoun County. Generally, wages tend to rise as industry specialization increases. Average ROI wages in 2006 for Sector 23, Construction, ranged from $26,207 in DeWitt County to $51,233 in Goliad County. Wages for Sector 237, Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction, ranged from $33,150 in DeWitt County to $51,390 in Calhoun County, compared to $48,466 for Texas and $52,617 for the United States (BLS 2007b). Average annual wages in 2006 were not disclosed for Sector 237 in Goliad and Refugio Counties[1]. In the ROI, wages in this sector grew between 2001 and 2006 (not adjusted for inflation) and the growth rates also varied widely, ranging from 0.2 percent in DeWitt County to 6.8 percent in Victoria County, compared to 4.9 percent for Texas and 4.1 percent nationally (BLS 2007b; BLS 2007c). Figure 2.5.2-3 illustrates wage growth for Sector 237 in the ROI counties. Construction wages are discussed more fully in Subsection 4.4.2.

Table 2.5.2-4 also presents average annual wages in Sector 22, Utilities, for the ROI counties, although five of the six counties have wages that were not disclosed, along with Texas and the United States. In 2006 in this sector, Goliad County had the highest annual wages among the three ROI counties where wages were disclosed, at $70,386, followed by Victoria County with $62,337. The table shows only U.S. wages for Section 221113, Nuclear Electric Power Generation; wages for Texas were not disclosed, and this sector is currently not present in the ROI. Operations wages are discussed in more detail in Subsection 5.8.2.

1. County or other small area data may not be disclosed when data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards regarding confidentiality or data quality (BLS Dec 2006). For example, if there are few firms in an area, data users could determine or approximate a firm's total payroll, hours worked, and other information that a firm may not want known to its competitors.

BLS also collects occupational employment data by state and by selected MSAs. Occupational categories are determined by a worker's skills and job duties, regardless of the industrial sector in which the worker is employed. Table 2.5.2-5 shows 2006 employment in the Department of Labor category of Construction and Extraction Occupations was 5390 jobs for the Victoria MSA, representing 1 percent of Texas employment (513,910) for that category. In the Victoria MSA, employment in the Construction and Extraction Occupation category accounts for 11.2 percent of total employment in the MSA, while these occupations provide only 5.3 percent of total employment in Texas as a whole (BLS May 2006).

Texas is a "right-to-work" state; workers are not required to join labor unions as a condition of employment. Approximately 5 percent of the Texas workforce is unionized, with the greatest concentration of unionized workers in the governmental (public) sector (BLS Jan 2008).

Per capita personal income (PCI) provides a useful means of comparing income among regions. The BEA calculates PCI by dividing the total personal income in an area by the area population. The ROI counties have lower PCI values than those for Texas and the United States. In 2005, the ROI's PCI was $27,983, representing 81 percent of the national PCI ($34,471) and 86 percent of the Texas PCI ($32,460). Victoria County's PCI of $30,667 was the highest in the ROI, while Goliad County, with $23,353, was the lowest (BEA 2008). Incomes for the ROI, Texas, and the United States are shown in Table 2.5.2-6, which also presents the percent change between 1995 and 2005, both adjusted and unadjusted for inflation[2]. During that period, the PCI in the overall ROI increased by 13.8 percent when adjusted for inflation, while Texas PCI increased by 20.6 percent and that of the United States by 16.6 percent (BEA 2008; BLS 2007c).

2.5.2.2 Transportation

The 50-mile region surrounding the proposed VCS site is served by a transportation network of U.S. highways and state and county roads providing access to major north-south and east-west routes, rail terminals (cargo service only), 13 public airports (including one with commercial passenger service), and three navigable waterways.

2.5.2.2.1 Roads

Roads in the region consist of U.S. highways, state routes (SR), county roads, and county farm-to-market (FM) roads. Figure 2.5.2-4 shows the road and highway transportation system in the 50-mile region.

2. The BLS inflation calculator (BLS 2007c) was used to adjust 1995 dollars to 2005 dollars before calculating the percent change between the two years, in order to provide the "real" increase ("real" meaning that a value has been adjusted for inflation). The adjustment factor between 1995 and 2005 was 1.28 (i.e., the 1995 dollars were multiplied by 1.28 to adjust to 2005 values).

Most roads in Texas are owned and maintained by the counties, rather than by the state or municipalities. The state of Texas owns 79,648 miles of roadway (26.2 percent of the total), individual counties own 144,685 miles (47.6 percent), local governments own 78,848 miles (25.9 percent), other jurisdictional agencies own 159 miles (0.05 percent), and the federal government is responsible for 831 miles (0.3 percent) of roadways in federal parks, forests or reservations that are not part of the state and local highway systems (BTS 2005). Primary access to the proposed site would be via Highway 77.

In the ROI, there are four U.S. highways: Highway 59, which runs northeast-southwest connecting Jackson, Victoria, Goliad and Bee Counties; Highway 77 which runs north-south-southwest connecting Lavaca, Victoria, and Refugio Counties; Highway 87, which runs northwest-southeast connecting DeWitt, Victoria and Calhoun Counties; and Highway 183, which runs north-south connecting DeWitt, Goliad and Refugio Counties. A number of state routes intersect these U.S. highways and connect to the towns in the counties, providing outlying areas access to the U.S. highway system.

Most roadways in the region are secondary roads and feed from primary highways. The proposed VCS site is located in a rural area and most of the roads in the vicinity are paved, two-lane roadways. Table 2.5.2-7 presents road characteristics and traffic statistics, including average annual daily traffic counts, for the primary road segments that would be used by the construction and operations workforces to reach the site. Figure 2.5.2-5 identifies the road segments. Vehicle volumes on the roads, as measured by average annual daily traffic counts within a 24-hour period, reflect the rural character of the area. There are no Transportation Research Board Level of Service determinations for these roads (TXDOT Oct 2007).

Highway 77 would provide the only access to and from the proposed site for commuting workers and truck deliveries. Deliveries from the Houston metro area would likely use Highway 59 to reach Highway 77 south to the site entrance. Workers arriving from the north would likely take Highway 77 to the site entrance. Those arriving from the east would likely take SR 35 west to SR 239, then follow Highway 239 west to Highway 77 north. Workers arriving from the south would likely take Highway 77 north, or take SR 35 to SR 239 west to Highway 77. Workers arriving from the west would likely take Highway 59 east to Highway 77 south, SR 239 east to Highway 77 north, or SR 202 east to Highway 77 north. Potential commuting routes are shown in Figure 2.5.2-5.

Roads in Victoria County surrounding the proposed site do not traverse any parks, national forests, or other federally, state, or locally protected areas. The portion of SR 35 that connects Port Lavaca and the town of Tivoli in Calhoun County, approximately 14 miles southeast of the proposed site, serves as the northern boundary of the Guadalupe Delta Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and

provides access to the WMA's headquarters. The Guadalupe Delta WMA provides important habitat for wetland-dependent wildlife, especially waterfowl.

2.5.2.2.2 Railroads

Figure 2.5.2-4 shows the railroad lines within 50 miles of the VCS site. These railroad lines within this radius are owned and operated by Union Pacific; however, Tex-Mex/Kansas City Southern, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, and Port Comfort & Northern have track rights allowing them to operate on the Union Pacific rail lines (VEDC 2007b).

The Union Pacific railroad system runs east-west across Matagorda, Jackson, Victoria, and Refugio Counties, and north-south across DeWitt, Victoria, and Calhoun Counties (UP Undated). There is no passenger rail service within the 50-mile region. The nearest passenger rail (Amtrak) service is from Houston to San Antonio, north of the proposed site and outside of the 50-mile region (NRPC Undated).

2.5.2.2.3 Navigable Waterways and Ports

Figure 2.5.2-5 shows the navigable waterways within 50 miles of the proposed site. These are the San Antonio River, Guadalupe River, and Victoria Barge Canal. The site is not located on a waterway, but lies west of the Guadalupe River (approximately 4.1 miles), west-southwest of the Victoria Barge Canal (approximately 5.2 miles), and west-northwest of the San Antonio River (approximately 5.5 miles).

The 35-mile-long Victoria Barge Canal connects Victoria and Calhoun Counties to the San Antonio Bay, the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and nearby deepwater ports on the Gulf of Mexico. The Canal begins at its intersection with the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway near Seadrift in Calhoun County, and terminates at the Port of Victoria, south of the city of Victoria. The canal provides transportation of large equipment and products for the chemical, construction and steel fabrication, and agribusiness industries in the area. Constructed in 1968, the canal was expanded in 2002 to a width of 125 feet and a depth of 12 feet to match the dimensions of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and allow access to larger cargo loads (VEDC Undated). Because of its size limitations, the canal cannot accommodate ocean going ships; it primarily serves commercial barges and small boat traffic, because the clearance at the railroad bridge is approximately 73 feet.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Navigation Data Center tracks waterways and waterborne traffic in America's inland water system. In 2005, the Corps reported an average of 100 barge trips per week along the Victoria Barge Canal. The number of trips has declined since 2002 (USACE 2001; USACE 2002; USACE 2003; USACE 2004; USACE 2005). Table 2.5.2-8 shows the

number of inbound and outbound trips between 2001 and 2005. According to the Navigation Data Center, there are 11 docks along the Canal (USACE 2008a), as listed in Table 2.5.2-9.

The Port of Victoria is a shallow water port serviced by the Victoria Barge Canal, with a 400-acre turning basin area. The port serves as an intermodal point of cargo transfer to air, rail, and truck networks. The Port of Victoria Industrial Park, with varied industrial customers, surrounds the turning basin (VEDC Undated). The port's freight tonnage declined between 2000 and 2005, but rebounded in 2006, when the port was ranked 96th out of 150, among principal ports in the United States (USACE 2008a; USACE 2008b). Table 2.5.2-10 shows freight tonnage for the port between 1992 and 2006 and the port's rankings between 2002 and 2006.

2.5.2.2.4 Airports

Thirteen public airports are within or near the 50-mile region. Airport information is presented in Table 2.5.2-11, and Figure 2.5.2-6 shows the locations of the airports. Restricted or private-use airports, unused airstrips, and abandoned military runways are not included.

The only airport in the region offering commercial passenger service is Victoria Regional Airport, located in the city of Victoria. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) collects passenger boarding data for commercial airports. The FAA reported 9113 boardings at the Victoria Regional Airport for 2006, a decline of 41.7 percent since 2001. Table 2.5.2-12 presents the annual data for 2001 through 2006. According to the Victoria Regional Airport manager, the decline is due to reduced service from six commercial flights per day to two. The airport employs 20 workers. (VRA Mar 2008)

2.5.2.2.5 Evacuation Routes

The proposed site is approximately 36 miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico. Hurricane evacuation routes serving the area include Interstate 37; Highways 59, 77, 87, 181, and 183; and SRs 35, 239, 111, and 185. These routes cross the counties within 50 miles (TEP 2007; TDPS Jun 2002).

2.5.2.3 Taxes

Several tax revenue categories would be affected by the construction and operation of VCS. These include franchise taxes on corporate profits, sales and use taxes on construction- and operations-related purchases and purchases made by project-related workers; real property taxes related to the construction and operation of the plant; and real property taxes paid by incoming workers. The following subsections describe each type of tax and its application in the ROI counties, and discuss revenues and expenditures by category for local jurisdictions.

2.5.2.3.1 Personal Income and Corporate Franchise Taxes

Texas does not have a personal income tax (FTA JAN 2007). It does, however, have a corporate franchise tax.

According to the website for the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, the franchise tax is the state's primary business tax (GT Jun 2006). In 2007, the state of Texas received $3.1 billion (4.1 percent of its total net revenue of $77.2 billion) from franchise taxes (TCPA 2008a). The Texas franchise tax is imposed on each taxable entity that is chartered and/or organized in Texas or is "doing business in Texas" (TCPA 2008b). The Texas Legislature recently made significant revisions to the Texas franchise tax in House Bill 3 (passed during the 79th Third Called Session) and House Bill 3928 (passed during the 80th Regular Session), which extended the franchise tax to partnerships (general, limited, and limited liability), corporations, limited liability companies, business trusts, professional associations, business associations, joint ventures, and most other legal entities. The tax will be based on the taxable entity's margin (defined by the company's revenues and expenses in Texas). To determine the margin for each taxable entity, the least of three calculations will be used: (1) total revenue minus cost of goods sold, (2) total revenue minus compensation, or (3) 70 percent of total revenue. The tax rate is 1.0 percent for most taxable entities and 0.5 percent for entities engaged primarily in retail and wholesale trade. These revisions became effective January 1, 2008 (TCPA 2008b).

2.5.2.3.2 Sales and Use Taxes

Texas state sales and use tax is imposed on retail sales, leases and rentals of most goods, and some services. The state sales tax rate is 6.25 percent of the sale price of taxable goods and services (TCPA 2008c). Texas received $20.3 billion (26.3 percent of its revenue) from sales tax collections in 2007 (TCPA 2008a).

Regulations governing sales and use tax for Texas are found in the Texas Administrative Code, Title 34, Part 1, Chapter 3, Tax Administration: §295, taxation of natural gas and electricity; §306, taxation of mobile homes; §344, taxation of telecommunications; and §481, taxation of manufactured housing (other than mobile homes) (TAC 2007). The total sales and use tax (sales tax) imposed on most taxable goods and services consists of the state sales tax and, where applicable, a local sales tax (TCPA 2008c).

Collecting sellers remit state sales tax revenues directly to the state. While these funds are not returned directly to county or city governments for their use, the state uses sales tax and other revenues throughout the state to support a variety of services. In 2006, the state government spent a total of $71.5 billion for the 254 counties that comprise Texas. State expenditures in the ROI counties totaled approximately $470 million, accounting for less than 1.0 percent of the state total. Of the ROI

expenditures, 38.4 percent was for public assistance, while intergovernmental payments accounted for 27.4 percent (TCPA 2007). Table 2.5.2-13 summarizes the state's expenditures in the ROI, and Figure 2.5.2-7 illustrates the allocation of expenditures by category.

Local jurisdictions, including cities, counties, transit authorities, and some special purpose districts, may also impose a local sales tax. (A special purpose district is a voter-approved district governed by an elected board that provides infrastructure and public services such as water, health, community colleges, or economic development). According to the "Overview of Local Taxes in Texas," published by the Research Division of the Texas Legislative Council, the imposition of a local sales tax must be approved by the voters residing in the jurisdiction in which the sales tax is to be imposed. Local sales tax revenues may be used for a variety of purposes, including general funds, property tax relief, health care for the indigent, crime control, economic development, support of public libraries, emergency services, street maintenance, and support of public transit (TLC Nov 2002).

The sum of all local sales taxes may not exceed 2 percent anywhere in the state, and thus, the maximum allowable sales tax in Texas is 8.25 percent. Cities, counties, and special purpose districts each have the authority to levy a local sales tax of up to 2 percent, while transit authorities may levy a local sales tax of up to 1 percent. The state has the authority to govern taxation by local jurisdictions and to ensure that the sum of local sales taxes does not exceed the 2 percent cap (TLC Nov 2002).

Voters in about half of the counties in Texas have approved the levy of a county sales tax (up to 0.5 percent for counties with a city territory, and up to 1 percent for counties without a city territory) for property tax relief (TLC Nov 2002). In the ROI, Calhoun, Jackson, and Victoria Counties each levy a 0.5 percent sales tax (TCPA 2008d). Table 2.5.2-14 shows county and city sales tax rates in the ROI.

Cities in Texas may also impose additional sales tax, up to the maximum of 2 percent, for the following purposes:

- General fund (1 percent)
- Property tax reduction (up to 0.5 percent)
- Street maintenance (0.25 percent)
- Industrial and economic development (up to 0.5 percent)
- Sports and community venues (up to 0.5 percent) (TCPA 2008c)

As shown in Table 2.5.2-14, several cities in the ROI impose sales taxes ranging from 1 percent to 2 percent, with Cuero, Yoakum, Goliad (city), and Refugio (city) imposing the maximum tax of 2 percent. The city of Victoria, the largest retail center in the ROI, imposes a 1.5 percent sales tax.

Since Victoria County also imposes a 0.5 percent sales tax, shoppers in the city of Victoria pay the maximum of 8.25 percent (TCPA 2008d).

Some items are exempt from state sales tax but may be taxed locally. For example, natural gas and electricity for residential and agricultural use are exempt from state sales tax (TAC 2007). Although local jurisdictions have the authority to levy sales tax on these items (TLC Nov 2002), none of the cities in the ROI do so (TCPA 2008e).

All telecommunications (including cellular phone services) are subject to the state sales tax. Local jurisdictions may impose taxes for intrastate services only (calls between locations in Texas). Services are billed by the caller's residence or the call's place of origin, depending on billing arrangements (TAC 2007). In the ROI, the cities of Goliad, Edna, and Victoria currently impose the 2 percent sales tax on telecommunications services (TCPA 2008f).

2.5.2.3.3 **Other Sales and use-Related Taxes**

The state of Texas currently imposes a 6 percent hotel occupancy tax on rooms or space in a hotel with rates of at least $15 per day. Stays of 30 consecutive days or more are exempt from the tax (TLC Nov 2002). Texas received $341 million (0.4 percent of its revenue) from the hotel occupancy tax in 2007 (TCPA 2008a).

All cities, and some counties, are eligible to adopt a hotel occupancy tax on rooms with a rate of at least $2 per day. According to the "Overview of Local Taxes in Texas," hotel occupancy tax revenues must be used to directly promote tourism and the convention and hotel industry. Specifically, hotel tax revenues should be used for a convention center, tourism advertising and promotion, programs to enhance the arts, and historic preservation projects that promote tourism. These revenues may not be used for general revenue purposes or for activities not directly related to promoting tourism (TLC Nov 2002). The Texas Tax Code, §352.002, lists criteria under which a county may impose this tax. However, Provision (d) prohibits collection of the county hotel occupancy tax within municipalities (TTC 2007). The city of Victoria imposes a 7 percent sales tax on eligible hotel rooms in addition to the state's 6 percent hotel tax, for a total of 13 percent (VEDC 2007c).

Manufacturers of manufactured homes or industrialized housing who conduct business in Texas must apply for a permit to collect manufactured housing sales tax. This tax is imposed by the state at a current rate of 3.25 percent of the sales price. Additionally, manufactured homes purchased outside of Texas for use in the state are subject to a use tax imposed at the same rate of 3.25 percent. Manufactured homes purchased in Texas for use in another state are not subject to the tax (TAC 2007).

2.5.2.3.4 Property Taxes — Counties and Special Districts

According to the "Overview of Local Taxes in Texas," all privately owned real property in Texas is subject to property taxation by the county, city, special district(s) (such as junior college districts and groundwater districts), and school district(s) in which it is located, unless specifically exempted by the Texas constitution (TLC Nov 2002).

The "Overview of Local Taxes in Texas" notes that county appraisal districts determine the value of properties, and local taxing jurisdictions set the tax rates. Each county appraisal district sets property values and sends those values to the local taxing jurisdictions in that county. The governing body of each local jurisdiction sets its tax rates, which are applied to property values to generate the needed property tax revenues. Tax rates are stated as an amount per $100 of assessed value. The annual property tax levy in any jurisdiction is derived by multiplying the total taxable value divided by 100 in the jurisdiction by the total tax rate per $100 of value. The total tax rate may include a rate for day-to-day maintenance and operations (M&O rate) and a rate for debt service payments (often called the "I&S rate" or Interest and Sinking Fund rate). Some special districts with other revenue sources do not levy a maintenance and operations tax (TLC Nov 2002).

Texas counties collect real property taxes (sometimes referred to in Texas law as *ad valorem* taxes (TLC Nov 2002), based on assessed valuations, from the property owners within their boundaries. These taxes are used for county operations. As stated previously, the appraised value of a property, as determined by each county's appraisal district, is used to calculate property tax assessments for all taxing jurisdictions in the county. Generally, taxpayers make consolidated payments to the county tax assessor, who distributes the funds to the other taxing jurisdictions in the county.

As provided by the Texas constitution, each county may levy as many as three individual tax rates for funds dedicated to specific purposes. Those three funds include the General Fund, a Special Road and Bridge Fund, and Farm-to-Market Roads & Flood Control. All Texas counties impose a tax for the General Fund. In 2005, that levy totaled $4.6 billion statewide. For the 2005 tax year, 118 counties reported levying the Farm-to-Market Roads & Flood Control tax, raising $134.7 million, while 71 counties reported levying the Special Road and Bridge Fund tax, resulting in $63.2 million in revenue (TCPA Dec 2006). Victoria County collects property taxes for its General Fund and Special Road and Bridge Fund (VCTX 2007).

Texas tax rates are stated in dollars per $100 of assessed value.[3] The 2006 total county property tax rates for the counties in the ROI range from 0.3986 (Victoria County) to 0.7224 (DeWitt County) dollars per $100 of assessed value, and are shown in Table 2.5.2-15 (TAOC 2007a). Between 2000 and 2006, Victoria County annual property tax levies rose steadily, from $11.3 to $16.9 million (TAOC

3. For example, a tax rate of 0.3986 on a property with a taxable assessed value of $100,000 would yield a tax levy of $398.60 [0.3986 times (100,000 divided by 100)].

2007b), although the tax rate remained constant between 2003 and 2006 (TAOC 2007a). Table 2.5.2-16 shows the market value and taxable value of Victoria County property and the total property taxes collected by the county.

In addition to county property taxes, most private property owners in Texas pay property taxes to cities, local special districts such as junior college districts and groundwater districts, and school districts. Property taxes are a major source of tax revenue for counties, cities, special purpose districts, and school districts. Property owners within each district's boundaries pay taxes to the districts in addition to those taxes paid to the county, at the standard millage rates assigned by the taxing districts each year (TLC Nov 2002). Table 2.5.2-17 shows real property taxes for ROI cities, and Table 2.5.2-18 provides information on the special taxing districts in the ROI counties. The affected school districts are discussed in the following section.

The VCS site consists of nine separate parcels, listed in Table 2.5.2-19. The parcels lie within the boundaries of Victoria County, three additional special taxing districts, and two school districts (discussed in the following section). The proposed site is not within any city boundaries. Table 2.5.2-20 shows the total 2006 and 2007 property tax payments, by taxing entity, for the nine parcels comprising the VCS site.

According to the website for the Victoria Economic Development Corporation, the city of Victoria and Victoria County have established guidelines for the creation of reinvestment zones and granting tax abatements, for which manufacturing and other types of businesses are eligible to apply. Economic qualifications include an increase to appraised value of the property equal to or in excess of $500,000 and creation of a minimum of 10 full-time positions. Abatements can be granted for up to eight years (VEDC Undated).

2.5.2.3.5 Property Taxes — Independent School Districts

Property taxes are the sole local source of tax revenue for school districts in Texas (TLC Nov 2002). According to the Texas Education Agency, Texas uses a wealth equalization process to determine funding for each independent school district (ISD), which is generally summarized as follows. The state provides funds to ISDs according to district wealth, which is determined by the assessed valuation of property. After a county appraisal district sets a district's total assessed valuation, and it is validated by the State Property Tax Board, the district's total assessed valuation is divided by the total number of students (weighted average daily attendance) to determine its wealth per student. Each year, the Texas Legislature establishes a wealth benchmark to determine if a school district is to be designated as a "property-wealthy" or "property-poor" district, according to the guidelines of Texas Education Code Title 2 (Public Education), Chapter 41 or Chapter 42. Districts with a wealth per student value at or above the benchmark fall under Chapter 41 and are designated as "property-wealthy" school districts. Districts with a wealth per student value below the benchmark are

designated as "property-poor" school districts and are governed by the provisions of Chapter 42. The state's funding formula is applied to each district. The state requires Chapter 41 (Equalized Wealth Level) school districts to send a share of their local tax monies to the state as a part of the equalization of wealth stipulated by law. Chapter 42 (Foundation School Program) school districts receive funding from the state (TEA Oct 2007).

ISDs may only tax properties within their boundaries. Although Victoria County is home to several ISDs, eight of the nine parcels comprising the proposed VCS site lie in the Refugio ISD and one of the nine parcels is in the Victoria ISD (Table 2.5.2-19).

The Refugio ISD is a relatively small district with a 2007–2008 enrollment of 735 students (RISD Apr 2008). It is headquartered in the city of Refugio, and includes non-contiguous portions in Refugio and Victoria Counties. The Victoria County portion is bordered by the Victoria, Bloomington, Calhoun County, and Austwell-Tivoli ISDs (TEA Jul 2007) (Figure 2.5.2-16).

The Refugio ISD's property values between 2001 and 2007 are shown in Table 2.5.2-21. The substantial fluctuations during those years primarily reflect changes in oil and gas production, which makes up a large portion of the assessed value of property in the ISD (RISD Feb 2008). Figure 2.5.2-8 illustrates these fluctuations. As shown in Table 2.5.2-21, for 2007 the ISD's total assessed value of property was $480,471,469, which represented a very small decline (–0.6 percent) from the previous year (RISD Feb 2008). The predominance of the oil and gas industry is shown by the ISD's major taxpayers. The top five taxpayers in the Refugio County portion of the Refugio ISD were Hilcorp Energy Co., CDM Resource Management LTD, Acock/Anaqua Operating Co. LP, Kinder Morgan Tejas Pipeline, and Primrose Operating Company. In the Victoria County portion of the Refugio ISD, the top five taxpayers were Apache Corp., Future Petroleum Co., LLC, Union Pacific Railroad, Kinder Morgan Tejas Pipeline, and C K McCan, Jr. et al. (RISD Feb 2008).

The Refugio ISD was first designated a "property-wealthy" (Chapter 41) school district in the 2007-2008 school year, and was previously a "property-poor" (Chapter 42) district (RISD Feb 2008). Consequently, the ISD must now send part of its local tax collections to the state for redistribution to "property-poor" districts. District taxpayers submit their entire payments directly to the Refugio ISD, which then distributes the required portion to the state of Texas. For the 2007-2008 school year, the ISD's total revenues were $4,846,993, with only $320,707 (6.62 percent) in "excess" collections remitted to the state (RISD Feb 2008). Table 2.5.2-22 shows the Refugio ISD's revenues for 2001-2002 through 2007-2008 and the state submittal for 2007-2008.

As noted previously, the proposed VCS site consists of nine parcels, eight of which are taxed by the Refugio ISD and the ninth by the Victoria ISD. Table 2.5.2-23 shows the assessed value and tax payments to each ISD for 2006 and 2007. In 2006, the current owner's payments of $12,334 to the

Refugio ISD represented 0.19 percent of that ISD's total revenues. In 2007, the payment of $10,174 was 0.21 percent of the total.

2.5.2.3.6 Local Revenues and Expenditures

As noted previously, the proposed VCS would primarily affect Victoria County through county real property taxes. According to the Victoria Economic Development Corporation (VEDC 2007c), Victoria County had $1.7 million in retail sales in 2005 (compared to Calhoun County's $206,684 and Jackson County's $145,644), thus making Victoria County (especially its main population center, the city of Victoria) the predominant retail center in the ROI. Victoria County and the city of Victoria would thus be most affected by project and worker expenditures and consequent sales tax collections. For this reason, only Victoria County and the city of Victoria are discussed in this section.

Victoria County

In 2006, the Victoria County government had $28.9 million in total revenues. The county received two-thirds of its revenues from property (ad valorem) and sales taxes. Other large revenue sources were intergovernmental payments (15.3 percent), fees (6.5 percent), and fines and forfeitures (5.3 percent). Figure 2.5.2-9 illustrates the proportion from each revenue source. Table 2.5.2-24 provides revenue details.

The county's expenditures for 2006 totaled $26.3 million, as shown in Table 2.5.2-25. General government accounted for 54 percent of expenses. Public safety, accounting for 40.1 percent, included expenses for the fire marshal, sheriff, constables, and the Emergency Management City/County Interlocal Agreement. Culture and Recreation, which included parks and recreation, extension services, and the Victoria Public Library accounted for 4.9 percent. Figure 2.5.2-10 shows the expense breakout. Table 2.5.2-26 provides a recap of revenues and expenses, showing that the Victoria County government had a surplus of $2.6 million in 2006.

As noted previously, Victoria County imposes a sales tax of 0.5 percent on eligible goods and services. Table 2.5.2-27 shows that sales tax revenues for Victoria County increased every year between 1997 and 2007 except one (2002), with an annual average growth rate of 5.8 percent on non-inflation-adjusted values. To obtain an inflation-adjusted, annual, average growth rate, the revenues were converted to 2007 dollars[4], yielding an adjusted rate of 3.2 percent. Sales tax allocations were $7.2 million for the county in 2007 (TCPA 2008g).

4. Conversions were made from nominal dollars to 2007 dollars using the Bureau of Labor Statistics Inflation Calculator (BLS 2007c).

City of Victoria

For Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-2007, the Victoria municipal government budgeted $38 million in revenues (Table 2.5.2-28). Major revenue sources were taxes (62.7 percent) and franchise fees (12.2 percent) (Victoria 2007). Other sources accounted for the remaining revenues. Figure 2.5.2-11 illustrates the revenue sources.

Table 2.5.2-29 summarizes Victoria's FY 2006-2007 expenditures by category. Its expenditures were budgeted at $37.8 million, with more than one-half allocated to public safety (Victoria 2007). The next highest category of expenses (23.6 percent) was development, including planning, engineering, building and environmental inspections, code enforcement, street maintenance and operation, and traffic control. Recreation, including parks and recreation and library, accounted for 12.6 percent of expenditures (Victoria 2007). Figure 2.5.2-12 illustrates the expenditure proportions. Table 2.5.2-30 provides a recap of revenues and expenses, showing that the city of Victoria government had a surplus of $283,600 in FY 2006-2007.

Victoria imposes a sales tax of 1.5 percent on eligible goods and services. Table 2.5.2-31 presents Victoria sales tax revenues from 1997 to 2007. Like the County's revenues, Victoria's revenues increased every year (except 2002), with an annual average growth rate of 5.5 percent when not adjusted for inflation, and an inflation-adjusted average annual rate of 2.8 percent. Sales tax allocations were $19.6 million for the city in 2007 (TCPA 2008g). Figure 2.5.2-13 compares sales tax revenues (adjusted for inflation) for Victoria County and the city of Victoria for the past decade.

2.5.2.4 Land Use

The proposed site is in south-central Victoria County, approximately 13.3 miles south of the city of Victoria, 17 miles northwest of San Antonio Bay, 33 miles west of Matagorda Bay, and is adjacent to Linn Lake. The site is located adjacent to Highway 77 to the west. The Union Pacific Rail Line, used by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad, is just south of the site (Figure 2.5.2-4). The site consists of 11,532 acres of land. Section 2.2, Land Use, provides tables and maps displaying land use categories and breakdowns for the proposed site vicinity and the 50-mile radius.

The ROI counties, except Refugio, are part of the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC), along with Gonzales and Lavaca Counties. The GCRPC provides planning services for the region and provides assistance to local governments in carrying out regional plans and recommendations including those related to solid waste management, water issues, land use issues, and rural transportation. (GCRPC Undated)

Calhoun County

Calhoun County is on the Gulf Coast between Houston and Corpus Christi. In 2000, the county had a land area of 512.3 square miles (327,878 acres) (USCB 2008). Calhoun County is bordered by Victoria and Jackson Counties on the north, Matagorda Island and the Gulf of Mexico on the south, Refugio County on the west, and Matagorda County on the east. Port Lavaca is its largest city and the county seat. Calhoun County is located in the Coastal Prairie, and its elevation ranges from sea level to 50 feet above sea level, resulting in terrain that is flat. The county is drained by the Guadalupe River and Chocolate Bayou. Green Lake, one of the largest freshwater lakes in Texas at approximately 10,000 acres (TSHA Jan 2008b), is in Calhoun County.

Incorporated communities in Calhoun County include Point Comfort, Port Lavaca, and Seadrift. The county is served by the Union Pacific railroad, as well as by Highway 87 and SRs 35 and 185 (TSHA Jan 2006a).

In 2002, there were 328 farms and ranches covering 247,827 acres, of which, 59 percent were in pasture and 38 percent in crops (USDA 2002). Between 21 percent and 30 percent of the land was considered "prime farmland" (TSHA Jan 2006a). Within the boundaries of the county, land coverage and use is classified as being approximately 1 percent urban or built-up land, 18 percent agricultural land, 18 percent rangeland, 3 percent forest land, 51 percent water, 8 percent wetland, and 1 percent barren land. Matagorda Island State Park and Wildlife Management Area, Calhoun County's principal state park, covers 7325 acres (TSHA Jan 2006a).

The unincorporated portion of Calhoun County is not zoned but does have subdivision regulations "to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Calhoun County" (Calhoun County Dec 2007). Calhoun County has some commercial development and concentrations of residential development, primarily in Port Lavaca.

The county's main population center, Port Lavaca, is not zoned (Port Lavaca 2008). However, it does have a subdivision ordinance to guide "sound community growth" (Port Lavaca May 2007) within the city boundaries and the extraterritorial jurisdiction adjacent to the city (Port Lavaca May 2007).

DeWitt County

DeWitt County is on the Gulf Coast Plain in southeastern Texas about 45 miles inland from Copano Bay. It is bounded by Victoria, Goliad, Karnes, Gonzales, and Lavaca Counties. Cuero, the county's largest town, serves as the county seat (TSHA Jan 2006b). In 2000, the county had a land area of 909.2 square miles (581,875 acres) (USCB 2008). Most of the land is nearly level to sloping, with the areas of greatest elevation mostly in the northwest. The elevation ranges from about 150 feet above sea level in the east corner to more than 540 feet above sea level in the southwest. Most of the county is drained by the Guadalupe River and its tributaries. Small areas in the northern part of the

county are drained by the Lavaca River, and a small area in the southern portion is drained by the San Antonio River (TSHA Jan 2006b).

In 2002, there were 1786 farms and ranches covering 576,896 acres, of which 64 percent was in pasture and 29 percent in crops (USDA 2002). More than 336,700 barrels of oil and 16,322,000 cubic feet of gas-well gas were produced in the county in 2004 (TSHA Jan 2006b). Within the boundaries of the county, land coverage and use is classified as being approximately 1 percent urban or built-up land, 55 percent agricultural land, 8 percent rangeland, 36 percent forest land, less than 1 percent water, less than 1 percent wetland, and 1 percent barren land. The principal towns in the county are Cuero, Yoakum, and Yorktown (TSHA Jan 2006b).

The unincorporated portion of DeWitt County is not zoned and has no county-wide land use plans. There are only small areas of commercial development and concentrations of residential development in the county.

The county's main population center, Cuero, has adopted land use regulations in Title XV of its City of Cuero, Texas Code of Ordinances (Cuero May 2005). The land use regulations include subdivision regulations (Chapter 154) and zoning (Chapter 158). The purpose of the subdivision regulations is to, "(p)romote and develop the utilization of the land in a manner to assure the best possible community environment" (Cuero May 2005).

Goliad County

Goliad County is on the Coastal Plain 25 miles inland from Copano Bay in southeast Texas. It is bounded by Bee, DeWitt, Karnes, Refugio, and Victoria Counties. Goliad is the county seat and largest town (TSHA Jun 2001a). In 2000, the county had a land area of 853.5 square miles (546,253 acres) (USCB 2008), most of which is nearly level to gently rolling. The elevation ranges from 100 to 250 feet above sea level. The northeastern half of the county is drained primarily by the San Antonio River and its tributaries. Coleto Creek Reservoir is an industrial reservoir on the Goliad-Victoria county line (TSHA Jun 2001a).

In 2002, there were 984 farms and ranches covering 506,019 acres, of which 70 percent was in pasture and 22 percent in crops (USDA 2002). Oil and gas production and agriculture represent much of the county's land use. Within the boundaries of the county, land coverage and use is classified as being approximately 1 percent urban or built-up land, 26 percent agricultural land, 24 percent rangeland, 49 percent forest land, less than 1 percent water, less than 1 percent wetland, and less than 1 percent barren land. The county is served by a variety of paved farm and ranch roads and by three major highways: Highway 59 to Houston and Laredo, Highway 183 to Austin, and SR 239, which joins Highway 181 to San Antonio (TSHA Jun 2001a).

Despite the increasing urbanization of surrounding counties, Goliad County has remained rural. The unincorporated portion of Goliad County is not zoned but does have subdivision regulations. The subdivision regulations were "established for the orderly growth of Goliad County" (Goliad County May 2005). There are only small areas of commercial development and concentrations of residential development in the county.

The city of Goliad, the county's main population center, is located at the head of the navigable portion of the San Antonio River. Goliad is the only incorporated community in the county (TSHA Jun 2001a) and is zoned (Goliad 2004).

Jackson County

Jackson County is southwest of Houston on Highway 59, in the Coastal Prairies region of the Coastal Plain. It is bordered by both Lavaca Bay and Carancahua Bay. It is bounded by Calhoun, Victoria, Lavaca, Colorado, Wharton, and Matagorda Counties. Edna, the county's largest town, is the county seat. Elevation ranges from sea level to 150 feet above sea level (TSHA Jun 2001b). In 2000, the county had a land area of 829.5 square miles (530,874 acres) (USCB 2008).

In the early 1990s, 90 percent of the county was used for farming and ranching (TSHA Jun 2001b). In 2002, there were 917 farms and ranches covering 470,500 acres (USDA 2002). Between 41 percent and 50 percent of Jackson County land is deemed "prime farmland" (TSHA Jun 2001b) Within the boundaries of the county, land coverage and use is classified as being approximately 3 percent urban or built-up land, 63 percent agricultural land, 9 percent rangeland, 23 percent forestland, 2 percent water, 2 percent wetland, and less than 1 percent barren land.

The unincorporated portion of Jackson County is not zoned. However, it is guided by subdivision regulations (Jackson County Mar 2008). There are only small areas of commercial development and concentrations of residential development in the county.

The county population center, Edna, adopted a land use management ordinance (Ordinance 2004-24), that is "in accordance with a comprehensive plan for the purpose of promoting the health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the city; …to prevent the overcrowding of land, to provide undue concentration of population" (Edna Jan 2005). *The Comprehensive Plan for the City of Edna Jackson County, Texas* is applicable to the area within the city limits and the area of extraterritorial jurisdiction, or 1 mile beyond the city limits. The Plan provides for "adequate space and efficient, convenient arrangement of all types of community land uses, which should include residential, commercial, industrial, transportation, educational, civic, and cultural uses while at the same time following a harmonious plan of preserving the open space for drainage and recreation" (Edna May 1972).

Refugio County

Refugio County is on the lower Texas Gulf Coast in the Coastal Prairies region of the Coastal Plain, bounded on the south by San Patricio County, on the west by Bee and Goliad counties, on the north by Victoria and Calhoun Counties, and on the east by Aransas County and by Hynes Bay and Copano Bay (TSHA Jun 2001c). The county had 770.2 square miles of land area in 2000 (492,934 acres) (USCB 2008). The town of Refugio, the county's seat of government and its largest population center, is 35 miles north of Corpus Christi. The county is generally flat land. Elevations range from sea level to 100 feet above sea level in the northwest section. The county is drained by the Aransas River, which forms its southern border, and by the converging Guadalupe and San Antonio Rivers, which form its northern boundary. Refugio County is joined to the rest of Texas by Highway 77, which runs southwesterly across the western part of the county, and by SR 35, which runs north to south across the eastern section. (TSHA Jun 2001c).

Since the early 1990s, agriculture has been the leading source of income. In 2002, there were 274 farms and ranches covering 505,954 acres, of which 75 percent was in pasture and 21 percent in crops (USDA 2002). Within the boundaries of the county, land coverage and use is classified as being approximately 5 percent urban or built-up land, 21 percent agricultural land, 45 percent rangeland, 19 percent forestland, 6 percent water, 5 percent wetland, and less than 1 percent barren land.

There is currently no formal land use planning or zoning at the county, city, or town level in Refugio County. There are only small areas of commercial development and concentrations of residential development in the county. Refugio County's main population center is Refugio.

Victoria County

Victoria County is in southeastern Texas on the Coastal Plain, midway on the Texas Gulf Coast. Victoria, the county's largest city, is the county seat. Victoria is approximately 120 miles from Houston, 100 miles from San Antonio, 110 miles from Austin, and 75 miles from Corpus Christi (TSHA Jan 2008a). In 2000, Victoria County was comprised of 882.5 square miles of land area (564,800 acres) (USCB 2008). The county has a nearly level to gently rolling terrain. The elevation ranges from sea level in the southeast to 300 feet above sea level near Mission Valley in the northwest. The northeastern section of the county drains into Lavaca Bay, and the southwestern area is drained by the Guadalupe and San Antonio River systems (TSHA Jan 2008a). The Guadalupe River is important because of its navigability to Kemper's Bluff and Victoria, a distance of about 78 miles from the river's mouth (TSHA Jan 2008a).

In 2002, there were 1286 farms and ranches covering 513,828 acres, of which 64 percent was in pasture and 32 percent in crops (USDA 2002). Within the boundaries of the county, land use and

coverage is classified as being approximately 5 percent urban or built-up land, 39 percent agricultural land, 28 percent rangeland, 25 percent forestland, less than 1 percent water, 2 percent wetland, and 1 percent barren land.

The unincorporated portion of Victoria County is not zoned. The city of Victoria has a comprehensive land use plan, *Victoria 2020: Remembering the Past, Preparing for the Future* (Victoria Nov 2001). The Plan provides the basis for Victoria's subdivision regulations and other development-related regulations. The stated purpose of the Plan's development guidelines is, "to maintain and stabilize the value of property, to reduce fire hazards, improve public safety, and safeguard the public health; to decrease traffic congestion and its accompanying hazards; to prevent the concentration of population; and to create a comprehensive and stable pattern of land uses upon which to plan for transportation, water supply, sewerage, schools, parks, public utilities, and other facilities" (Victoria Nov 2001). The purpose of the subdivision and development ordinance is, "to insure the development and maintenance of a healthy, attractive and efficient community that provides for the conservation and protection of its human and natural resources. It is the purpose of this ordinance to implement the goals, objectives and policies of the city comprehensive planning process to promote orderly growth and development" (Victoria Jul 2007). The Plan was commissioned "to help position the community for the future while maintaining Victoria's unique quality of life and environment." The Plan was designed, "permitting flexibility for new developments, allowing market forces to be the primary driving force that determines future land uses. The city of Victoria has historically taken a conservative approach to planning and land use management. It remains the second largest city in the State of Texas that does not utilize zoning laws" (Victoria Nov 2001). Constraints on the city's growth, including residential development, include the large floodplain along the Guadalupe River, railroad lines, as well as scattered oil and natural gas fields (Victoria Nov 2001). Victoria County has a well recognized commercial district, as well as a more sprawling commercial creep and concentrations of residential development.

2.5.2.5 **Aesthetics and Recreation**

This subsection characterizes the aesthetics and recreational facilities and opportunities in the 50-mile region.

2.5.2.5.1 **Aesthetics**

Victoria County is in the coastal plain ecosystem of east Texas. The county is primarily surfaced with dark clay loams and clays that support bluestems and tall grasses, oak forest, huisache, mesquite, prickly pear, and other vegetation (TSHA Jan 2008a).

The topography of the proposed site is fairly flat with the elevation ranging from 12 feet to 85 feet above MSL. The area in which the plant facilities would be constructed is currently at an elevation of

approximately 80 feet. The proposed site is currently used for rangeland for cattle and horses on the surface. There is also limited oil and gas production in the subsurface of the proposed site. The major land uses within a 6-mile radius are rangeland and forest land. Within the 50-mile region, the major land uses are agricultural, forest land, rangeland, and water.

No sensitive visual resources, such as residential subdivisions or public lands, have been identified in the proposed VCS area or in the vicinity of the proposed site. Highway 77 provides the best opportunity for the public to view the site. Since the topography surrounding the site is relatively flat and sparsely populated with trees, there is little to no screen for the proposed facilities from area roadways.

2.5.2.5.2 Recreation

There are federal, state, local, and private recreational facilities and opportunities within 50 miles of the proposed site. Table 2.5.2-32 lists locations, acreages, and other information for the wildlife management areas (WMAs), national wildlife refuges (NWRs), and state parks within the 50-mile region. Table 2.5.2-33 lists county and city parks within the 50-mile region. Figure 2.5.2-14 shows the WMAs, NWRs, state parks, and Audubon sanctuaries within 50 miles of the site.

Federal and State Facilities and Opportunities

Of the 172 million acres in Texas, 5.7 percent (approximately 9,872,800 acres) are public lands; approximately 2.5 percent of the 172 million acres are in parks, forests, and refuges, and 0.6 percent of the public lands are managed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. In addition, 9.1 percent of the private land in Texas is under wildlife management (TPWD 2001). Most of these lands are available for recreational use.

The Matagorda Island WMA, an offshore barrier island and bayside marsh, is jointly owned by the Texas General Land Office and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (TPWD Feb 2007a).

The Guadalupe Delta WMA, spread across Victoria, Refugio, and Calhoun Counties, approximately 14 miles southeast of the proposed site, consists of freshwater marshes in the delta of the Guadalupe River. Lands in the Guadalupe Delta WMA have traditionally provided habitat for wetland-dependent wildlife, especially migratory waterfowl. Public hunting is permitted for waterfowl and migratory shore birds, alligators, and other wetland wildlife. Other uses include birding and nature observation. (TPWD Feb 2007b)

The Welder Flats WMA is south of Seadrift in Calhoun County, approximately 29 miles from the proposed VCS site. It has 1480 acres of submerged coastal wetlands that are used to stock the San Antonio Bay with red drum and spotted sea trout. Public use is allowed with permission. (TPWD Feb 2007c)

The Aransas NWR is near Rockport in Aransas and Calhoun Counties, and its Lamar unit is approximately 22 miles from the proposed site. The Aransas NWR consists of approximately 115,000 acres and provides resting, feeding, wintering, and nesting grounds for migratory birds and native Texas wildlife. The refuge is known for hosting the largest wild flock of endangered whooping cranes each winter. (USFWS 2008)

Goliad State Park serves as a hub for visiting Mission Espiritu Santo State Historic Site (in the park), Presidio La Bahia, Ignacio Zaragoza Birthplace State Historic Site, Fannin Battleground State Historic Site, Goliad Historic District, and Mission Rosario State Historic Site (TPWD Feb 2007d). Other nearby state parks are Lake Texana State Park in Jackson County, approximately 37 miles from the proposed site, and Goose Island State Park in Aransas County, approximately 32 miles from the proposed site. Lake Texana State Park provides a swimming area, boating, fishing piers, birding, and canoeing (TPWD Jan 2008). The "Big Tree," a Coastal Live Oak (Quercus virginiana) in Goose Island State Park, is thought to be one of the largest trees in the nation. Estimated to be over 1000 years old, the "Big Tree" trunk has a circumference of 35 feet (TPWD Oct 2007).

Table 2.5.2-32 presents acreage, location, annual visitor, and capacity information about WMAs, NWRs, and state parks within 50 miles of VCS.

The Texas Independence Trail follows SR 35 from east of Palacios to west of Port Lavaca and passes within 9 miles of the VCS site. Two points of interest along the trail are in Palacios and near Port Lavaca. A half-scale, seaworthy replica of French explorer La Salle's ship, the Belle, is being constructed at the Port of Palacios. South of Port Lavaca, in Indianola, there is a 25-foot granite statue of La Salle (THC Undated).

Birding is a major recreational activity in the region. The Coastal Birding Trail is a 500-mile trail that stretches along the Texas Gulf Coast from north of Beaumont to the Rio Grande Valley. The trail establishes viewing areas at feeding, roosting, and nesting points for both migrating and endemic bird species. Established in October 1994, the Central Texas Coast section of the trail encompasses 95 of the 308 distinct wildlife viewing sites. Approximately 40 wildlife viewing sites are located within 50 miles of the proposed site (TPWD Feb 2007e).

Recreational fishing, sailing, and boating opportunities are available on area bays and rivers, such as the Matagorda and San Antonio Bays and the Guadalupe and San Antonio Rivers. These bodies of water offer fishing for redfish, shark, trout, flounder, pompano, gafftop, whiting, croaker, sheephead, drum, jack crevalle, Spanish mackerel, and tarpon (USACE May 2007).

County and City Facilities and Opportunities

The counties and cities in the 50-mile region provide numerous public recreational facilities.

Sixteen counties—Aransas, Bee, Calhoun, Colorado, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Karnes, Lavaca, Matagorda, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Victoria, and Wharton Counties—are wholly or partially within the 50-mile region. Six of these, Colorado, Gonzales, Karnes, Lavaca, Nueces, and Wharton Counties, do not have any recreational facilities located within 50 miles of VCS. Table 2.5.2-33 lists the county and city parks within or near the 50-mile region, their locations, and acreages.

Aransas County offers several city parks, a public beach, fishing piers, birding, a community aquatic and skate park, hiking and biking trails, and a freshwater pond. Events held in Aransas Pass include the annual Shrimporee and a lighted boat parade during December (APCC Undated).

Bee County contains nine recreational parks in or near Beeville. These parks include a pool, basketball courts, baseball fields, soccer/football fields, merry-go-rounds, tennis courts, a bowling alley, and nature trails. The county is geographically located in three biological zones, which provide a variety of habitats for bird species. In Beeville County, dove and quail hunting is popular. Events held in Beeville include an annual Chamber of Commerce parade, Western Week Celebration, Junior Livestock Show and Rodeo, and the Diez y Seiz Festival (City of Beeville Mar 2008, CBT Jun 2008).

Calhoun County has a number of public park facilities. Lighthouse Beach and Bird Sanctuary in Port Lavaca offers an elevated walkway stretching over coastal wetlands and a tidal exchange basin. In Port Lavaca, recreational offerings include the Pier Park, a campground, a boardwalk, and a boat ramp. Beyond the Port Lavaca area, the towns of Port O'Connor, Magnolia Beach, and Indianola also offer recreational opportunities, such as the Port O'Connor Kingfisher Beach and Park (PLCCCC Undated). Events in Port Lavaca include a St. Patrick's Day Fun Run/Walk, Seafood Market Days Annual Palm Sunday Barbeque, and the Annual Festival of Lights Night Parade (PLCC Undated). In the town of Seadrift, the only city on San Antonio Bay, events include a Halloween Parade and Shrimpfest (SCC Undated).

DeWitt County is considered the "Wildflower Capital of Texas" (Yorktown Undated). In the county are several parks, including those in Cuero and Yoakum. Cuero Municipal Park offers an 8.5-acre lake with a lighted fishing pier, a walking trail, ball fields, a rodeo arena, and a swimming pool. There is also a 9-hole golf course and an amphitheater (Cuero Mar 2008). Events in Cuero include an annual Turkeyfest, the Texas River Marathon (a canoe race), and a youth rodeo (CCCA Undated). Yoakum opportunities include the Land of Leather days and Chili Cook-off plus the Tom-Tom Festival, a festival based on the tomato heritage of Yoakum (YACC Undated). The city of Yorktown has the Annual Yorktown Western Days Festival (Yorktown Undated).

Goliad County offers several recreational facilities such as parks, area lakes, public golf courses, and tennis courts. Annual events include the Goliad Market Days, a county fair and rodeo with a parade, a bike ride, and the Hunter's Ball (Goliad Undated).

Jackson County has five public parks. One of them, Brackenridge Plantation Park and Campground, is situated on Lake Texana. It provides fishing, camping, hiking trails, bike trails, birding, an equestrian trail, a nature trail, and a day-use area (BPPC Undated). Brackenridge Plantation Park and Campground is located near Edna, approximately 37 miles from the site. Annual recreational events in the county include the Texana Chili Spill, Go Texas Barbecue, and Christmas in the Outback (JCCCA Undated).

Matagorda County provides several public park facilities within the 50-mile region, all located in Palacios. The city offers playgrounds and shelters available for rent. The port of Palacios also provides boating and fishing opportunities (Palacios Undated). The city of Palacios has events including the Valentine Parade and Ball, Shrimp-o-ree Festival, and the Texas Fishermen's Seafood Festival (PCC Undated).

Refugio County operates two parks. Lions/Shelly Park is situated on the Mission River and has a playground, covered pavilion, picnic tables, nature trails, and a fishing pier. This park is also one of the stations on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail. Refugio RV Park is located just two blocks west of Highway 77 at the south end of the city of Refugio (RCCCEDF Undated a). Refugio County annual events include the Refugio County Fair (CF Undated).

In San Patricio County, there are two municipalities located within or just outside of the 50-mile region: Sinton and Ingleside. Sinton provides a butterfly garden, Welder Park, Grace Coin Park, a wildlife foundation, and golf tournaments. Ingleside provides a skate park, eco-nature tours, birding, cycling, hiking, swimming and water sports, fishing, disc golf, and basketball courts (TCB Undated). Events in Sinton and Ingleside include an Annual Golf Tournament, Annual "Cruise Your Ride to Ingleside" Fly-in/Car Show, Roundup Days Festival and Parade, and the Enchanted Forest Renaissance Faire (ICC Undated; SICC Undated).

Victoria County has 15 recreational facilities, all in the city of Victoria. The parks are owned and maintained by the city of Victoria. The parks include ball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, a swimming pool, a zoo, and a fishing pond. The city of Victoria provides annual events such as Market Days, Holiday Lighted Parade, and Christmas in the Park. (Victoria Undated a)

The closest county or city recreational facility to the proposed site is Martin L. King, Jr. Park, in Victoria County, approximately 11 miles away. (Victoria May 2008).

The Texas Water Safari is a canoe race on the Guadalupe River from Gonzales to the mouth of the river at San Antonio Bay. Approximately 115 teams enter the race each year and the event attracts thousands of spectators (TWS 2008). The location of the Guadalupe River relative to the VCS site is shown in Figure 2.1-1.

There is a privately owned approximately 2200-acre hunting facility between the VCS site and the Guadalupe River.

2.5.2.6 Housing

2.5.2.6.1 Permanent Housing

In the ROI, residential areas are found in cities, towns, and smaller communities. Most of the housing is concentrated in Victoria County, particularly in and around the city of Victoria. Victoria County has the largest housing stock.

Table 2.5.2-34 provides the number of housing units and housing unit vacancies for Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Refugio, and Victoria Counties. In 2006, there were 68,083 housing units in the ROI (USCB 2008), an increase of 3.8 percent (2504 units) from 2000 (USCB 2000b). Approximately 50 percent of the units were in Victoria County and 16 percent in Calhoun County. The majority of all housing in the ROI (52.3 percent) has been built since 1970. Victoria County has the greatest percentage of housing stock built since 1970 at 58.4 percent. Refugio County has the smallest percentage of housing inventory built since 1970 at 36.3 percent (USCB 2000c). Of the 65,579 total units in the ROI in 2000, 15 percent were vacant (9894 units). Vacancy rates for homeowners varied from 1.6 percent in Victoria County to 3.1 percent in Refugio County. Vacancy rates among rental units were substantially higher. They ranged from 6.5 percent in Refugio and DeWitt Counties to 16.0 percent in Calhoun County (USCB 2000b).

Of the 32,945 housing units in Victoria County in 2000, 3431 were mobile homes (approximately 10.4 percent of the total units). Of the other ROI counties, Calhoun had 10,238 units, of which 1640 were mobile homes (16.0 percent of the county's housing units); DeWitt had 8756 housing units, of which 1345 were mobile homes (15.4 percent of the county's housing units); Goliad had 3426 housing units, of which 828 were mobile homes (24.2 percent of the county's housing units); Jackson had 6545 housing units, of which 1080 were mobile homes (16.5 percent of the county's housing units); and Refugio had 3669 housing units, of which 501 were mobile homes (13.7 percent of the housing units) (USCB 2000c).

Table 2.5.2-35 presents 2000 data on occupied and vacant housing, by occupant characteristics, for the population center of each ROI county (USCB 2000b).

- Port Lavaca (Calhoun County) had 4791 units, of which 602 were vacant (12.6 percent)
- Cuero (DeWitt County) had 2867 units, of which 367 were vacant (12.8 percent)
- Goliad (Goliad County) had 877 units, of which 128 were vacant (14.6 percent)

- Edna (Jackson County) had 2609 units, of which 382 were vacant (14.6 percent)
- Refugio (Refugio County) had 1312 units, of which 184 were vacant (14.0 percent)
- Victoria (Victoria County) had 24,192 units, of which 2063 were vacant (8.5 percent) (USCB 2000b)

The six population centers had a weighted, average vacancy rate of 10.2 percent.

Counties in the ROI have experienced growth in their single-family housing inventory since the last decennial census. From January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2006, Calhoun County issued 721 single-family dwelling unit permits, DeWitt County issued 48, Jackson County issued 145, Refugio County issued 46, and Victoria County issued 1044. The number of permits issued in Goliad County is not available. In 2006, the average value of the permitted housing units ranged from $127,200 in DeWitt County to $196,300 in Refugio County (TAMU Jan 2008). The counties do not distinguish seasonal/recreational housing from permanent housing when permits are issued.

2.5.2.6.2 Seasonal Housing

In 2000, there were 3130 vacant housing units for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use in the ROI. Fifty-six percent of the vacant seasonal housing units in the ROI, 1751 units, were in Calhoun County (USCB 2000b). Hurricane Carla, a Category 5 tropical storm, made landfall between Port O'Connor and Port Lavaca in September 1961. The storm destroyed or damaged most of the housing in the coastal area of Calhoun County. Approximately 25 percent of the current housing in Calhoun County was built or re-built during the decade following Hurricane Carla (USCB 2000c).

2.5.2.6.3 Recreational Vehicle Parks with Hook-ups

There are numerous year-round recreational vehicle (RV) parks or campgrounds, with full hookups (water, sewer, and electricity) for private recreational vehicles in the ROI. There are at least 33 RV parks: 22 in Calhoun County (CBT Undated a), four in Victoria County (CBT Undated b), three in Goliad County (PPA 2008, Woodall's Undated), two in Jackson County (JCCCA Undated), one in Refugio County (RCCCEDF Undated b), and one in DeWitt County (CBT Undated c). Monthly rates in late 2007 generally ranged from $300 to $400 per site (TC Undated).

2.5.2.6.4 Hotels and Motels

Hotel/motel data for each county in the ROI is presented in Table 2.5.2-36. In the first quarter of 2007, there were 43 hotels and motels in the ROI. Of those, Victoria County had 17 and Calhoun County had 15. There were nearly 90,100 unoccupied room-nights available in the ROI during the first quarter of 2007. Occupancy rates varied from 37.7 percent in Refugio County to 60.4 percent in

Victoria County (TOG Undated), with an average occupancy rate in the ROI of 54.4 percent. Two new hotels are slated to open in Victoria County in 2008. The new hotels would add 158 rooms to the area inventory (VA Oct 2007).

2.5.2.6.5 Housing Values

A 2000 real estate inventory for each county in the ROI, by value of owner-occupied units, is presented in Table 2.5.2-37. In five counties (Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, and Refugio) the largest portion of their housing inventory was in the category of "less than $50,000." The median price of all owner-occupied housing was $56,400 in Calhoun County, $47,100 in DeWitt County, $57,400 in Goliad County, $52,700 in Jackson County, and $42,600 in Refugio County. The largest portion of housing inventory in Victoria County was in the category of "$50,000 and $99,999." The median value of all owner-occupied units in Victoria County was $73,300. In 2000, approximately 75 percent of the housing in Victoria County was valued at less than $100,000. (USCB 2000c)

2.5.2.7 Public Services and Community Infrastructure

Public services and community infrastructure include public water supply and wastewater treatment systems, police and fire departments, medical facilities, and schools. Schools are described in Subsection 2.5.2.8. The remaining services are described below.

2.5.2.7.1 Public Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment Systems

The discussion of public water supply systems includes the six counties comprising the ROI; however, water assessment and planning are performed on a regional basis in Texas, as shown in Figure 2.5.2-15. Therefore, these counties are discussed within the context of their respective regions. Table 2.5.2-38 details public water suppliers in the ROI, their current capacities, and their average daily production. Table 2.5.2-39 details wastewater treatment facilities in the ROI. Currently, there is excess capacity in all of the major water supply facilities and in most of the wastewater treatment facilities.

2.5.2.7.1.1 Public Water Supply

In 1957, in response to the drought of the 1950s, the Texas legislature created the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to develop water supplies and prepare plans to meet the state's future water needs. In 1997, the legislature established a water planning process to address water supply issues in light of Texas' population growth trends. (TWDB Undated)

The TWDB divides Texas into 16 water planning regions: Region A through Region P (Figure 2.5.2-15). Each region is represented by a Regional Water Planning Group that prepares a regional water plan for its region. Regional Water Planning Groups are composed of representatives

from a variety of interests, including agricultural, industrial, environmental, public, municipal, business, water district, river authority, water utility, county, and power generation. Their plans have engineering, socioeconomic, hydrological, environmental, legal, and institutional components. They include direction for water conservation strategies, meeting future water supply needs, and responding to future droughts. (TWDB Undated)

The six counties comprising the ROI are located in Regions L and P. Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Refugio, and Victoria counties are in Region L, and Jackson County is in Region P. The larger population centers in the Region L portion of the ROI are Port Lavaca and Seadrift in Calhoun County; Cuero, Yoakum, and Yorktown in DeWitt County; Goliad in Goliad County; Refugio and Woodsboro in Refugio County; and Victoria in Victoria County. The larger population centers in the Region P portion of the ROI are Edna and Ganado in Jackson County. A summary of Regions L and P water demand and supply is provided below, as presented in the 2007 State Water Plan (TWDB Nov 2006).

Region L — Demand, Supply, Additional Water Needs, and Water Management Strategies

Region L contains all or part of 21 counties, including five of the counties in the ROI. Region L contains all or portions of nine river and coastal basins, the Guadalupe Estuary and San Antonio Bay. The largest cities in Region L are San Antonio, Victoria, San Marcos, and New Braunfels.

Between 2010 and 2060, Region L population is projected to increase by almost 75 percent. Water demands, however, are projected to increase less significantly. The region's total water demand is projected to increase by 29 percent, from 985,237 acre-feet in 2010 to 1,273,003 acre-feet in 2060 (Table 2.5.2-40). After 2020, municipal water use makes up the largest share of these demands in all decades and is projected to experience the greatest increase over the planning period, from 369,694 acre-feet in 2010 to 597,619 acre-feet in 2060, a 62 percent increase. However, this increase in demand will be somewhat offset by a decrease in the demand from agricultural irrigation water, which is projected to decline 20 percent, from 379,026 acre-feet in 2010 to 301,679 acre-feet in 2060. Steam electric demand will increase 118 percent from 50,427 acre-feet to 109,776 acre-feet. (TWDB Nov 2006)

Major water supply sources in Region L are summarized in Table 2.5.2-41. This data indicates a decrease in regional water supplies from groundwater, surface water, and water reuse, from 1,049,769 acre-feet in 2010 to 1,018,410 acre-feet in 2060.

Water needs for Victoria and Calhoun Counties are discussed in Subsection 2.3.2. Tables 2.3.2-2 and 2.3.2-3 provide a summary of the 2010 through 2060 projected available and unallocated groundwater supplies for Victoria and Calhoun Counties. Table 2.3.2-14 provides a summary of projected surface water demands, supplies, and needs for Victoria and Calhoun Counties from 2000

through 2060. Goliad County's projected water needs for steam electric is projected to increase to 4842 acre-feet in 2060. Victoria County's water needs for manufacturing are projected to increase to 6566 acre-feet in 2060. Water needs for DeWitt and Refugio Counties are not projected to increase during the period from 2010 through 2060. (TWDB Nov 2006)

Water management strategies for the Region L Plan include, but are not limited to, a more coordinated use of surface water and groundwater, reuse, groundwater and seawater desalination, and conservation. In total, these strategies will provide 732,779 acre-feet per year of additional water supply by the year 2060, at a total capital cost of approximately $5.2 billion. (TWDB Nov 2006)

Conservation strategies represent 15 percent of the total amount of water resulting from all recommended water management strategies. Water conservation is included as a strategy for every municipal and non-municipal water user group. (TWDB Nov 2006)

The VCS site does not currently obtain potable water through public water supplies. There are stock wells at the VCS site and a domestic well at the McCan Ranch house.

Region P — Demand, Supply, Additional Water Needs, and Water Management Strategies

Region P contains all or part of three counties, one of which (Jackson County) is located in the ROI. Most of Region P lies inside the Lavaca River Basin, which is the primary source of surface water for the region. Groundwater from the Gulf Coast Aquifer supplies most of the water for the region.

Table 2.5.2-42 provides projected water demand data for Region P. Projected water demands for Region P indicate a slight reduction, from 225,561 acre-feet in 2010 to 206,908 acre-feet in 2060. (TWDB Nov 2006)

Table 2.5.2-43 provides water supply data for Region P. In 2010, surface water is projected to provide less than 1 percent of the total supply, with groundwater providing the balance. The principal surface water supply source is Lake Texana, the only reservoir in the region. The Gulf Coast Aquifer provides groundwater in the region. The total surface water and groundwater supply is estimated to remain constant at 209,431 acre-feet per year from 2010 to 2060. (TWDB Nov 2006)

Water user groups in Region P are anticipated to need 50,655 acre-feet of additional water in 2010, under drought conditions, and 31,979 acre-feet by 2060, all of which can be met by pumping additional groundwater during irrigation season and then allowing water levels to recover prior to the next planting season. Irrigation is the only water use group for this region that has a need for additional water from 2010 to 2060, although the level of need is estimated to decline because of a projected decrease in irrigated acreage in the region. Irrigation water needs for Jackson County are

projected to increase slightly from 15,735 acre-feet in 2010 to 15,834 acre-feet in 2060, which is less than a 1 percent increase. (TWDB Nov 2006)

The Region P water management strategy is water conservation for municipal users only. Region P planners state that water conservation is not the most cost-effective method to meet irrigation needs, which are the only projected additional water needs in the region. Planners recommend the continued use of good agricultural practices, and state and federal programs that provide financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers, to achieve irrigation efficiency and overall water conservation. Region P water policy recommendations include establishing fees for groundwater export from the region, basing groundwater availability on an aquifer's sustainable yield, and subjecting regional groundwater used outside of the region to the same protections as the basin of origin for surface water. (TWDB Nov 2006)

2.5.2.7.1.2 Wastewater Treatment Systems

Wastewater is the domestic sewage from homes, communities, farms, businesses, and manufacturing facilities. It also includes industrial waste from manufacturing sources. Wastewater treatment in the region is provided by local jurisdictions and primarily regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Wastewater treatment capacity depends on two factors: water supply and the availability of infrastructure. As stated previously, there is currently excess capacity in most of the wastewater treatment systems in counties in the ROI.

Capacity for Wastewater Treatment

Table 2.5.2-39 details public wastewater treatment facilities, the average flow rates for their plant designs, and their average monthly processing. The rural areas of each county, including the proposed VCS site, are on septic systems.

Infrastructure for Wastewater Treatment

In the event that capacity limits may be approached or exceeded, Texas Administrative Code Title 30 Section 305.126(a) directs that:

> Whenever flow measurements for any sewage treatment plant facility in the state reach 75 percent of the permitted average daily or annual average flow for three consecutive months, the permittee must initiate engineering and financial planning for expansion and/or upgrading of the wastewater treatment and/or collection facilities. Whenever the average daily or annual average flow reaches 90 percent of the permitted average daily flow for three consecutive months, the permittee shall obtain necessary authorization from the commission to commence construction of the necessary additional treatment and/or collection facilities.

However, this requirement can be waived if the facility can show that the population served or the expected waste to be processed will not exceed facility design limitations.

An evaluation of the data listed in Table 2.5.2-39 indicates that the wastewater systems for the city of Port Lavaca, Jackson County Water Control and Improvement District (WCID) No. 2, and Victoria County WCID No. 2 are already in excess of the 75 percent flow value discussed above.

2.5.2.7.2 Law Enforcement, Fire Protection Services, and Emergency Management

Law Enforcement

Table 2.5.2-44 provides 2005 law enforcement data for the ROI counties. Table 2.5.2-46 provides approximate ratios of residents to law enforcement officers (sworn officers). In the ROI as a whole, the current ratio of residents per officer is approximately 482 to 1. In 2005, the national average was 417 residents per officer. (FBI Sep 2006)

Fire Protection Services

Table 2.5.2-45 provides 2007 fire protection personnel data for the departments for the counties in the ROI. Most firefighters are volunteers, with the exception of the city of Victoria and Port Lavaca fire departments where most are paid. Table 2.5.2-46 provides approximate ratios of residents to active firefighters. In the ROI, the current ratio of residents per active firefighter is approximately 245 to 1. In 2006, the estimated number of firefighters in the nation was 1,140,900 (USFA 2008) and the USCB population estimate for the nation was 299,398,484 (USCB 2006), resulting in a residents per active firefighter ratio of 262 to 1.

Additionally, in 1998, the state of Texas adopted the Public Protection Classification system (TDI Sep 2007). It is a national system used by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) to reflect a community's local fire protection for property insurance rating purposes. The ISO is an advisory organization that serves the property and casualty insurance industry by providing inspection services, insurance coverage for development, and statistical services. The public fire protection of a city, town, or area is graded using the ISO Fire Suppression Rating Schedule. ISO classifies communities from 1 (the highest rating) to 10 (the lowest rating). Communities are graded on water distribution, fire department equipment and manpower, and fire alarm facilities, among other things (TDI Sep 2007). Table 2.5.2-47 provides Public Protection Classification ratings for the ROI communities that have populations large enough to be counted in the U.S. Census.

Emergency Management

The Governor is responsible for homeland security and emergency management in the state of Texas. The Governor's Division of Emergency Management is responsible for carrying out a comprehensive all-hazard emergency management program for the state and assisting cities, counties, and state agencies in implementing their own emergency management programs. The

Governor's Division of Emergency Management, like other state agencies, is also responsible for supporting development and implementation of the Governor's Homeland Security Strategy (TDPS Undated).

A number of other councils and committees, including the state Emergency Management and Homeland Security Council, assist the Governor in matters relating to disaster mitigation, emergency preparedness, disaster response, and recovery (TDPS Undated).

Texas is divided into Disaster Districts, which are the state's regional emergency management organizations. They serve as the initial source of state emergency assistance for local governments. With the exception of Refugio County, the ROI counties are in District 17, the Victoria District. Refugio County is part of District 20, the Corpus Christi District (TDPS Undated).

On the local level, mayors and county judges have responsibility for emergency preparedness and response in their jurisdictions. Local emergency management and homeland security organizations may be organized at the city level, at the county level, or as inter-jurisdictional programs that include one or more counties and cities. Local emergency management organizations may be organized as part of the mayor or county judge's staff, as a separate office or agency, as part of the local fire department or law enforcement agency, etc. Local emergency management and homeland security agencies may be identified as emergency management offices or agencies, homeland security offices or agencies, or some combination of the two. (TDPS Undated)

The mayors and county judges may appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator to manage day-to-day program activities (TDPS Undated). Each of the ROI counties has an Emergency Management Coordinator (TDPS Jan 2008).

2.5.2.7.3 Medical

Table 2.5.2-48 presents hospital use in 2006 and medical practitioner data by county in 2007. As a whole, the ROI has 273 physicians, eight hospitals (four of which are in Victoria County), and 808 staffed beds. The 2006 ROI hospital census shows that the average number of in-patients receiving care each day was 369. A comparison of the number of staffed beds to the hospital census yields a use rate of approximately 46 percent.

2.5.2.8 Schools

2.5.2.8.1 Public Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12

This subsection discusses the enrollment, capacity, and facilities of public schools in the ROI. The public school systems in Texas are organized into Independent School Districts (ISDs). For the 2007-2008 school year, the ISDs in the ROI (in whole or in part) have a total enrollment of 31,571

students. The public school systems in the ROI have space available for an additional 14,728 students including the seating of the schools that are planned or under construction. Table 2.5.2-49 provides information on the number and type of public schools in each county. Table 2.5.2-50 summarizes the information on student population and available capacity (including the capacity of schools under construction and the planned new schools) for each ISD. Figure 2.5.2-16 shows the boundaries of each ISD and the location of each campus.

2.5.2.8.1.1 Calhoun County

Calhoun County has one ISD, the Calhoun County ISD, and the ISDs boundaries encompass most of the county (the Seadrift community is a part of the Austwell-Tivoli ISD). The ISD is described below.

Calhoun County ISD

The Calhoun County ISD had a pre-kindergarten through grade 12 total enrollment of 4290 students in November 2007 (Table 2.5.2-50). The 2006-2007 school year enrollment was approximately 4331 students. The existing ISD infrastructure could support approximately 5600 students. Additionally, a new elementary school campus is currently being built and one of the high schools is currently being expanded to include a separate structure for the 9th grade. Upon completion, these projects will expand capacity by an additional 632 students in the ISD. (CCISD Nov 2007, CCISD Apr 2008)

For the 2005-2006 school year, the Calhoun County ISD received 85.23 percent of its revenue from local property taxes, 3.41 percent from other local and intermediate taxes (as a result of services rendered to other school districts), 10.75 percent from state funding, and 0.61 percent from federal funding (TEA 2007).

2.5.2.8.1.2 DeWitt County

DeWitt County has six ISDs with a pre-kindergarten through grade 12 enrollment of 4405 students in November 2007 (Table 2.5.2-50). The six ISDs in the county can collectively support an additional 1240 public school students (Table 2.5.2-50). Each school district is described below.

Cuero ISD

The Cuero ISD, which partially extends into Gonzales County, had a kindergarten through grade 12 enrollment of 1950 students in November 2007, which is unchanged from the 2006-2007 school year. A junior high school and a high school were recently built, increasing the student capacity of the ISD to 2700. (CISD Nov 2007)

For the 2005-2006 school year, the Cuero ISD received 28.58 percent of its revenue from local property taxes, 3.37 percent from other local and intermediate taxes (a result of services rendered to

other school districts), and 68.05 percent from state funding. The ISD received no federal funding. (TEA 2007)

Meyersville ISD

The Meyersville ISD, which extends into Victoria County, had a kindergarten through grade 8 enrollment of 125 students in November 2007. The ISD has a total capacity of 160 students. During the 2006-2007 school year, the district had an enrollment of 130 students. No expansion plans are scheduled. (MISD Nov 2007)

For the 2005-2006 school year, the Meyersville ISD received 63.01 percent of its revenue from local property taxes, 2.86 percent from other local and intermediate taxes (a result of services rendered to other school districts), and 34.14 percent from state funding. The ISD received no federal funding. (TEA 2007)

Nordheim ISD

The Nordheim ISD, which extends into Karnes County, had a 2007–2008 pre-kindergarten through grade 12 enrollment of 82 students on a single campus. The 2006–2007 school year enrollment was 80 students. With the existing infrastructure, the total capacity is 175 students. The Nordheim ISD has no current plans to expand. (NISD Nov 2007)

During the 2005-2006 school year, the Nordheim ISD received 79.74 percent of its revenue from local property taxes, 1.05 percent from other local and intermediate taxes (a result of services rendered to other school districts), and 19.22 percent from state funding. The ISD received no federal funding. (TEA 2007)

Westhoff ISD

The Westhoff ISD, which is completely contained in DeWitt County, has a 2007–2008 school year pre-kindergarten through grade 8 enrollment of 48 students. High school students attend school in the Cuero ISD. In the 2006–2007 school year, enrollment was also 48 students. Although the district could support 160 students, enrollment has never been more than 70 students. No expansion plans are scheduled. (WISD Nov 2007)

For the 2005–2006 school year, the Westhoff ISD received 35.15 percent of its revenue from local property taxes, 2.75 percent from other local and intermediate taxes (a result of services rendered to other school districts), and 62.11 percent from state funding. The ISD received no federal funding. (TEA 2007)

Yoakum ISD

The Yoakum ISD, which extends into Gonzales and Lavaca Counties, had a 2007–2008 school year enrollment in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 of 1550 students. The enrollment in 2006–2007 was 1560 students. The Yoakum ISD schools are currently functioning at capacity. If enrollment increases, the existing infrastructure would not be sufficient. Although there are no plans for expansion, the district acknowledges that it will expand if enrollment increases. (YISD Nov 2007)

For the 2005-2006 school year, the Yoakum ISD received 41.75 percent of its revenue from local property taxes, 1.39 percent from other local and intermediate taxes (a result of services rendered to other school districts), 56.45 percent from state funding, and 0.41 percent from federal funding (TEA 2007).

Yorktown ISD

The Yorktown ISD, which is completely contained in DeWitt County, had a 2007–2008 school year pre-kindergarten through grade 12 enrollment of 650 students. Enrollment during the 2006–2007 school year was 675 students. The existing infrastructure at Yorktown ISD could support a total of 900 students. The Yorktown ISD has no current plans to expand. (YORKISD Nov 2007)

For the 2005-2006 school year, the Yorktown ISD received 29.29 percent of its revenue from local property taxes, 1.14 percent from other local and intermediate taxes (a result of services rendered to other school districts), and 69.57 percent from state funding. The ISD received no federal funding. (TEA 2007)

2.5.2.8.1.3 Goliad County

Goliad County has one ISD, the Goliad ISD. The ISD is contained within the county boundary and is described below.

Goliad ISD

The Goliad ISD had a 2007–2008 school year pre-kindergarten through grade 12 total enrollment of 1312 students. Enrollment during the 2006–2007 school year was approximately 1332 students. With the existing infrastructure, the Goliad ISD is at capacity. No expansion plans are scheduled. (GISD Nov 2007)

For the 2005–2006 school year, the Goliad ISD received 89.80 percent of its revenue from local property taxes, 1.35 percent from other local and intermediate taxes (as a result of services rendered to other school districts), 8.58 percent from state funding, and 0.27 percent from federal funding (TEA 2007).

2.5.2.8.1.4 Jackson County

Jackson County has three ISDs wholly contained within the county and portions of the Palacios ISD (Matagorda County) and the Hallettsville ISD (Lavaca County). During the 2007-2008 school year, the five ISDs had a pre-kindergarten through grade 12 enrollment of 5560 students (Table 2.5.2-50). Currently, the county has space available for an additional 940 students. Each school district is described below.

Edna ISD

The Edna ISD had a 2007–2008 school year enrollment of 1450 students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12. During the 2006–2007 school year, the ISD had an enrollment of 1450 students. A new elementary school will open in the spring of 2008, increasing the capacity of the district to 1800 students. (EISD Oct 2007, EISD Apr 2008)

For the 2005-2006 school year, the Edna ISD received 44.10 percent of its revenue from local property taxes, 1.73 percent from other local and intermediate taxes (a result of services rendered to other school districts), and 54.18 percent from state funding. The ISD received no federal funding. (TEA 2007)

Ganado ISD

The Ganado ISD had a 2007–2008 school year pre-kindergarten through grade 12 enrollment of 640 students. Enrollment for the 2006–2007 school year was 650 students. With the existing infrastructure at the Ganado ISD, the district could support approximately 700 students, or an additional 60 students. Currently, the ISD has no plans for expanding. (GANISD Nov 2007)

For the 2005–2006 school year, the Ganado ISD received 35.49 percent of its revenue from local property taxes, 1.24 percent from other local and intermediate taxes (a result of services rendered to other school districts), and 63.27 percent from state funding. The ISD received no federal funding. (TEA 2007)

Hallettsville ISD

The Hallettsville ISD is primarily located in Lavaca County, although a very small portion of it is in Jackson County. The ISD has a 2007–2008 kindergarten through grade 12 enrollment of 887 students. Enrollment during the 2006–2007 school year was 940 students. The Hallettsville ISD has capacity for 1050 students. No expansion plans are scheduled. (HISD Nov 2007)

For the 2005–2006 school year, the Hallettsville ISD received 89.53 percent of its revenue from local property taxes, 1.14 percent from other local and intermediate taxes (a result of services rendered to

other school districts), and 9.33 percent from state funding. The ISD received no federal funding. (TEA 2007)

Industrial ISD

The Industrial ISD, which also extends into Victoria County, had a 2007–2008 school year pre-kindergarten through grade 12 enrollment of 1060 students. The 2006–2007 school year enrollment was 1030 students. The ISD's existing infrastructure could support a total of 1150 students. The ISD is adding classrooms to the two existing elementary schools, but this will not affect enrollment capacity (IISD Nov 2007, IISD Apr 2008).

For the 2005–2006 school year, the Industrial ISD received 85.22 percent of its revenue from local property taxes, 2.72 percent from other local and intermediate taxes (a result of services rendered to other school districts), and 12.06 percent from state funding. The ISD received no federal funding. (TEA 2007)

Palacios ISD

The Palacios ISD is primarily located in Matagorda County, though a portion of it is in Jackson County. The ISD had a pre-kindergarten through grade 12 enrollment of 1574 students in the 2006–2007 school year and a 2007–2008 enrollment of 1523 students. The existing infrastructure can support a total of 1800 students. No classroom expansions are currently planned. (PISD Sep 2007)

For the 2005–2006 school year, the Palacios ISD received 79.91 percent of its revenue from local property taxes, 3.61 percent from other local and intermediate taxes (a result of services rendered to other school districts), 16.32 percent from state funding, and 0.15 percent from federal funding. (TEA 2007)

2.5.2.8.1.5 Refugio County

Refugio County has three ISDs with a pre-kindergarten through grade 12 enrollment of 1436 students in the 2007-2008 school year (Table 2.5.2-50). There is space available for an additional 1164 students (Table 2.5.2-50). Each school district is described below.

Austwell-Tivoli ISD

The Austwell-Tivoli ISD, which is primarily in Refugio County but extends into Calhoun County, has a pre-kindergarten through grade 12 enrollment of 155 students in the 2007–2008 school year. During the 2006–2007 school year, the district had an enrollment of 160 students. With the existing infrastructure, the Austwell-Tivoli ISD could support an additional 345 students. Currently, the Austwell-Tivoli ISD has no expansion plans. (ATISD Nov 2007)

For the 2005–2006 school year, the Austwell-Tivoli ISD received 84.79 percent of its revenue from local property taxes, 6.41 percent from other local and intermediate taxes (as a result of services rendered to other school districts), 7.58 percent from state funding, and 1.22 percent from federal funding (TEA 2007).

Refugio ISD

The Refugio ISD is primarily located in Refugio County, with a noncontiguous portion in Victoria County; the Victoria County portion of this ISD includes most of the proposed VCS site. The ISD has a pre-kindergarten through grade 12 enrollment of 735 students in November 2007. Enrollment for the 2006-2007 school year was 725 students. The existing infrastructure can support approximately 1000 students. The ISD is currently building a separate campus for middle school students, which will expand capacity by an additional 500 students (RISD Nov 2007, RISD Apr 2008).

For the 2005–2006 school year, the Refugio ISD received 87.45 percent of its revenue from local property taxes, 1.39 percent from other local and intermediate taxes (a result of services rendered to other school districts), and 11.17 percent from state funding. The ISD received no federal funding. (TEA 2007)

Woodsboro ISD

The Woodsboro ISD had a pre-kindergarten through grade 12 enrollment of 579 students in November 2006. The 2007–2008 enrollment was approximately 546 students. The existing infrastructure can support a total of approximately 600 students. The district does not have expansion plans. (WOISD Nov 2007)

For the 2005–2006 school year, the Woodsboro ISD received 34.42 percent of its revenue from local property taxes, 3.18 percent from other local and intermediate taxes (a result of services rendered to other school districts), 62.39 percent from state funding, and 0.02 percent from federal funding (TEA 2007).

2.5.2.8.1.6 Victoria County

Victoria County has three ISDs plus portions of the Industrial ISD (Jackson County), the Meyersville ISD (DeWitt County), and the Refugio ISD (Refugio County). In the three ISDs completely within Victoria County, pre-kindergarten through grade 12 enrollment was 14,568 students in the 2007–2008 school year (Table 2.5.2-50). The school systems in the county could accommodate an additional 10,042 students, after the schools planned and under construction are completed and the reliance on mobile units is reduced. Each school district is described below.

Bloomington ISD

The Bloomington ISD has a 2007–2008 pre-kindergarten through grade 12 enrollment of 908 students. The 2006-2007 school year enrollment was 921 students. With the existing infrastructure, the capacity is 1050 students. As of 2007, the ISD has no plans for expansion. (BISD Nov 2007)

For the 2005-2006 school year, the Bloomington ISD received 26.58 percent of its revenue from local property taxes, 0.93 percent from other local and intermediate taxes (a result of services rendered to other school districts), 72.19 percent from state funding, and 0.30 percent from federal funding (TEA 2007).

Nursery ISD

The Nursery ISD has a pre-kindergarten through grade 5 total enrollment of 110 students in November 2007. The 2006–2007 school year also had an enrollment of 110 students. Currently, the school within Nursery ISD is at capacity, however, the ISD is building a new facility to replace the existing structure. The new school will support about 210 students (NUISD Nov 2007, NUISD Apr 2008).

For the 2004–2005 school year, the Nursery ISD received 91.66 percent of its revenue from local property taxes, 0.91 percent from other local and intermediate taxes (a result of services rendered to other school districts), and 7.42 percent from state funding. The ISD received no federal funding. (TEA 2007)

Victoria ISD

One tax parcel of the proposed VCS site lies within the Victoria ISD, which has a pre-kindergarten through grade 12 total enrollment of 13,550 students in November 2007. Enrollment for the 2006–2007 school year was 13,838 students. With the existing facilities, the Victoria ISD could support another 4450 students. The Victoria ISD is currently building five new schools (two elementary, one middle/intermediate/junior, and two high schools), adding space for a net additional 5350 students. The ISD will reduce its reliance on mobile classroom units when the new schools are completed. (VISD Nov 2007, VISD Apr 2008)

For the 2005–2006 school year, the Victoria ISD received 60.44 percent of its revenue from local property taxes, 1.25 percent from other local and intermediate taxes (a result of services rendered to other school districts), 37.88 percent from state funding, and 0.42 percent from federal funding (TEA 2007).

2.5.2.8.2 **Post-Secondary Institutions**

There are five post-secondary institutions–three colleges or universities and two vocational schools–within 50 miles of the proposed VCS site. Victoria College is located approximately 13 miles from the proposed site, in the city of Victoria. The college is accredited to award Associate Degrees. In the fall of 2007, Victoria College had an enrollment of 4297 students (VC Oct 2007). The University of Houston — Victoria (UHV) is located approximately 13 miles from the proposed site and is accredited to award both Baccalaureate and Masters Degrees. In the fall of 2007, UHV had an enrollment of 2784 students (UHV Oct 2007). UHV has articulation agreements to allow students from Wharton County Junior College (in nearby Wharton County) or from Victoria College to transfer credits toward earning a Baccalaureate or Masters Degree at UHV (UHV Undated). Coastal Bend College, in Beeville, is located approximately 48 miles from the proposed site. It is accredited to award Associate Degrees. In the fall of 2007, Coastal Bend College had an enrollment of 925 students at the Beeville campus (CBC Jan 2008). In the city of Victoria, there are two vocational schools: the Texas Vocational School and the Victoria Beauty College. The Texas Vocational School has a current total enrollment of 74 students, and the Victoria Beauty College has a current enrollment of 115 students (NCES May 2008). In addition, there is a Texas State Technical College (TSTC) system but there is no campus within 50 miles of the VCS site. However, the college provides a service called "Corporate College" that provides specialized training for businesses and industries on a contractual basis (TSTC Jun 2008). Exelon has had general discussions with TSTC regarding how it might support Exelon's needs in the future should the proposed project proceed to construction.

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Table 2.5.2-1
Employment Trends 1996-2006

	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployment			Unemployment Rate	
Area	1996	2006	Average Annual Percent Change	1996	2006	Average Annual Percent Change	1996	2006	Average Annual Percent Change	1996	2006
United States	133,943,000	151,428,000	1.2%	126,708,000	144,427,000	1.3%	7,236,000	7,001,000	–0.3%	5.4%	4.6%
Texas	9,736,646	11,487,496	1.7%	9,175,983	10,921,673	1.8%	560,663	565,823	0.1%	5.8%	4.9%
Calhoun County	9,786	9,557	–0.2%	9,059	9,084	0.0%	727	473	–4.2%	7.4%	4.9%
DeWitt County	8,094	9,617	1.7%	7,722	9,190	1.8%	372	427	1.4%	4.6%	4.4%
Goliad County	2,680	3,480	2.6%	2,549	3,337	2.7%	131	143	0.9%	4.9%	4.1%
Jackson County	9,143	6,573	–3.2%	8,808	6,266	–3.3%	335	307	–0.9%	3.7%	4.7%
Refugio County	3,009	3,827	2.4%	2,860	3,645	2.5%	149	182	2.0%	5.0%	4.8%
Victoria County	42,103	45,103	0.7%	39,934	43,244	0.8%	2,169	1,859	–1.5%	5.2%	4.1%
ROI	74,815	78,157	0.4%	70,932	74,766	0.5%	3,883	3,391	–1.3%	5.2%	4.3%
ROI as percent of Texas	0.8%	0.7%		0.8%	0.7%		0.7%	0.6%			

Source: BLS 2007a

Table 2.5.2-2 (Sheet 1 of 2)
Employment by Industry 2005

	ROI		Texas	
Summary by Major Industry Sector	**Number of Workers**	**Percent of Total**	**Number of Workers**	**Percent of Total**
Total employment	90,404	100.0%	13,088,946	100.0%
Farm Employment	6,658	7.4%	281,727	2.2%
Mining	3,665	4.1%	244,837	1.9%
Construction	7,037	7.8%	899,172	6.9%
Manufacturing	7,240	8.0%	951,778	7.3%
Wholesale Trade	2,370	2.6%	530,192	4.1%
Retail Trade	10,330	11.4%	1,417,748	10.8%
Transportation and Warehousing	1,687	1.9%	469,746	3.6%
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate[a]	5,881	6.5%	1,156,780	8.8%
Services[b]	25,660	28.4%	5,189,665	39.6%
Federal and State Government[c]	1,789	2.0%	680,081	5.2%
Local Government	11,019	12.2%	1,147,922	8.8%
Other	7,068	7.8%	119,298	0.9%

Unit Industry	**Calhoun**	**DeWitt**	**Goliad**	**Jackson**	**Refugio**	**Victoria**	**ROI Total**	**Texas**
Total employment	12,787	12,399	3,281	7,823	3,391	50,723	90,404	13,088,946
Wage and salary employment	9,935	7,559	1,617	5,433	2,304	39,792	66,640	10,269,066
Proprietors employment	2,852	4,840	1,664	2,390	1,087	10,931	23,764	2,819,880
Farm proprietors employment	322	1,843	967	1,020	303	1,364	5,819	236,886
Nonfarm proprietors employment	2,530	2,997	697	1,370	784	9,567	17,945	2,582,994
Farm employment	409	2,001	1,076	1,273	421	1,478	6,658	281,727
Nonfarm employment	12,378	10,398	2,205	6,550	2,970	49,245	83,746	12,807,219
Private employment	10,851	8,055	1,697	5,423	2,259	42,653	70,938	10,979,216
Forestry, fishing, related activities, and other	422	(D)	(D)	185	(D)	269	876	68,253
Mining	141	234	(D)	(D)	273	3,017	3,665	244,837
Utilities	(D)	63	(D)	63	14	334	474	51,045
Construction	1,854	680	135	781	(D)	3,587	7,037	899,172

Table 2.5.2-2 (Sheet 2 of 2)
Employment by Industry 2005

Unit Industry (continued)	Calhoun	DeWitt	Goliad	Jackson	Refugio	Victoria	ROI Total	Texas
Manufacturing	3,215	1,258	85	(D)	(D)	2,682	7,240	951,778
Wholesale trade	(D)	212	91	273	42	1,752	2,370	530,192
Retail trade	1,165	1,093	208	670	351	6,843	10,330	1,417,748
Transportation and warehousing	200	179	(D)	100	50	1,158	1,687	469,746
Information	74	58	(D)	88	(D)	659	879	262,195
Finance and insurance	425	534	72	242	121	1,783	3,177	631,849
Real estate and rental and leasing	309	365	63	166	45	1,756	2,704	524,931
Professional and technical services	444	334	86	270	75	2,011	3,220	828,786
Management of companies and enterprises	(D)	(D)	0	0	0	111	111	69,896
Administrative and waste services	(D)	(D)	85	138	65	2,861	3,149	843,486
Educational services	(D)	(D)	(L)	14	(D)	538	552	178,321
Health care and social assistance	(D)	(D)	174	336	(D)	6,240	6,750	1,168,205
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	88	95	29	31	(D)	672	915	200,551
Accommodation and food services	779	479	159	(D)	(D)	3,233	4,650	879,593
Other services, except public administration	548	844	203	414	278	3,147	5,434	758,632
Government and government enterprises	1,527	2,343	508	1,127	711	6,592	12,808	1,828,003
Federal, civilian	42	43	20	34	52	242	433	181,107
Military	94	46	16	32	17	195	400	161,205
State and local	1,391	2,254	472	1,061	642	6,155	11,975	1,485,691
State government	80	506	39	45	28	258	956	337,769
Local government	1,311	1,748	433	1,016	614	5,897	11,019	1,147,922

Source: BEA 2008

(a) In summary area, "Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate" includes the following sectors: Finance and insurance, and Real estate and rental and leasing.

(b) In summary area, "Services" includes the following sectors: Information; Professional and technical services; Management of companies and enterprises; Administrative and waste services; Educational services; Health care and social assistance; Arts, entertainment, and recreation, Accommodation and food services; and Other services, except public administration.

(c) In summary area, "Federal and State Government" includes the following sectors: Federal, Civilian; Military; and State government.

Note (D): As reported by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, "not shown to avoid disclosure of confidential information, but the estimates for this item are included in the totals." For this reason, columns may not sum to the totals shown.

Note (L): Less than 10 jobs, but the estimates for this item are included in the totals.

Table 2.5.2-3
Major Employers in ROI

Employer	Owner	Type	Number	County
Victoria Independent School District	Public	Public school district	2114	Victoria
The Inteplast Group, Ltd.	Private	Chemical	1700	Calhoun
The Inteplast Group, Ltd.	Private	Plastic film	1600	Jackson
Formosa Plastics	Private	Chemical	1500	Calhoun
Citizens Medical Center	Public	Health care	1027	Victoria
DeTar Healthcare System	Private	Health care	872	Victoria
Dow Chemical – Seadrift Operations	Private	Chemical	660	Calhoun
Alcoa	Private	Chemical	630	Calhoun
County of Victoria	Public	Local government	616	Victoria
Calhoun County Independent School District	Public	Public school district	613	Calhoun
DuPont INVISTA	Private	Fiber/polymer manufacturing	610	Victoria
City of Victoria	Public	Local government	606	Victoria
Tandy Brands Accessories, Inc.	Private	Leather/hunting accessories manufacturing	578	DeWitt
Wal-Mart Supercenter	Private	Retail	468	Victoria
University of Houston - Victoria	Public	Education	436	Victoria
First Victoria National Bank	Private	Financial	425	Victoria
Cuero Community Hospital	Public	Health care	420	DeWitt
Cuero Independent School District	Public	Public school district	400	DeWitt
Covalence Plastics	Private	Plastics manufacturing	372	Victoria
King Fisher Marine Service	Private	Service	330	Calhoun
Eddy Packing	Private	Smoked meats	329	DeWitt
Texas Department of Criminal Justice	Public	Correctional facility	315	DeWitt
HEB Grocery	Private	Grocery	275	Calhoun
Mount Vernon Mills, Brentex Division	Private	Textiles	244	DeWitt
Yoakum Independent School District	Public	Public school district	235	DeWitt

Sources CCEDC Undated, CDC Jul 2006, Victoria Undated b, Yoakum Undated a, JCCC Oct 2007, TWC 2007, VEDC 2007a

Table 2.5.2-4 (Sheet 1 of 2)
Average Annual Wage Trends[a], 2001-2006, ROI and Comparison Areas

Sector/Area	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Average Annual Growth Rate
Total, All Industry Sector Wages							
U.S.	$36,157	$36,539	$37,508	$39,134	$40,505	$42,414	3.2%
Texas	$36,794	$36,766	$37,442	$39,100	$40,880	$43,276	3.3%
Calhoun County	$42,734	$44,345	$42,654	$45,488	$47,998	$49,933	3.2%
DeWitt County	$22,244	$22,569	$22,598	$23,859	$27,807	$26,506	3.6%
Goliad County	$23,477	$24,087	$25,715	$25,779	$28,189	$29,836	4.9%
Jackson County	$26,150	$26,131	$27,114	$28,631	$28,747	$31,200	2.4%
Refugio County	$23,082	$22,842	$23,414	$24,397	$25,080	$28,754	2.1%
Victoria County	$29,235	$29,213	$29,808	$31,343	$32,032	$34,704	3.5%
Sector 23, Construction Sector Wages							
U.S.	$38,412	$39,027	$39,509	$40,521	$42,100	$44,496	4.3%
Texas	$36,145	$36,516	$37,301	$38,349	$40,565	$44,551	5.3%
Calhoun County	$34,519	$35,241	$35,198	$37,808	$38,984	$44,614	5.3%
DeWitt County	$23,585	$23,343	$24,223	$23,946	$24,696	$26,207	2.1%
Goliad County	(ND)	(ND)	$28,545	$29,668	$41,400	$51,233	[b]
Jackson County	$28,521	$27,359	$28,753	$31,595	$34,254	$35,095	4.2%
Refugio County	$24,423	$24,034	(ND)	(ND)	(ND)	(ND)	[b]
Victoria County	$42,022	$37,628	$35,786	$37,900	$40,997	$43,240	0.6%
Sector 237, Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction Sector Wages							
U.S.	$43,099	$44,298	$45,417	$47,027	$49,399	$52,617	4.1%
Texas	$38,125	$38,466	$39,905	$40,490	$43,371	$48,466	4.9%
Calhoun County	$41,347	$43,342	$40,057	$39,631	$48,382	$51,390	4.4%
DeWitt County	$32,900	$29,225	$29,194	$31,639	$33,371	$33,150	0.2%
Goliad County	(ND)	(ND)	(ND)	(ND)	(ND)	(ND)	[b]
Jackson County	$27,580	$28,761	$32,413	$32,136	(ND)	$36,709	5.9%
Refugio County	(ND)	(ND)	(ND)	$33,461	$34,401	(ND)	[b]
Victoria County	$30,756	$33,093	$33,904	$34,472	$36,172	$42,677	6.8%
Sector 22, Utilities							
U.S.	$65,561	$67,374	$68,651	$72,403	$75,208	$78,341	3.6%
Texas	$76,319	$72,674	$68,589	$72,949	$76,102	$82,032	1.5%
Calhoun County	$62,267	$61,137	$73,571	(ND)	(ND)	(ND)	[b]
DeWitt County	$41,671	(ND)	(ND)	(ND)	$44,688	$45,774	1.9%

Table 2.5.2-4 (Sheet 2 of 2)
Average Annual Wage Trends[a], 2001-2006, ROI and Comparison Areas

Sector/Area	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Average Annual Growth Rate
Sector 22, Utilities (continued)							
Goliad County	(ND)	(ND)	(ND)	$69,166	(ND)	$70,386	[b]
Jackson County[c]	$35,546	$35,313	$39,064	$39,962	$46,524	(ND)	7.0%
Refugio County[c]	$37,221	$38,232	$58,736	$60,195	$60,938	(ND)	13.1%
Victoria County	$48,547	$52,377	$59,299	$57,463	$61,280	$62,337	5.1%
Sector 221113, Nuclear electric power generation[d]							
U.S.	$74,294	$77,076	$83,627	$89,590	$91,732	$95,927	5.2%

Source: BLS 2007b

(a) Information reflects privately owned firms and all establishment sizes. Dollars are not adjusted for inflation.
(b) Unable to calculate growth rate due to insufficient data.
(c) Average annual growth rate is from 2001 to 2005, as data are not available for 2006.
(d) Information was not disclosed by the BLS for Texas or the ROI counties for NAICS 221113.

Note: (ND) = "Not Disclosable — data do not meet BLS or State agency disclosure standards."

Table 2.5.2-5
Employment in Construction and Extraction Occupations

	Employment		
Area	Total Employment	Construction and Extraction Occupations	Construction and Extraction as Percent of Total Employment
Texas	9,760,960	513,910	5.3%
Victoria MSA[(a)]	48,020	5,390	11.2%
Victoria MSA as percent of Texas	0.5%	1.0%	

Source: BLS May 2006

(a) Victoria MSA = Victoria, Goliad, and Calhoun Counties.
Note: MSA is a U.S. Census Bureau description of a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 2.5.2-6
Per Capita Personal Income 1995-2005

Area	1995	2005	1995–2005 Percent Change Not Adjusted for Inflation	1995–2005 Percent Change Adjusted for Inflation[(a)]	2005 PCI as Percent of Texas	2005 PCI as Percent of U.S.
United States	$23,076	$34,471	49.4%	16.6%	106.2%	100.0%
Texas	$21,003	$32,460	54.5%	20.6%	100.0%	94.2%
Calhoun	$17,312	$24,561	41.9%	10.7%	75.7%	71.3%
DeWitt	$15,641	$24,281	55.2%	21.1%	74.8%	70.4%
Goliad	$14,794	$23,353	57.9%	23.2%	71.9%	67.7%
Jackson	$20,412	$23,743	16.3%	–9.2%	73.1%	68.9%
Refugio	$21,487	$29,195	35.9%	6.0%	89.9%	84.7%
Victoria	$20,441	$30,667	50.0%	17.1%	94.5%	89.0%
ROI	$19,185	$27,983	45.9%	13.8%	86.2%	81.2%

Sources: BEA 2008, BLS 2007c

(a) Inflation calculator from Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS 2007c).

Table 2.5.2-7 (Sheet 1 of 2)
Road Characteristics and Traffic Statistics

Location Number on Figure 2.5.2-5	Route Segment	Number of Lanes	Type	TXDOT Road Classification	Avg Annual Daily Traffic for 2007 (vehicles per 24-hour)	Threshold Capacity (passenger cars per hour)[a]
1	Hwy 59 (From Beeville to Berclair)	2[b]	Undivided	Other Rural Principal Arterial	5,800	4,200[c]
2	Hwy 59 (From Berclair to Goliad)	2[b]	Undivided	Other Rural Principal Arterial	4,800	4,200[c]
3	Hwy 59 (From Goliad to Victoria County Line)	4	Undivided	Other Rural Principal Arterial	10,100	10,300[c]
4	Hwy 59 to Hwy 77(via Hwy 59 loop south of Victoria)	4	Divided	Other Rural Principal Arterial	6,100	11,800[c]
5	Hwy 77 S to Hwy 77 (intersection of Hwy 59 and Hwy 77)	4	Undivided	Rural Major Arterial	1,850	27,000
6	Hwy 59 loop to Hwy 87	4	Divided	Other Rural Principal Arterial	19,900	11,800[c]
7	Hwy 87 (south from Victoria to Placedo)	4	Divided	Rural Minor Arterial	9,700	11,800[c]
8	Hwy 87 (south from Placedo to State Route 35)	4	Divided	Rural Minor Arterial	7,800	11,800[c]
9	State Route 185 (south from Victoria to Bloomington)	2	Undivided	Rural Major Collector	26,000	2,300
10	State Route 185 (Bloomington to State Route 35)	2	Undivided	Rural Major Collector	5,100	2,300
11	County Road 616 (LaSalle to Placedo)	2	Undivided	Rural Major Collector	600	2,300
12	County Road 616 (Placedo to Bloomington	2	Undivided	Rural Major Collector	900	2,300
13	State Route 35 (Port Lavaca to Green Lake)	2	Undivided	Rural Minor Arterial	5,000	4,200[c]
14	State Route 35 (State Route 185 to Refugio County Line)	2	Undivided	Rural Minor Arterial	3,100	4,200[c]
15	State Route 35 (from Refugio County line to County Road 774)	2	Undivided	Rural Minor Arterial	4,000	4,200[c]
16	State Route 239 (Tivoli to Hwy 77)	2	Undivided	Rural Major Collector	3,300	2,300
17	Hwy 77 (Hwy 59 loop south to Refugio County Line)	4	Divided	Other Rural Principal Arterial	16,300	11,800[c]
18	Hwy 77 (Refugio County line south to Refugio)	4	Divided	Other Rural Principal Arterial	16,000	11,800[c]
19	State Route 239 (Hwy 77 to Goliad)	2	Undivided	Rural Major Collector	720	2,300

Table 2.5.2-7 (Sheet 2 of 2)
Road Characteristics and Traffic Statistics

Location Number on Figure 2.5.2-5	Route Segment	Number of Lanes	Type	TXDOT Road Classification	Avg Annual Daily Traffic for 2007 (vehicles per 24-hour)	Threshold Capacity (passenger cars per hour)[(a)]
20	State Route 202 (Refugio to County Road 2441)	2	Undivided	Rural Major Collector	1,150	2,300
21	State Route 202 (County Road 2441 to Beeville)	2	Undivided	Rural Major Collector	4,100	2,300

Sources: TXDOT Sep 2007a, TXDOT Sep 2007b, TXDOT Sep 2007c, TXDOT Sep 2007d, TXDOT Sep 2007e, TXDOT Mar 1993a, TXDOT Mar 1993b, TXDOT Dec 1998a, TXDOT Dec 1998b, TXDOT Sep 2001, TXDOT Mar 2008

(a) Capacity used in travel demand modeling by TXDOT, metropolitan planning organizations, and local governments. The capacity is typically based on level of service C (stable flow) based on the Transportation Research Board Highway Capacity Manual. Level of service A or B (free flow to reasonably free flow) may also be used as the threshold capacity level in less congested urban areas (TXDOT Sep 2001)

(b) Just completed "Super 2" passing lanes.

(c) TXDOT does not provide a threshold capacity for these functional classes in rural areas. The suburban fringe area estimate was used to approximate rural areas.

Table 2.5.2-8
Victoria Barge Canal, Number of Trips, 2001-2005

Year	Inbound	Outbound	Total	Average per week
2001	3863	3886	7749	149
2002	4058	4057	8115	156
2003	3770	3846	7616	146
2004	3258	3229	6487	125
2005	2576	2599	5175	100

Sources: USACE 2001, USACE 2002, USACE 2003, USACE 2004, USACE 2005

Table 2.5.2-9
Victoria Barge Canal Docks

Name	Location	Town (County)	Mile	Bank	Owner
Dow Seadrift Operations Slip	At head of private channel extending east from Mile 14.3 Victoria Barge Canal, approx. 3 miles below SR 35 Bridge, Seadrift	Seadrift (Calhoun)	14	East	Union Carbide Corp., a subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Co.
Seadrift Coke, Hydrocarbon Dock	Mile 15.6 Victoria Barge Canal, approximately 1.5 miles below SR 35 Bridge, Seadrift	Seadrift (Calhoun)	15	East	Seadrift Coke, LP
Seadrift Coke, Coke Loading Dock	Mile 15.6, Victoria Barge Canal, approximately 1.5 miles below SR 35 Bridge, Seadrift	Seadrift (Calhoun)	15	East	Seadrift Coke, LP
BP Chemicals Corp., Green Lake Plant Wharf	Mile 20.6, Victoria Barge Canal, approximately 3.5 miles above SR 35 Bridge, Green Lake	Green Lake (Calhoun)	20	East	BP Chemicals Corp
DuPont INVISTA Victoria Plant, Petrochemical Division, Dock No. 6	Mile 32.9, Victoria Barge Canal, lower portion of rectangular slip; approximately 2 miles below Pickering Turning Basin, Bloomington	Bloomington (Victoria)	32	East	DuPont INVISTA
DuPont INVISTA Victoria Plant, Petrochemical Division, Dock No. 5	Mile 32.9, Victoria Barge Canal, lower portion of rectangular slip; approximately 2 miles below Pickering Turning Basin, Bloomington	Bloomington (Victoria)	32	East	DuPont INVISTA
DuPont INVISTA Victoria Plant, Petrochemical Division, Dock No. 3	Mile 32.9, Victoria Barge Canal, lower portion of rectangular slip; approximately 2 miles below Pickering Turning Basin, Bloomington	Bloomington (Victoria)	32	East	DuPont INVISTA
DuPont INVISTA Victoria Plant, Petrochemical Division, Dock No. 1	Mile 33.0, Victoria Barge Canal, lower portion of rectangular slip; approximately 2 miles below Pickering Turning Basin, Bloomington.	Bloomington (Victoria)	33	East	DuPont INVISTA
Fordyce, Parker Dock	Mile 34.7, Victoria Barge Canal, below Pickering Turning Basin, Bloomington	Bloomington (Victoria)	34	East	Fordyce, Ltd.
Fordyce, Briggs Dock	Mile 35.0, Victoria Barge Canal, northeast portion of Pickering Turning Basin, Bloomington	Bloomington (Victoria)	35	North	Fordyce, Ltd.
Victoria County Navigation District, Barge Dock	Mile 35.0, Victoria Barge Canal, northwest portion of Pickering Turning Basin, Bloomington	Bloomington (Victoria)	35	North	Victoria Co. Navigation District

Source: USACE 2008a

Table 2.5.2-10
Port of Victoria, Freight Tonnage, 1992-2006

Year	Thousands of Short Tons	Rank Among U.S. Ports
1992	4265	—
1993	3937	—
1994	4567	—
1995	4624	—
1996	4351	—
1997	5000	—
1998	5298	—
1999	5522	—
2000	5104	—
2001	4733	—
2002	4734	77
2003	4750	81
2004	3712	91
2005	3224	98
2006	3556	96

Sources: USACE 2001, USACE 2002, USACE 2003, USACE 2004, USACE 2005, USACE 2008b

Table 2.5.2-11
Characteristics of Public Airports within or near 50 Miles of Proposed VCS Site

Name (FAA Designation)	Location	Owner	Average Daily Operations	Number of Aircraft Based at Field	Military Use	Commercial Passenger Service
Aransas County Airport (KRKP)	Rockport, Aransas County	Aransas County	225	70	40%	No
Calhoun County Airport (KPKV)	Port Lavaca, Calhoun County	Calhoun County	18	18	23%	No
Jackson County Airport (26R)	Edna, Jackson County	Jackson County	106	18	2%	No
Yoakum Municipal (T85)	Lavaca County	City of Yoakum	3.3	4	—	No
Palacios Municipal (KPSX)	Palacios, Matagorda County	City of Palacios	8.1	5	49%	No
Rooke Field (KRFG)	City of Refugio, Refugio County	Refugio County	12.3	21	—	No
Victoria Regional (VCT)	City of Victoria, Victoria County	Victoria County	111	50	44%	Yes
T. P. McCampbell (KTFP)	Ingleside, San Patricio County	San Patricio County	30	37	—	No
Beeville Municipal Airport (KBEA)	Beeville, Bee County	City of Beeville	13	15	—	No
Goliad County Industrial Airpark (7T3)	Berclair, Goliad County	Goliad County	Not Available	2	—	No
Cuero Municipal Airport (T71)	Cuero, DeWitt County	City of Cuero	5	6	—	No
Alfred C. "Bubba" Thomas Airport (T69)	Sinton, San Patricio County	San Patricio County	28	39	—	No
Kames County Airport (2R9)	Kenedy, Karnes County	City of Kenedy	6	7	—	No

Sources: AN Feb 2008a, AN Feb 2008b, AN Feb 2008c, AN Feb 2008d, AN Feb 2008e, AN Feb 2008f, AN Feb 2008g, AN Jul 2008a, AN Jul 2008b, AN Jul 2008c, AN Jul 2008d, AN Jul 2008e, AN Jul 2008f, TXDOT 2007

Table 2.5.2-12
Victoria Regional Airport Passenger Boardings, 2001–2006

Year	Total Passenger Boardings
2001	15,638
2002	13,758
2003	11,853
2004	10,763
2005	10,932
2006	9,113
Percent Change, 2001–2006	–41.7%

Table 2.5.2-13
Texas State Expenditures in ROI Counties, 2006

Area	Total	Intergovernmental Payments	Labor Costs	Public Assistance	Highway Construction/ Maintenance	Operating Expenses	Capital Outlays	Misc.
Texas Total	$71,542,126,874	$19,356,701,100	$17,479,332,269	$24,189,679,738	$5,574,037,267	$1,757,367,816	$311,885,587	$2,873,123,097
Calhoun County	49,731,763	8,001,686	7,527,359	16,973,826	13,695,354	938,913	1,476,981	1,117,643
DeWitt County	73,531,924	28,366,284	10,111,328	22,693,439	10,687,138	1,526,465	0	147,270
Goliad County	34,227,763	4,120,994	6,467,162	5,786,077	16,756,016	969,131	0	128,385
Jackson County	33,920,498	10,582,716	2,385,020	11,686,702	5,997,933	561,157	21,803	2,685,168
Refugio County	23,178,337	5,131,056	4,112,508	8,147,255	5,187,484	375,332	0	224,700
Victoria County	255,328,884	72,566,221	40,585,476	114,971,104	15,232,342	3,820,748	1,645,286	6,507,706
ROI Total	$469,919,169	$128,768,957	$71,188,853	$180,258,403	$67,556,267	$8,191,746	$3,144,070	$10,810,872
ROI as Percent of State Total	0.7%	0.7%	0.4%	0.7%	1.2%	0.5%	1.0%	0.4%
Percent by Category		27.4%	15.1%	38.4%	14.4%	1.7%	0.7%	2.3%

Source: TCPA 2007

Table 2.5.2-14
County and City Sales Tax Rates ROI 2008

Taxing Unit[(a)]	Tax Rates			
	State	County	City	Total
Calhoun County	6.25%	0.5%	—	6.75%
Port Lavaca	6.25%	0.5%	1.5%	8.25%
Seadrift	6.25%	0.5%	1.5%	8.25%
DeWitt County	6.25%	—	—	6.25%
Cuero	6.25%	—	2.0%	8.25%
Nordheim	6.25%	—	1.0%	7.25%
Yoakum	6.25%	—	2.0%	8.25%
Yorktown	6.25%	—	1.5%	7.75%
Goliad County	6.25%	—	—	6.25%
Goliad (city)	6.25%	—	2.0%	8.25%
Jackson County	6.25%	0.5%	—	6.75%
Edna	6.25%	0.5%	1.5%	8.25%
Ganado	6.25%	0.5%	1.5%	8.25%
LaWard	6.25%	0.5%	1.0%	7.75%
Refugio County	6.25%	—	—	6.25%
Austwell	6.25%	—	1.0%	7.25%
Bayside	6.25%	—	1.0%	7.25%
Refugio (city)	6.25%	—	2.0%	8.25%
Woodsboro	6.25%	—	1.0%	7.25%
Victoria County	6.25%	0.5%	—	6.75%
Victoria (city)	6.25%	0.5%	1.5%	8.25%

Source: TCPA 2008d

(a) Only communities with a local sales tax are shown in the table.
Note: — Entity does not tax

Table 2.5.2-15
Total Real Property Tax Rates ROI Counties 2000 - 2006[a]

County	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Calhoun County	0.3750	0.3750	0.4244	0.5210	0.5210	0.5210	0.4900
DeWitt County	0.5466	0.5272	0.6072	0.6823	0.6930	0.6317	0.7224
Goliad County	0.7645	0.6840	0.7820	0.7840	0.6847	0.6671	0.5554
Jackson County	0.5450	0.5076	0.6186	0.6186	0.6334	0.6233	0.5387
Refugio County	0.6277	0.6169	0.6386	0.6218	0.5375	0.4625	0.3998
Victoria County	0.3410	0.3485	0.3601	0.3986	0.3986	0.3986	0.3986

Source: TAOC 2007a

(a) Property tax rates shown as dollars per $100 of taxable value.

Table 2.5.2-16
Total Real Property Taxes, Victoria County 2001-2006

	Total Market Value		Total Taxable Value	Total Levies	
	With Exempt[a]	Without Exempt[b]	General Fund[c]	General Fund Levy[d]	Total County Levy[e]
2000	$4,057,724,176	$3,842,560,406	$3,324,392,653	$9,507,762	$11,336,177
2001	4,218,514,902	3,985,262,147	3,528,394,928	10,708,678	12,296,455
2002	4,263,350,440	4,019,870,328	3,555,123,916	11,379,951	12,802,000
2003	4,301,873,415	4,053,129,665	3,548,119,389	12,546,150	14,142,803
2004	4,519,428,703	4,266,076,342	3,707,127,542	13,108,403	14,776,610
2005	4,745,388,483	4,485,528,573	3,941,782,441	13,741,054	15,711,945
2006	5,515,968,648	5,245,209,808	4,237,939,605	14,561,561	16,892,428

Source: TAOC 2007b

(a) Total Market Value, With Exempt: Total market value before 10% cap on homestead appraisals. Includes the value of all totally exempt properties.
(b) Total Market Value, Without Exempt: Total market value of taxable property prior to adjustments for partial exemptions or the 10% cap on residence homesteads. Does not include totally exempt properties.
(c) Total Taxable Value, General Fund: Total taxable value for county tax purposes. Used with both the General Fund and Special Road & Bridge Fund tax rates to determine the levies for those funds.
(d) Totals, General Fund Levy: Actual total county tax levy for General Fund.
(e) Totals, Total County Levy: Actual total county tax levy. It includes the General Fund, Special Road & Bridge Fund, and the Farm-to-Market/Flood Control Fund.

Table 2.5.2-17
Real Property Taxes for Cities in the ROI 2005

County/City	Percent Homestead Exemption	Taxable Value	Tax Rate[(a)]	2005 Tax Levy
Calhoun County				
Point Comfort	20%	$56,717,894	0.5429	$307,921
Port Lavaca	0%	354,308,927	0.7200	2,551,024
Seadrift	20%	32,453,573	0.4154	134,812
DeWitt County				
Cuero	0%	$170,989,570	0.2883	$493,031
Nordheim	0%	5,100,640	0.4600	23,463
Yoakum	0%	161,288,980	0.0942	151,950
Yorktown	0%	42,420,970	0.5591	237,171
Goliad County				
Goliad [City]	0%	$48,381,542	0.5271	$255,020
Jackson County				
Edna	0%	$137,590,564	0.3885	$534,539
Ganado	0%	47,797,512	0.6308	301,507
Refugio County				
Austwell	0%	$3,715,950	0.4931	$18,324
Bayside	0%	8,319,410	0.9215	76,664
Refugio [City]	0%	56,685,520	0.7966	451,557
Woodsboro	0%	22,551,860	0.8620	194,937
Victoria County				
Victoria [City]	0%	$2,337,399,369	0.6900	$16,128,056

Source: TCPA Dec 2006

(a) Tax Rates are shown as dollars per $100 of taxable value.

Table 2.5.2-18 (Sheet 1 of 2)
Special Taxing Districts in ROI 2005

County/Special District	Market Value	Taxable Value	Total Tax Rate[(a)]	Tax Levy
Calhoun County				
Port O'Connor MUD	$200,221,578	$184,462,966	0.20000	$368,926
Calhoun County Drainage District #6	4,838,632	4,520,810	0.52600	2378
Calhoun County Navigation District	2,897,120,880	2,041,437,408	0.00430	87,781
Calhoun County WCID #1	536,254,010	527,847,463	0.04260	224,863
Calhoun County Drainage District #11	9,643,986	9,639,954	0.14850	14,315
Calhoun County Drainage District #10	63,326,170	63,006,483	0.24500	154,366
Calhoun County Drainage District	6,495,539	6,489,909	0.29050	18,853
DeWitt County				
Pecan Valley Water District	$1,305,635,170	$775,112,660	0.01500	$116,281
DeWitt Drainage District #1	184,732,670	168,724,110	0.06135	103,512
DeWitt Medical District #1	687,494,230	419,497,670	0.11899	499,163
Yoakum Hospital District	281,300,920	162,407,740	0.22000	357,324
Ecleto Creek Watershed District	8,081,200	1,218,810	0.00960	117
Goliad County				
San Antonio River Authority	$1,195,937,653	$738,686,310	0.016425	$121,329
Goliad County Ground WCD	1,195,937,653	724,800,977	0.0098	71,031
Jackson County				
Jackson County FCD	$1,313,816,862	$928,709,959	0.1054	$978,860
Jackson County WCID #1	11,535,160	10,498,922	0.1416	14,866
Jackson County ESD	527,303,050	441,118,378	0.0298	131,453
Jackson County Hospital District	1,333,000,040	991,416,449	0.2661	2,638,159
Jackson County WCID #2	5,967,843	5,780,087	0.02396	13,849
Refugio County				
Refugio Ground WCD	$1,183,857,000	$979,942,630	0.0200	$195,982
Refugio County Drainage District #1	528,808,460	471,897,210	0.0837	394,978
Refugio Co Memorial Hospital District	1,183,857,000	979,942,630	0.2475	2,425,366
Refugio County WCID #1	6,494,990	6,387,000	0.5222	33,353
Refugio County WCID #2	1,177,362,010	974,543,200	0.0012	11,691
Victoria County				
Quail Creek MUD	$52,777,170	$52,039,202	0.1840	$99,752
Victoria County WCID #1	27,186,829	26,052,492	0.4947	128,882
Victoria County Drainage District #2	102,620,393	90,090,457	0.1240	111,712
Victoria Junior College District	4,761,445,489	3,954,923,444	0.1416	5,600,173
Victoria County Navigation District	4,501,408,692	4,060,836,063	0.0369	1,498,449
Victoria County WCID #2	10,089,981	10,014,909	0.9016	90,294

Table 2.5.2-18 (Sheet 2 of 2)
Special Taxing Districts in ROI 2005

County/Special District	Market Value	Taxable Value	Total Tax Rate[(a)]	Tax Levy
Victoria County (continued)				
Victoria County Drainage District #3	1,146,102,044	1,093,018,647	0.046	502,789

Source: TCPA Dec 2006

(a) Tax Rates are shown as dollars per $100 of taxable value.

Table 2.5.2-19
Proposed VCS Site, Parcels and Assessed Value 2007

Parcel ID	Acreage	Total Taxable Value, 2007	Property Location	ISD
R29444	4,007	$298,320	McFaddin Rail Rd	Refugio ISD
R32186	2,600	178,040	US Hwy 77	Refugio ISD
R32742	4,397	329,780	McFaddin Rail Rd	Refugio ISD
R34801	215	15,760	McFaddin Rail Rd	Refugio ISD
R36939	13	960	McFaddin Rail Rd	Victoria ISD
R81237	8	600	McFaddin Rail Rd	Refugio ISD
R81437	162	12,120	McFaddin Rail Rd	Refugio ISD
R81480	30	2,230	McFaddin Rail Rd	Refugio ISD
R84158	146	19,860	Hwy 77	Refugio ISD
Total[(a)]	11,576	$857,670		

Source: VCTX 2007

(a) Numbers do not match the total due to rounding.

Table 2.5.2-20
Total Property Taxes on Proposed VCS Site,
Victoria County and Special Districts: 2006–2007

Taxing Entity/Year		Assessed	Taxable	Rate	Tax
County of Victoria General Fund					
	2007	$17,371,570	$857,670	0.3436	$2947
	2006	$17,371,570	$857,670	0.3436	$2947
County of Victoria Special Road and Bridge Fund					
	2007	$17,371,570	$857,670	0.0550	$471
	2006	$17,371,570	$857,670	0.0550	$471
Victoria Junior College District					
	2007	$17,371,570	$857,670	0.1445	$1239
	2006	$17,371,570	$857,670	0.1416	$1214
Victoria County Navigation District					
	2007	$17,371,570	$857,670	0.0317	$272
	2006	$17,371,570	$857,670	0.0335	$287
UWD Victoria County Groundwater District					
	2007	$17,352,460	$856,710	0.0100	$86
	2006	$17,352,460	$856,710	0.0100	$86
2007 Total					$5015
2006 Total					$5006
2006 Payment, as Percent of Victoria County's Total 2006 Tax Revenues = 0.03%					

Source: VCTX 2007
Note: Data before 2006 is not available.

Table 2.5.2-21
Refugio ISD Property Values 2001–2007

Year	Total Property Value	Percent Change from Previous Year
2001	$439,463,325	—
2002	292,697,938	–33.4%
2003	310,933,757	6.2%
2004	387,192,158	24.5%
2005	414,065,232	6.9%
2006	483,358,975	16.7%
2007	480,471,469	–0.6%

Source: RISD Feb 2008

Table 2.5.2-22
Refugio ISD District Revenues 2001–2002 to 2007–2008 School Years

School Year	Total District Revenue	Excess Percent (Goes to State)[(a)]	Revenue Remaining in District	Percent Change in Total Revenue from Previous Year
2001–2002	$5,285,864	0.00%	$5,285,864	
2002–2003	4,258,754	0.00%	4,258,754	–19.4%
2003–2004	4,524,086	0.00%	4,524,086	6.2%
2004–2005	5,445,857	0.00%	5,445,857	20.4%
2005–2006	5,863,991	0.00%	5,863,991	7.7%
2006–2007	6,359,442	0.00%	6,359,442	8.4%
2007–2008	4,846,993	6.62%	4,526,286	–23.8%

Source: RISD Feb 2008

(a) Refugio ISD became a Chapter 41 (“property-wealthy”) district in the 2007–2008 school year.

Table 2.5.2-23
ISD Property Taxes Paid on Proposed VCS Site ISDs 2006–2007

Taxing Entity/Year	Assessed	Taxable	Rate[(a)]	Tax
Refugio ISD (8 of 9 parcels)				
2007	$17,352,460	$856,710	1.1875	$10,174
Pct of Refugio ISD revenues				0.21%
2006	$17,352,460	$856,710	1.4396	$12,334
Pct of Refugio ISD revenues				0.19%
Victoria ISD (1 of 9 parcels)				
2007	$19,110	$960	1.2337	$12
2006	$19,110	$960	1.4285	$14

(a) Tax rates are shown as dollars per $100 of taxable value.

Table 2.5.2-24
Victoria County Revenues 2006

Revenues	Actual Dollars	Percent of Total
Taxes — ad valorem (property)	12,469,394	—
Taxes — Sales	6,980,525	—
Total Taxes	$19,449,919	67.3%
Fees	1,868,725	6.5%
Intergovernmental	4,425,115	15.3%
Fines & forfeitures	1,543,819	5.3%
Interest	807,628	2.8%
Licenses & permits	36,065	0.1%
Contributions	5,884	0.0%
Miscellaneous	760,805	2.6%
Total	$28,897,960	100.0%

Source: VCA Jun 2007

Table 2.5.2-25 (Sheet 1 of 2)
Victoria County Expenditures 2006

Expenditure Item	Actual Amounts	Subtotal	Percent of Total
General Government			
County Judge	$186,987	—	—
Commissioners' Court	81,125	—	—
Records management	20,926	—	—
County clerk	551,006	—	—
Veterans Service officer	50,592	—	—
Heritage Director	50,623	—	—
Non-departmental	2,153,247	—	—
County courts at law (two)	434,557	—	—
District court	779,513	—	—
District clerk	578,485	—	—
Justices of the peace (four)	604,621	—	—
Criminal district attorney	862,640	—	—
Election administrator	243,077	—	—
County auditor	388,340	—	—
County treasurer	249,038	—	—
Tax assessor-collector	602,600	—	—
Administrative services	211,493	—	—
Information technology	2,137,276	—	—
Building maintenance	1,198,943	—	—
Adult probation department	7960	—	—
Juvenile detention facility	2,699,441	—	—
Juvenile board	90,935	—	—
Total general government		$14,183,425	54.0%
Public Safety			
Fire marshal	303,581	—	—
Sheriff	9,664,983	—	—
Constables (four)	117,916	—	—
Non-departmental	428,984	—	—
Total public safety		10,515,464	40.1%
Culture and Recreation			
Parks and recreation	106,151	—	—
Extension service	254,541	—	—
Non-departmental (library)	932,307	—	—
Total culture and recreation		1,292,999	4.9%
Public health – Total		107,761	0.4%

Table 2.5.2-25 (Sheet 2 of 2)
Victoria County Expenditures 2006

Expenditure Item	Actual Amounts	Subtotal	Percent of Total
Culture and Recreation (continued)			
Capital outlay		155,250	0.6%
Total expenditures		$26,254,899	5.9%

Source: VCA Jun 2007

Table 2.5.2-26
Recap of Victoria County Revenues and Expenditures, 2006

Item	Amount	Difference
Total Revenues[a]	$28,897,960	
Total Expenditures[b]	26,254,899	
Surplus		$2,643,061

Source: VCA Jun 2007

(a) Table 2.5.2-24
(b) Table 2.5.2-25

Table 2.5.2-27
Sales Tax Allocations, Victoria County 1997–2007

	Not Adjusted for Inflation		Adjusted for Inflation[a]	
Year	Sales Tax Allocations (nominal dollars)	Percent Change from Previous Year	Sales Tax Allocations (2007 dollars)	Percent Change from Previous Year
1997	$4,074,421.63	—	$5,263,543.96	—
1998	4,382,895.57	7.6%	5,575,205.05	5.9%
1999	4,503,100.82	2.7%	5,604,333.54	0.5%
2000	4,729,825.28	5.0%	5,695,072.20	1.6%
2001	4,992,319.53	5.5%	5,844,819.95	4.3%
2002	4,858,298.12	–2.7%	5,599,384.24	–4.2%
2003	4,921,322.62	1.3%	5,474,615.35	–2.2%
2004	5,546,860.42	12.7%	6,088,391.39	11.2%
2005	5,883,458.11	6.1%	6,246,226.06	2.6%
2006	6,918,442.97	17.6%	7,115,495.05	13.9%
2007	7,179,369.90	3.8%	7,179,369.90	0.9%
10-yr increase	76.2%		36.4%	
Average annual increase	5.8%		3.2%	

Source: TCPA 2008g

(a) Inflation calculator from BLS 2007c (dollars converted to 2007 dollars).

Table 2.5.2-28
City of Victoria Budgeted Revenues, FY 2006–2007

Function	Budgeted Amount	Percent of Total
Taxes	$23,853,036	62.7%
Franchise Fees	4,625,000	12.2%
Fines and Forfeitures	1,270,000	3.3%
Licenses and Permits	539,825	1.4%
Charges for Services	1,545,100	4.1%
Intergovernmental	2,217,493	5.8%
Miscellaneous	659,925	1.7%
Other Financing Sources	3,324,989	8.7%
Total	$38,035,368	100.0%

Table 2.5.2-29
City of Victoria Budgeted Expenditures FY 2006-2007

Function	Amount	Percent of Total
General Administration	$2,406,974	6.4%
Public Safety	19,666,245	52.1%
Development	8,892,393	23.6%
Building Services	669,359	1.8%
Recreation	4,768,563	12.6%
Non-departmental	1,348,234	3.6%
Total	$37,751,768	100.0%

Source: Victoria 2007

Table 2.5.2-30
Recap of City of Victoria Revenues and Expenditures FY 2006

Item	Amount	Difference
Total Budgeted Revenues[(a)]	$38,035,368	
Total Budgeted Expenditures[(b)]	37,751,768	
Surplus		$283,600

Source: Victoria 2007

(a) Table 2.5.2-28
(b) Table 2.5.2-29

Table 2.5.2-31
Sales Taxes, City of Victoria 1997–2007

Year	Sales Tax Allocations (current dollars)	Percent Change from Previous Year	Sales Tax[(a)] Allocations (2007 dollars)	Percent Change from Previous Year
1997	$11,537,600	—	$14,905,000	—
1998	12,371,500	5.6%	15,737,600	5.6%
1999	12,963,800	2.5%	16,134,300	2.5%
2000	13,462,500	0.5%	16,209,300	0.5%
2001	14,576,000	5.8%	17,065,000	5.8%
2002	13,953,100	–5.8%	16,081,000	–5.8%
2003	14,271,500	0.0%	16,082,500	0.0%
2004	15,285,300	4.3%	16,777,300	4.3%
2005	16,590,100	5.0%	17,612,900	5.0%
2006	18,696,700	9.2%	19,229,500	9.2%
2007	19,615,200	2.0%	19,615,200	2.0%
10-yr increase	70.0%		31.6%	
Average annual increase	5.5%		2.8%	

Source: TCPA 2008g

(a) Inflation calculator: BLS 2007c (dollars converted to 2007 dollars).

Table 2.5.2-32
Wildlife Management Areas, National Wildlife Refuges, and State Parks within 50 Miles of the VCS Site[a]

Name	Acreage	Location	Annual Visitors	Peak Daily Visitors
Matagorda Island WMA[b],[c]	56,688	Calhoun County	1,100	—
Guadalupe Delta WMA[b]	7,411	Northeast of Tivoli in Victoria, Refugio, and Calhoun Counties	3,500	—
Welder Flats WMA[b],[d]	1,480	Southeast of Seadrift in Calhoun County	—	—
Aransas National Wildlife Refuge	115,670	Aransas, Refugio, and Calhoun Counties (some areas non-contiguous, see Figure 2.5.2-14)	65,000	600
Goliad State Park[e]	188	South of Goliad in Goliad County	23,973	412
Goose Island State Park[e]	321	North of Rockport in Aransas County	90,033	2,405
Lake Texana State Park[e]	575	East of Edna in central Jackson County	48,821	560
Fannin Battleground State Historic Site[f]	14	Goliad County	—[g]	—

Sources: TPWD May 2008a, TPWD May 2008b USFWS 2008, USFWS May 2008

(a) TPWD acknowledges that there is a basic lack of user and nonuser information on local and state parks.
(b) Visitor information has not been collected since 2004 at WMAs. Data listed is for 2004.
(c) Matagorda Island WMA is partially owned by the General Land Office and Fish and Wildlife Services, thus not all visitors are counted. Visitors listed were counted by TPWD.
(d) Information is not available for Welder Flats WMA since it is submerged
(e) Visitor information is for the fiscal year 2007.
(f) Fannin Battleground State Historic Site is a historic site operated by the Texas Historical Commission.
(g) TPWD stated that visitor information is included in Goliad State Park due to close proximity.

Table 2.5.2-33 (Sheet 1 of 3)
County and City Parks within or near the 50-Mile Region[(a)]

Name	Location	Acres	Recommended Park Acres/ Population
Community Park	Aransas County	—	—
Newbury Park	Aransas County	—	—
Rockport Beach Park	Aransas County	44.0	14.5/1000
Community Aquatic and Skate Park	Aransas County	12.3	14.5/1000
Magnolia Park	Aransas County	1.9	Variable
Mathis Park	Aransas County	1.0	1.25/1000
Memorial Park	Aransas County	52.0	14.5/1000
Spencer Park	Aransas County	0.7	1.25/1000
Triangle Park	Aransas County	0.4	0.35/1000
Tule Park	Aransas County	2.0	1.25/1000
Wetland Park	Aransas County	5.0	Variable
Zachary Taylor Park	Aransas County	0.5	0.35/1000
Veterans Park	Bee County	—	—
Koehler Park	Bee County	—	—
Klipstein Park	Bee County	—	—
Flournoy Park	Bee County	—	—
Poesta Park	Bee County	—	—
Trevino Park	Bee County	—	—
Carlos Reyes Park	Bee County	—	—
Moore Park	Bee County	—	—
Martin Luther King Park/City Pool	Bee County	—	—
Lighthouse Beach and Bird Sanctuary	Calhoun County	—	—
Formosa Wetlands Walkway and Alcoa Bird Tower	Calhoun County	—	—
Port O'Connor Kingfisher Beach and Park	Calhoun County	—	—
Pier Park	Calhoun County	0.68	10/1000
Tilley Park	Calhoun County	10.1	10/1000
Wilson Park	Calhoun County	101.9	10/1000
George Adams Park	Calhoun County	1.68	10/1000
Bayfront Park	Calhoun County	41.3	10/1000
Old City Hall Park	Calhoun County	—	10/1000
Sulton Park	Calhoun County	3.6	10/1000
Little Chocolate Bayou Park and Community Garden	Calhoun County	41.0	10/1000
Bauer Community Center	Calhoun County	4.5	10/1000

Table 2.5.2-33 (Sheet 2 of 3)
County and City Parks within or near the 50-Mile Region[a]

Name	Location	Acres	Recommended Park Acres/ Population
Swan Point Park	Calhoun County	—	—
Cuero Municipal Park	DeWitt County	—	—
Daule Park	DeWitt County	—	—
Alexander Park	DeWitt County	—	—
Municipal Park	DeWitt County	—	—
Hub City RV Park	DeWitt County	—	—
Mack Jamison Park	DeWitt County	—	—
Centennial Park	DeWitt County	—	—
Coleto Creek Park and Reservoir	Goliad County	190	4000 visitors per day
Fannin Plaza	Goliad County	—	—
Brackenridge Plantation Park and Campground	Jackson County	—	—
Shady Oaks RV Resort	Jackson County	—	—
Bennet Park	Jackson County	—	—
Devers Creek Park	Jackson County	—	—
Shelby Park	Jackson County	—	—
East Bay Park	Matagorda County	7.35	10/1000
South Bay Park	Matagorda County	18.35	10/1000
Downtown Park	Matagorda County	1.50	10/1000
Railroad Park	Matagorda County	29.19	10/1000
Rorem Street Park	Matagorda County	1.65	10/1000
Texas Street Park	Matagorda County	2.89	10/1000
Swimming Pool	Matagorda County	1.28	1/20000
Golf Course — 9 holes	Matagorda County	103.60	1/25000
Foley Reserve Park	Matagorda County	6.00	10/1000
Tanner Flats Park	Matagorda County	5.58	10/1000
Old Landfill Park	Matagorda County	6.31	10/1000
Lions/Shelly Park	Refugio County	—	—
Refugio RV Park	Refugio County	—	—
Skate Park	San Patricio County	—	—
Cove park	San Patricio County	—	—
N.O. Simmons park	San Patricio County	—	—
Faith Park	San Patricio County	—	—
Lake Whitney	San Patricio County	—	—
Live Oak Park	San Patricio County	—	—
Oak Park	San Patricio County	—	—

Table 2.5.2-33 (Sheet 3 of 3)
County and City Parks within or near the 50-Mile Region[(a)]

Name	Location	Acres	Recommended Park Acres/ Population
Rob and Bessie Welder park	San Patricio County	—	—
Welder Park	San Patricio County	—	—
Speck Eakin Park	San Patricio County	—	—
Butterfly garden	San Patricio County	—	—
Grace Coin park	San Patricio County	—	—
Liberty Square Mural	San Patricio County	—	—
DeLeon Plaza	Victoria County	1.8	Variable
Ethel Lee Tracy Park	Victoria County	30.5	10,000 – 50,000
Green Belt Park	Victoria County	12.9	2,000 – 10,000
Hopkins Park	Victoria County	11.6	2,000 –10,000
Memorial Park	Victoria County	1.2	2,000 –10,000
Pine Street Community Park	Victoria County	3.3	2,000 –10,000
Queen City Park	Victoria County	2.1	2,000 –10,000
Riverside Park	Victoria County	565.1	Entire urban area
Ted B. Reed Park	Victoria County	10.0	2,000 –10,000
Will Rogers Park	Victoria County	1.9	2,000 –10,000
Boulevard Park	Victoria County	1.4	2,000 –10,000
Brownson Park	Victoria County	0.9	2,000 –10,000
Community Center Park	Victoria County	73.2	10,000 – 50,000
Martin Luther King, Jr. Park	Victoria County	1.7	2,000 –10,000
Meadowlane Park	Victoria County	1.2	2,000 –10,000

Sources: Aransas Pass 2008, Aransas Pass May 2008, City of Beeville Mar 2008, City of Beeville May 2008, City of Cuero May 2008, City of Indianola May 2008, City of Ingleside Jun 2008, City of Ingleside May 2008, City of Palacios May 2008, City of Port Lavaca May 2008, City of Sinton June 2008, City of Victoria May 2008, City of Yoakum May 2008, Coleto Creek Park June 2008, Cuero Mar 2008, Cuero May 2008, GBRA Jun 2008, JCCCA Undated, PLCCCC Undated, Port Lavaca Undated, RCCCEDF Undated a, Refugio County May 2008, Rockport Undated, Yoakum Undated b

(a) TPWD acknowledges that there is a basic lack of user and non-user information on local and state parks.

Table 2.5.2-34
ROI Housing

County	2006 Housing Units[a]	Percent of 2006 ROI Total	2000 Housing Units[b]	2000 to 2006 Growth	2000 Occupied Units[b]	2000 Owner Occupied Units[b]	2000 Rental Occupied Units[b]	2000 Vacant Units[b]	2000 Homeowner Vacancy Rate[b]	2000 Rental Vacancy Rate[b]	2000 Median Value Owner-Occupied Housing[a]
Calhoun	10,882	16.0%	10,238	6.3%	7,442	5,417	2,025	2,796	2.1%	16.0%	$56,400
DeWitt	8,949	13.1%	8,756	2.2%	7,207	5,514	1,693	1,549	2.6%	6.5%	$47,100
Goliad	3,556	5.2%	3,426	3.8%	2,644	2,116	528	782	3.0%	7.2%	$57,400
Jackson	6,656	9.8%	6,545	1.7%	5,336	3,936	1,400	1,209	1.7%	15.5%	$52,700
Refugio	3,727	5.5%	3,669	1.6%	2,985	2,236	749	684	3.1%	6.5%	$42,600
Victoria	34,313	50.4%	32,945	4.2%	30,071	20,265	9,807	2,874	1.6%	11.2%	$73,300
ROI Total	68,083	100.0%	65,579	3.8%	55,685	39,484	16,202	9,894	—	—	—

(a) USCB 2008
(b) USCB 2000b

Table 2.5.2-35
ROI Population Center Housing

County Population Center	2000 Housing Units[(a)]	2000 Occupied Units[(a)]	2000 Owner-Occupied Units[(a)]	2000 Rental-Occupied Units[(a)]	2000 Vacant Units[(a)]	2000 Percent Vacant[(a)]	2000 Homeowner Vacancy Rate[(a)]	2000 Rental Vacancy Rate[(a)]	2000 Median Value Owner-Occupied Housing[(b)]
Port Lavaca (Calhoun)	4,791	4,189	2,743	1,446	602	12.6%	1.6%	15.6%	$56,600
Cuero (DeWitt)	2,867	2,500	1,751	749	367	12.8%	2.9%	6.0%	$43,200
Goliad (Goliad)	877	749	505	244	128	14.6%	5.4%	8.6%	$58,000
Edna (Jackson)	2,609	2,227	1,397	830	382	14.6%	2.3%	18.5%	$49,600
Refugio (Refugio)	1,312	1,128	806	322	184	14.0%	3.5%	6.9%	$41,400
Victoria (Victoria)	24,192	22,129	13,461	8,668	2,063	8.5%	1.4%	11.3%	$72,600
Totals	36,648	32,922	20,663	12,259	3,726	10.2%	–-	–-	–-

(a) USCB 2000b
(b) USCB 2008

Table 2.5.2-36 (Sheet 1 of 2)
Hotel/Motel Data, First Quarter, 2007

City/Town/Place	Rate	Number of Hotels[a]	Room Nights Available[b]	Revenue (dollars)	Percent Occupancy	Room Nights Sold
Calhoun County						
Port Lavaca	$0–39.99	2	7,500	98,000	39.2	2,900
	$40–49.99	1	4,800	109,000	46.9	2,200
	$50–59.99	2	13,600	335,000	48.8	6,600
	$80–89.99	1	4,500	272,000	73.2	3,300
Port O Connor	$40–49.99	1	3,200	24,000	19	600
	$60–69.99	2	4,700	146,000	48.2	2,300
	$80–89.99	1	700	18,000	29.2	200
	$90–99.99	1	4,500	42,000	10.2	500
Seadrift	$40–49.99	2	4,300	82,000	42.2	1,800
	$60–69.99	1	1,100	19,000	27.5	300
	$80–89.99	1	1,100	54,000	55.6	600
Total		15	50,000	1,199,000	42.6	21,300
DeWitt County						
Cuero	$0–39.99	2	5,400	54,000	39	2,100
	$70–79.99	1	2,800	161,000	78.4	2,200
Yoakum	$60–69.99	1	2,300	99,000	69.5	1,600
Total		4	10,500	314,000	56.2	5,900
Goliad County						
Goliad	$0–39.99	2	5,300	104,000	55.4	2,900
Total		2	5,300	104,000	54.7	2,900
Jackson County						
Edna	$40–49.99	2	5,700	123,000	49.1	2,800
Total		2	5,700	123,000	49.1	2,800

Table 2.5.2-36 (Sheet 2 of 2)
Hotel/Motel Data, First Quarter, 2007

City/Town/Place	Rate	Number of Hotels[a]	Room Nights Available[b]	Revenue (dollars)	Percent Occupancy	Room Nights Sold
Refugio County						
Refugio	$0–39.99	1	1,500	14,000	36.3	600
	$40–49.99	1	4,000	76,000	38.9	1,500
	$70–79.99	1	1,400	39,000	38.3	500
Total		3	6,900	129,000	37.7	2,600
Victoria County						
Victoria	$0–39.99	7	41,000	622,000	51.5	21,100
	$40–49.99	1	7,200	244,000	76.1	5,500
	$50–59.99	1	9,000	255,000	51.3	4,600
	$60–69.99	5	45,100	1,803,000	61.1	27,500
	$80–89.99	1	5,800	380,000	76.3	4,400
	$90–99.99	2	11,000	845,000	79.8	8,800
Total		17	119,100	4,149,000	60.4	71,900
6-County						
ROI Total		43	197,500	6,018,000	54.4	107,400

Source: TOG Undated

(a) Only properties with revenues exceeding $18,000 in the current quarter.
(b) Room Nights Available – the number of rooms in a hotel multiplied by the number of nights in the current quarter.

Table 2.5.2-37
ROI Housing Inventory by Price Range, 2000[(a)]

Value	Calhoun County		DeWitt County		Goliad County		Jackson County		Refugio County		Victoria County		ROI	
	Number of Units	%	Number of Units	%	Number of Units	%	Number of Units	%	Number of Units	%	Number of Units	%	Number of Units	%
Less than $50,000	1,766	43.3	1,849	53.8	426	43.7	1,232	46.8	1,050	60.7	4,304	26.8	10,627	36.8
$50,000 to $99,999	1,697	41.6	1,141	33.2	333	34.2	1,021	38.8	507	29.3	7,685	47.9	12,384	42.9
$100,000 to $149,999	391	9.6	288	8.4	146	15	222	8.4	123	7.1	2,329	14.5	3,499	12.1
$150,000 to $199,999	163	4	106	3.1	49	5	115	4.4	24	1.4	1,060	6.6	1,517	5.2
$200,000 to $299,999	63	1.5	25	0.7	16	1.6	36	1.4	10	0.6	444	2.8	594	2.1
$300,000 to $499,999	0	0	5	0.1	2	0.2	4	0.2	2	0.1	181	1.1	194	0.7
$500,000 to $999,999	0	0	15	0.4	2	0.2	0	0	0	0	37	0.2	54	0.2
$1,000,000 or more	0	0	5	0.1	0	0	0	0	15	0.9	11	0.1	31	0.1
Total Units	4,080	100.0	3,434	100.0	974	100.0	2,630	100.0	1,731	100.0	16,051	100.0	28,900	100.0
Median Value	$56,400		$47,100		$57,400		$52,700		$42,600		$73,300		N/A	

Source: USCB 2000c

(a) Owner-occupied units with a mortgage.

Note: N/A - Not available

Table 2.5.2-38 (Sheet 1 of 2)
Major Water Suppliers in the ROI

System Name	Population Served[a],[b]	Primary Water Source[c]	Total Production Capability (MGD)[c]	Max Purchased Capacity (MGD)[c]	Average Daily Consumption (MGD)[c]	Percent Utilized Capacity	Percent Available Capacity
Calhoun County							
Calhoun County Rural Water System	7,041	Purchased Surface Water	2.26	N/A	0.205	9.1	90.9
City of Point Comfort	1,296	Surface Water	1.152	N/A	0.136	11.8	88.2
City of Port Lavaca	12,000	Purchased Surface Water	N/A	N/A	1.210	N/A	100.0
City of Seadrift	4,338	Groundwater	2.304	N/A	0.104	4.5	95.5
Port O'Connor MUD	3,810	Purchased Groundwater	1.044	N/A	N/A	N/A	—
County Subtotal	28,485	—	6.76	—	1.655	24.5	75.5
DeWitt County							
City of Cuero	6,571	Groundwater	7.740	N/A	1.680	21.7	78.3
City of Yoakum	5,731	Groundwater	4.212	7.920	0.771	18.3	81.7
City of Yorktown	2,207	Groundwater	2.030	N/A	0.265	13.1	86.9
County Subtotal	14,509	—	13.982	—	2.716	19.4	80.6
Goliad County							
City of Goliad	2,018	Groundwater	1.656	N/A	0.376	22.7	77.3
County Subtotal	2,018	—	1.656	—	0.376	22.7	77.3
Jackson County							
City of Edna	5,999	Groundwater	3.300	1.656	0.594	18.0	82.0
City of Ganado	2,376	Groundwater	2.660	1.296	0.195	7.3	92.7
Jackson County WCID 1	700	Groundwater	0.403	N/A	0.058	14.4	85.6
Jackson County WCID 2	600	Groundwater	0.324	N/A	0.050	15.4	84.6
County Subtotal	9,675	—	6.687	—	0.897	13.4	86.6

Table 2.5.2-38 (Sheet 2 of 2)
Major Water Suppliers in the ROI

System Name	Population Served[a],[b]	Primary Water Source[c]	Total Production Capability (MGD)[c]	Max Purchased Capacity (MGD)[c]	Average Daily Consumption (MGD)[c]	Percent Utilized Capacity	Percent Available Capacity
Refugio County							
City of Bayside	714	Groundwater	0.165	N/A	N/A	––	––
City of Refugio	2,941	Groundwater	2.736	N/A	0.524	19.2	80.8
City of Woodsboro	1,750	Groundwater	1.188	N/A	0.203	17.1	82.9
County Subtotal	5,405	––	4.089	––	0.727	17.8	82.2
Victoria County							
City of Victoria	61,055	Surface Water	36.657	N/A	9.920	27.1	72.9
Quail Creek MUD	1,533	Groundwater	2.261	0.720	0.148	6.5	93.5
Victoria County WCID 1	2,800	Groundwater	0.994	N/A	0.245	24.6	75.4
Victoria County WCID 2	696	Groundwater	0.288	N/A	0.060	20.8	79.2
County Subtotal	66,084	––	40.2	––	10.373	25.8	74.2
ROI Total	126,176	––	73.374	––	16.744	22.8	77.2

(a) USEPA 2007

(b) TCEQ 2007

(c) Data selected based on major populations served per county. Year of data not provided. Data extracted from TCEQ database that is updated continuously.

Notes: WCID = Water Control and Improvement District
MUD = Municipal Utilities Department
N/A = Not Available
MGD = Millions of gallons per day

Table 2.5.2-39 (Sheet 1 of 3)
Wastewater Treatment Systems in the ROI

System Name (TPDES #)[a]	Plant Designed Average Flow (MGD)[b]	Wastewater Processed (MGD)[a]	Period[a]
Calhoun County			
City of Point Comfort (10599001)	0.2	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.029 Monthly Avg. Max. 0.126 Monthly Avg. 0.057	September 2006 – August 2007
City of Port Lavaca (10251001)	1.5	Monthly Avg. Min. 1.14 Monthly Avg. Max. 1.39 Monthly Avg. 1.24	October 2006 – September 2007
City of Seadrift (0822001)	0.3	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.08 Monthly Avg. Max. 0.34 Monthly Avg. 0.15	September 2006 – August 2007
Port O'Connor MUD (13693001)	0.6	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.070 Monthly Avg. Max. 0.277 Monthly Avg. 0.110	September 2006 – August 2007
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (13954001)	0.03	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.004 Monthly Avg. Max. 0.017 Monthly Avg. 0.009	September 2006 – August 2007
South-Central Calhoun County W. (13774001)	0.075	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.013 Monthly Avg. Max. 0.03 Monthly Avg. 0.021	August 2006 – July 2007
DeWitt County			
City of Cuero (10403002)	1.5	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.484 Monthly Avg. Max. 0.963 Monthly Avg. 0.900	August 2006 – July 2007
City of Yoakum (10463001)	0.95	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.468 Monthly Avg. Max. 1.142 Monthly Avg. 0.647	October 2006 – September 2007
City of Yorktown (10323001)	0.26	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.105 Monthly Avg. Max. 0.211 Monthly Avg. 0.152	September 2006 – August 2007
Goliad County			
City of Goliad (10458001)	0.35	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.159 Monthly Avg. Max. 0.400 Monthly Avg. 0.240	September 2006 – August 2007
Jackson County			
City of Edna (10164001)	1.8	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.575 Monthly Avg. Max. 1.13 Monthly Avg. 0.713	September 2006 – August 2007
City of Ganado (10010001)	0.35	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.147 Monthly Avg. Max. 0.385 Monthly Avg. 0.201	September 2006 – August 2007

Table 2.5.2-39 (Sheet 2 of 3)
Wastewater Treatment Systems in the ROI

System Name (TPDES #)[a]	Plant Designed Average Flow (MGD)[b]	Wastewater Processed (MGD)[a]	Period[a]
Jackson County (cont.)			
City of La Ward (13479001)	0.013	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.0002 Monthly Avg. Max. 0.0039 Monthly Avg. 0.0017	September 2006 – August 2007
Jackson County WCID No. 1 (10911001)	0.062	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.021 Monthly Avg. Max. 0.261 Monthly Avg. 0.042	August 2006 – July 2007
Jackson County WCID No. 2 (10196001)	0.045	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.023 Monthly Avg. Max. 0.163 Monthly Avg. 0.045	October 2006 – September 2007
Refugio County			
City of Austwell (11117001)	0.06	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.005 Monthly Avg. Max. 0.033 Monthly Avg. 0.010	September 2006 – August 2007
Refugio County WCID No. 1 (10256001)	0.075	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.034 Monthly Avg. Max. 0.079 Monthly Avg. 0.046	August 2006 – July 2007
Town of Bayside (13892001)	N/A	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.003 Monthly Avg. Max. 0.040 Monthly Avg. 0.009	September 2006 – August 2007
Town of Refugio (10255001)	0.576	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.210 Monthly Avg. Max. 0.544 Monthly Avg. 0.284	September 2006 – August 2007
Town of Woodsboro (10156001)	0.25	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.083 Monthly Avg. Max. 0.100 Monthly Avg. 0.091	September 2006 – August 2007
Victoria County			
Aqua Utilities, Inc. (10742001)	0.05	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.020 Monthly Avg. Max. 0.040 Monthly Avg. 0.026	September 2006 – August 2007
City of Victoria & Guadalupe (10466001)	2.5	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.9 Monthly Avg. Max. 1.1 Monthly Avg. 0.98	October 2006 – September 2007
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (11078001)	9.6	Monthly Avg. Min. 5.7 Monthly Avg. Max. 7.7 Monthly Avg. 6.5	October 2006 – September 2007
Quail Creek MUD (12226001)	0.22	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.100 Monthly Avg. Max. 0.157 Monthly Avg. 0.118	September 2006 – August 2007
Victoria County WCID No. 2 (12743001)	0.072	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.036 Monthly Avg. Max. 0.113 Monthly Avg. 0.069	November 2006 – October 2007

Table 2.5.2-39 (Sheet 3 of 3)
Wastewater Treatment Systems in the ROI

System Name (TPDES #)[a]	Plant Designed Average Flow (MGD)[b]	Wastewater Processed (MGD)[a]	Period[a]
Victoria County (cont.)			
Victoria County WCID No. 1 (10513002)	N/A	Monthly Avg. Min. 0.172 Monthly Avg. Max. 0.324 Monthly Avg. 0.217	August 2006 – July 2007
ROI Total	21.438	Monthly Avg. 12.9	–

(a) TCEQ Nov 2007

(b) TCEQ Dec 2007

Notes: WCID = Water Control and Improvement District
MUD = Municipal Utilities Department
N/A = Not available
MGD = Millions of gallons per day

Table 2.5.2-40
Region L - Projected Water Demands for 2010 and 2060

Category	2010 (acre-feet)	2060 (acre-feet)	Percent change in demand 2010–2060	Percent of overall demand in 2010	Percent change in relative share of overall demand 2010–2060
Municipal	369,694	597,619	+62	38	+9
County-other	26,302	39,616	+51	3	0
Manufacturing	119,310	179,715	+51	12	+2
Mining	14,524	18,644	+28	1	0
Irrigation	379,026	301,679	–20	38	–15
Steam-electric	50,427	109,776	+118	5	+4
Livestock	25,954	25,954	0	3	–1
Region L total	985,237	1,273,003	+29	—	—

Source: TWDB Nov 2006

Table 2.5.2-41
Region L - Existing Major Water Supply Sources

Water Supply Source	2010 (acre-feet)	2060 (acre-feet)
Surface water		
Guadalupe River run-of-river	123,328	123,328
Canyon Lake	59,820	55,153
Calaveras Lake	36,900	36,900
Lake Texana	32,604	32,604
Guadalupe River Combined run-of-river irrigation	18,184	18,184
Livestock Local Supply	13,230	13,150
Coleto Creek Lake	12,500	12,500
Victor Braunig Lake	12,000	12,000
Other Surface Water	25,414	25,414
Surface water subtotal	333,980	329,233
Groundwater		
Edwards (Balcones Fault Zone) Aquifer	343,799	343,799
Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer	256,735	235,072
Gulf Coast Aquifer	58,926	55,580
Queen City Aquifer	12,742	11,111
Other groundwater	12,934	11,842
Groundwater subtotal	685,136	657,404
Reuse		
Direct Reuse	30,653	31,773
Reuse subtotal	30,653	31,773
Region L Total	1,049,769	1,018,410

Source: TWDB Nov 2006

Note: Water supply sources are listed individually if 10,000 acre-feet per year or greater in 2010. Values include only water supplies that are physically and legally available to users during a drought of record.

Table 2.5.2-42
Region P- Projected Water Demands for 2010 and 2060

Category	2010 (acre-feet)	2060 (acre-feet)	Percent change in demand 2010–2060	Percent of overall demand in 2010	Percent change in relative share of overall demand 2010–2060
Municipal	4,765	4,445	–7	2	0
County-other	2,406	2,096	–13	1	0
Manufacturing	1,089	1,425	+31	0	0
Mining	164	192	+17	0	0
Irrigation	213,638	195,251	–9	95	0
Steam-electric	0	0	0	0	0
Livestock	3,499	3,499	0	2	0
Region P Total	225,561	206,908	–8	–	–

Source: TWDB Nov 2006

Table 2.5.2-43
Region P - Existing Major Water Supply Sources

Water Supply Source	2010 (acre-feet)	2060 (acre-feet)
Surface water		
Lake Texana	1,832	1,832
Surface water subtotal	1,832	1,832
Groundwater		
Gulf Coast Aquifer	207,599	207,599
Groundwater subtotal	207,599	207,599
Region P Total	209,431	209,431

Source: TWDB Nov 2006

Note: Water supply sources are listed individually if 10,000 acre-feet per year or greater in 2010. Values include only water supplies that are physically and legally available to users during a drought of record.

Table 2.5.2-44
Law Enforcement Personnel, 2005

Political Jurisdiction	Total Law Enforcement Employees	Total Police Officers[(a)]	Total Civilians[(b)]
Calhoun County and City Personnel			
Calhoun County	56	22	34
Point Comfort	1	1	0
Port Lavaca	25	19	6
Seadrift	2	2	0
Total	84	44	40
DeWitt County and City Personnel			
DeWitt County	28	10	18
Cuero	14	13	1
Yoakum	17	10	7
Yorktown	4	4	0
Total	63	37	26
Goliad County and City Personnel			
Goliad County	25	10	15
Total	25	10	15
Jackson County and City Personnel			
Jackson County	24	14	10
Edna	11	9	2
Ganado	4	3	1
Total	39	26	13
Refugio County and City Personnel			
Refugio County	32	10	22
Refugio	13	9	4
Total	45	19	26
Victoria County and City Personnel			
Victoria County	155	88	67
Victoria	132	95	37
Total	287	183	104
Total ROI (All Counties)	543	319	224

Source: FBI Sep 2006

(a) Individuals who ordinarily carry a badge and a firearm and have full arrest powers.
(b) Personnel such as clerks, radio dispatchers, stenographers, jailers, and mechanics.

Table 2.5.2-45 (Sheet 1 of 3)
Fire Protection Personnel, 2007[(a)]

Fire Dept Name	Dept Type	Organization Type	Number Of Stations	Active Firefighters (Career)	Active Firefighters (Volunteer)	Active Firefighters (Paid per Call)	Non-Firefighting (Civilian)	Non-Firefighting (Volunteer)
Calhoun County								
Magnolia Beach Volunteer Fire Department	Volunteer	Local	1	0	11	0	0	2
Olivia-Port Alto Volunteer Fire Department	Volunteer	Local	1	0	20	0	0	0
Port Lavaca Fire Department	Mostly Career	Local	2	16	11	0	1	0
Port O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department	Volunteer	Local	1	0	20	0	0	10
Seadrift Volunteer Fire Department	Volunteer	Local	1	0	15	0	0	2
Thomaston Volunteer Fire Department	Volunteer	Non-governmental VFD	1	0	8	0	0	12
DeWitt County								
Cuero Fire Department	Mostly Volunteer	Local	1	6	45	0	0	0
Meyersville Volunteer Fire Department	Volunteer	Local	1	0	20	0	0	0
Westhoff Volunteer Fire Department	Volunteer	Local	1	0	15	0	0	10
Goliad County								
Ander-Weser Volunteer Fire Department	Volunteer	Local	1	0	20	0	0	25
Goliad Volunteer Fire Department	Volunteer	Local	1	0	25	0	0	0
Weesatche Volunteer Fire Department	Volunteer	Local	1	0	25	0	0	1

Table 2.5.2-45 (Sheet 2 of 3)
Fire Protection Personnel, 2007[(a)]

Fire Dept Name	Dept Type	Organization Type	Number Of Stations	Active Firefighters (Career)	Active Firefighters (Volunteer)	Active Firefighters (Paid per Call)	Non-Firefighting (Civilian)	Non-Firefighting (Volunteer)
Jackson County								
Edna Fire Department	Mostly Volunteer	Local	1	8	22	0	1	0
Ganado Volunteer Fire Department	Volunteer	Local	1	0	0	26	0	0
La Ward Volunteer Fire Department	Volunteer	Local	1	0	15	0	0	3
Refugio County								
Bayside Volunteer Fire Department	Volunteer	Local	1	0	15	0	0	0
Refugio Volunteer Fire Department	Volunteer	Local	1	0	25	0	0	0
Tivoli Volunteer Fire Department	Volunteer	Local	1	0	20	0	0	0
Woodsboro Fire Department	Volunteer	Contract fire department	1	0	28	0	0	1
Victoria County								
Bloomington Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.	Volunteer	Local	1	0	22	0	0	12
Lone Tree Volunteer Fire Department	Volunteer	Local	1	0	10	0	0	80
Nursery Volunteer Fire Department	Volunteer	Local	1	0	14	0	0	0
Placedo Volunteer Fire Department	Volunteer	Local	1	0	18	0	0	4
Quail Creek Volunteer Fire Department	Volunteer	Local	1	0	20	0	0	14

Table 2.5.2-45 (Sheet 3 of 3)
Fire Protection Personnel, 2007[(a)]

Fire Dept Name	Dept Type	Organization Type	Number Of Stations	Active Firefighters (Career)	Active Firefighters (Volunteer)	Active Firefighters (Paid per Call)	Non-Firefighting (Civilian)	Non-Firefighting (Volunteer)
Victoria County (continued)								
Raisin Volunteer Fire Department	Volunteer	Local	4	0	15	0	0	20
Telferner Volunteer Fire Department	Volunteer	Local	1	0	6	0	0	3
Victoria Fire Department	Career	Local	4	107	0	0	3	0
Total – ROI (All Counties)			34	137	465	26	5	199

Source: USFA 2007

(a) Data is obtained from the U. S. Fire Administration's (USFA) National Fire Department Census. Responses to this census are voluntary and the USFA estimates that, as of 2006, approximately 81 percent of the nation's fire departments have responded (USFA 2007).

Table 2.5.2-46
Police and Fire Protection Ratios

County	Total Population (2000)	Sworn Officers (2005)	Ratio of Residents per Officer[(a)]	Active Firefighters (career, volunteer, and paid per call) (2007)	Ratio of Residents per Active Firefighter[(b)]
Calhoun	20,647	44	469:1	101	204:1
DeWitt	20,013	37	541:1	86	233:1
Goliad	6,928	10	693:1	70	99:1
Jackson	14,391	26	554:1	71	203:1
Refugio	7,828	19	412:1	88	89:1
Victoria	84,088	183	459:1	212	397:1
ROI	153,895	319	482:1	628	245:1

Sources: Tables 2.5.1-4, 2.5.2-44, 2.5.2-45

(a) Total population in 2000 divided by sworn officers in 2005.
(b) Total population in 2000 divided by active firefighters in 2007.

Table 2.5.2-47 (Sheet 1 of 2)
Public Protection Classification Ratings in the ROI

City/Town/Community/Fire Department	County	Zip Code	Public Protection Classification[(a)]
Point Comfort Fire Department	Calhoun	77978	5
Point Comfort Outside of Point Comfort Fire Department protection area	Calhoun	77978	5/9
Port Lavaca Fire Department	Calhoun	77972	4
Port Lavaca Fire Department	Calhoun	77979	4
Port Lavaca Outside of Port Lavaca Fire Department protection area	Calhoun	77979	4/9
Port O'Connor Fire Department	Calhoun	77982	8
Seadrift Fire Department	Calhoun	77983	7
Cuero Fire Department	DeWitt	77954	5
Hochheim Fire Department	DeWitt	77967	10
Nordheim Fire Department	DeWitt	78141	8
Weesatche Volunteer Fire Department	DeWitt	78164	9/10
Westhoff Fire Department	DeWitt	77994	10
Yoakum Fire Department	DeWitt	77995	5
Yorktown Fire Department	DeWitt	78164	7
Berclair Fire Department	Goliad	78107	10
Fannin Fire Department	Goliad	77960	10
Goliad Fire Department	Goliad	77963	7
Raisin Volunteer Fire Department	Goliad	77960	10
Weesatche Volunteer Fire Department	Goliad	77993	9/10
Caranacuhua Volunteer Fire Department	Jackson	77465	10
Edna Fire Department	Jackson	77957	6
Francitas Volunteer Fire Department	Jackson	77961	9/10
Ganado Fire Department	Jackson	77962	7
La Salle Fire Department	Jackson	77969	10
La Ward Fire Department	Jackson	77970	9/10
La Ward Volunteer Fire Department	Jackson	77970	9/10
Lolita Fire Department	Jackson	77971	7/9
Lolita Volunteer Fire Department	Jackson	77971	7/9
Vanderbilt Volunteer Fire Department	Jackson	77991	7/9
Austwell Fire Department	Refugio	77950	10
Bayside Fire Department	Refugio	78340	7/9
Bayside Fire Department	Refugio	78340	7/9
Refugio Fire Department	Refugio	78377	5

Table 2.5.2-47 (Sheet 2 of 2)
Public Protection Classification Ratings in the ROI

City/Town/Community/Fire Department	County	Zip Code	Public Protection Classification[a]
Refugio — Outside of Refugio Fire Department protection area	Refugio	78377	9/10
Tivoli Fire Department	Refugio	77990	10
Woodsboro Fire Department	Refugio	78393	7
Bloomington Fire Department	Victoria	77951	9/10
Bloomington Volunteer Fire Department	Victoria	77951	9/10
Crescent Valley Fire Department	Victoria	77905	9/10
Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department	Victoria	77905	9/10
Inez Fire Department	Victoria	77968	10
Lone Tree Volunteer Fire Department	Victoria	77977	9/10
Mcfaddin Fire Department	Victoria	77973	10
Mcfaddin Volunteer Fire Department	Victoria	77973	10
Placedo Fire Department	Victoria	77977	10
Quail Creek Volunteer Fire Department	Victoria	77905	5/8B[b]
Raisin Volunteer Fire Department	Victoria	77901	10
Telferner Volunteer Fire Department	Victoria	77988	9/10
Victoria Fire Department	Victoria	77901	4
Victoria Fire Department	Victoria	77904	4
Victoria Fire Department	Victoria	77905	4
Victoria — Outside of Victoria Fire Department protection area	Victoria	77905	9/10

Source: TDI Jan 2008

(a) For Public Protection Classifications with two numbers, the first number is the Public Protection Classification for buildings within 1000 feet of a fire hydrant and 5 road miles of a recognized fire department. The second number is for buildings more than 1000 feet from a fire hydrant but within 5 road miles of a recognized fire department (TDI Sep 2007).

(b) 8B = the rating is actually between 8 and 9.

Table 2.5.2-48
2006 Hospital Data and 2007 Physician Data

Facility Name	Staffed Beds	Admissions[a]	Daily Census[b]	Outpatient Visits[a]	Personnel[c]	No. of Physicians
Calhoun County						
Memorial Medical Center	25	1385	13	29,674	188	NA
County Total	25	1385	13	29,674	188	20
DeWitt County						
Cuero Community Hospital	60	2706	27	142,077	349	NA
County Total	60	2706	27	142,077	349	14
Goliad County						
County Total	0	0	0	0	0	3
Jackson County						
Jackson County Hospital District	54	403	32	NA	108	NA
County Total	54	403	32	NA	108	4
Refugio County						
Refugio County Memorial Hospital	20	303	3	31,283	99	NA
County Total	20	303	3	31,283	99	2
Victoria County						
Citizens Medical Center	296	11,557	150	95,958	1027	NA
DeTar Health Care System	308	9385	116	84,106	872	NA
Triumph Hospital of Victoria	23	223	15	0	58	NA
Victoria Warm Springs Hospital	22	260	13	5136	73	NA
County Total	649	21,425	294	185,200	2030	230
ROI						
ROI Total	808	26,222	369	388,234	2774	273

Sources: AHA 2006, AMA 2005

(a) Total during most recent 12-month period for which data was collected.

(b) Average daily census during most recent 12-month period for which data was collected.

(c) Hospital personnel list does not include doctors that serve patients in the hospital, but are not employed by the hospital.

Note:N/A – Not Available

Table 2.5.2-49
Public School Campuses in the ROI, 2007–2008 Academic Year

	Primary/Elementary		Middle/Intermediate/Junior High		High School		Alternative/ Magnet	Total	
ISD	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed		Current[e]	Proposed
Calhoun County									
Calhoun County	5	1	2	0	2	1	1	10	2
DeWitt County									
Cuero	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	6	0
Meyersville	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Nordheim	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Westhoff	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Yoakum	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	5	0
Yorktown	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	4	0
Goliad County									
Goliad	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	4	0
Jackson County									
Edna	1	1[a]	1	0	1	0	0	3	1
Ganado	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	0
Hallettsville	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	0
Industrial	2	2[b]	1	0	1	0	1	4	2
Palacios	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	5	0
Refugio County									
Austwell-Tivoli	1	0	1[d]	0	1	0	0	2	0
Refugio	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1
Woodsboro	1	0	1[d]	0	1	0	0	2	0
Victoria County									
Bloomington	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	0
Nursery	1	1[c]	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Victoria	15	2	3	1	3	2	1	22	5

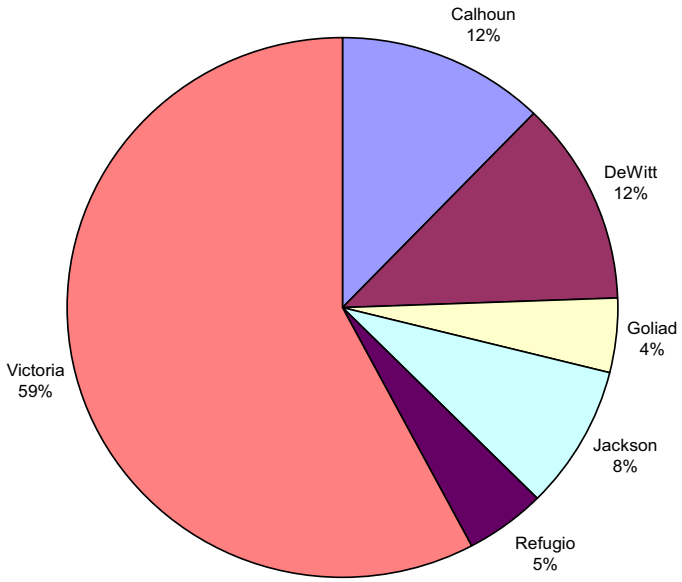
(a) New school to replace existing school.
(b) Additional classrooms in two existing buildings.
(c) New school will replace existing school
(d) Middle school is combined with high school.
(e) Numbers of campuses may not sum to the total.

Table 2.5.2-50
2007–2008 Enrollment and Capacities of Public Schools in the ROI

ISD	Current Enrollment/Percent of Capacity	Enrollment Capacity	Available Student Capacity
Calhoun County			
Calhoun County ISD	4290 (76%)	5,632	1342 (24%)
County-wide Total	4290 (76%)	5,632	1342 (24%)
DeWitt County			
Cuero ISD	1950 (72%)	2,700	750 (28%)
Meyersville ISD	125 (78%)	160	35 (22%)
Nordheim ISD	82 (47%)	175	93 (53%)
Westhoff ISD	48 (30%)	160	112 (70%)
Yoakum ISD	1550 (100%)	1,550	0 (0%)
Yorktown ISD	650 (72%)	900	250 (28%)
County-wide Total	4405 (78%)	5,645	1240 (22%)
Goliad County			
Goliad ISD	1312 (100%)	1,312	0 (0%)
County-wide Total	1312 (100%)	1,312	0 (0%)
Jackson County			
Edna ISD	1450 (81%)	1,800	350 (19%)
Ganado ISD	640 (91%)	700	60 (9%)
Hallettsville ISD	887 (85%)	1,050	163 (15%)
Industrial ISD	1060 (92%)	1,150	90 (8%)
Palacios ISD	1523 (85%)	1,800	277 (15%)
County-wide Total	5560 (86%)	6,500	940 (14%)
Refugio County			
Austwell-Tivoli ISD	155 (31%)	500	345 (69%)
Refugio ISD	735 (49%)	1,500	765 (51%)
Woodsboro ISD	546 (91%)	600	54 (9%)
County-wide Total	1436 (55%)	2,600	1164 (45%)
Victoria County			
Bloomington ISD	908 (86%)	1,050	142 (14%)
Nursery ISD	110 (52%)	210	100 (48%)
Victoria ISD[(a)]	13,550 (58%)	23,350	9800 (42%)
County-wide Total	14,568 (59%)	24,610	10,042 (41%)
Total for ROI	31,571 (68%)	46,299	14,728 (32%)

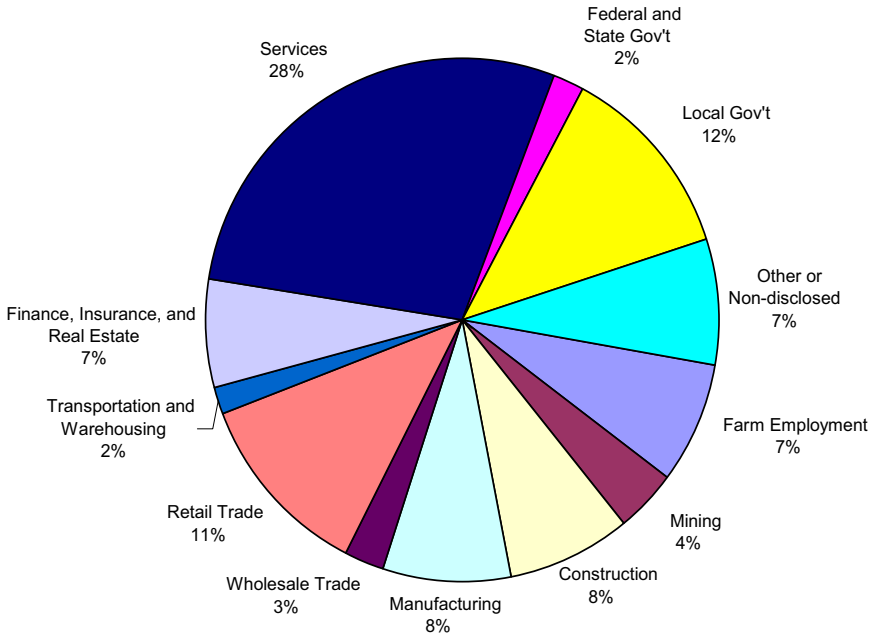
(a) Victoria ISD will decrease its current reliance on mobile classroom units when new schools are completed.

Note: If an ISD is located in more than one county, then the enrollment was only included in the primary county the ISD is located in with the exception of Hallettsville ISD and Palacios ISD. These ISDs were included in the county that is in the ROI since the primary county is outside the ROI.



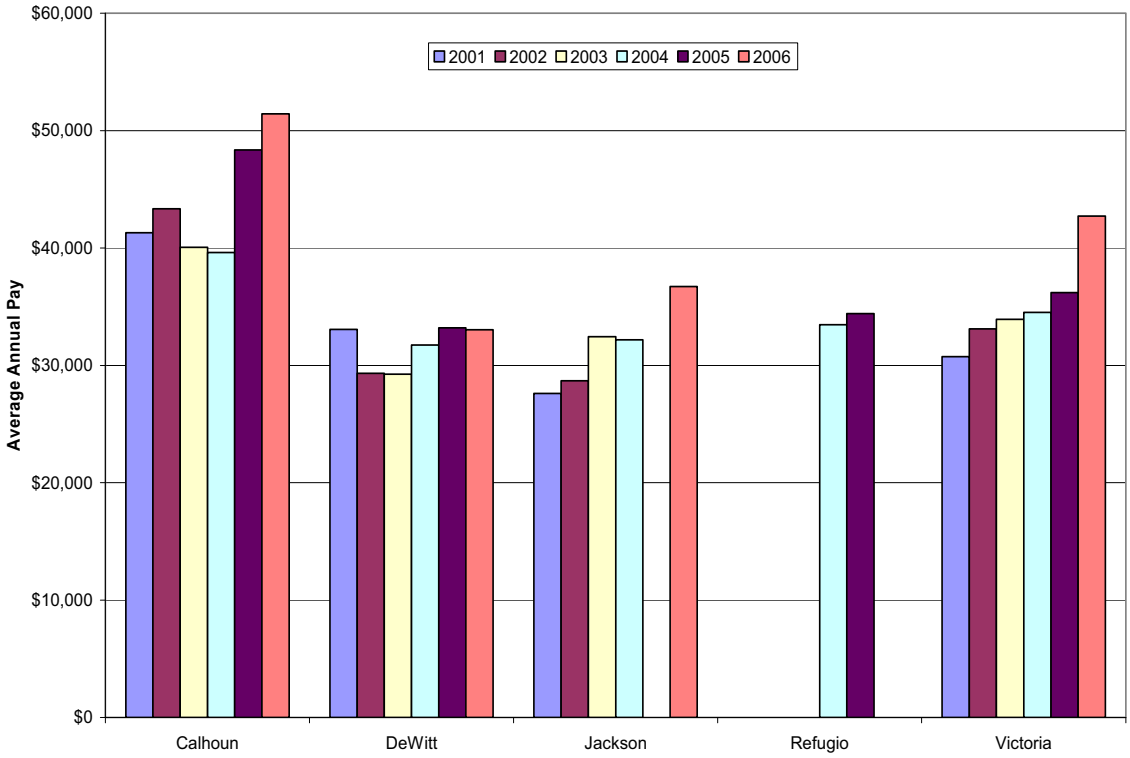
Source: BLS 2007a

Figure 2.5.2-1 ROI Labor Force Distribution, 2006



Source: BEA 2008

Figure 2.5.2-2 Major Employment Sectors, ROI, 2005



Source: BLS 2007b
Note: Data non-disclosed in all years for Goliad County, and in 2001–2003 and 2006 for Refugio County

Figure 2.5.2-3 Average Annual Earnings, NAICS Sector 237, Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction, 2001-2006

Figure 2.5.2-4 Transportation System in the 50-Mile Region

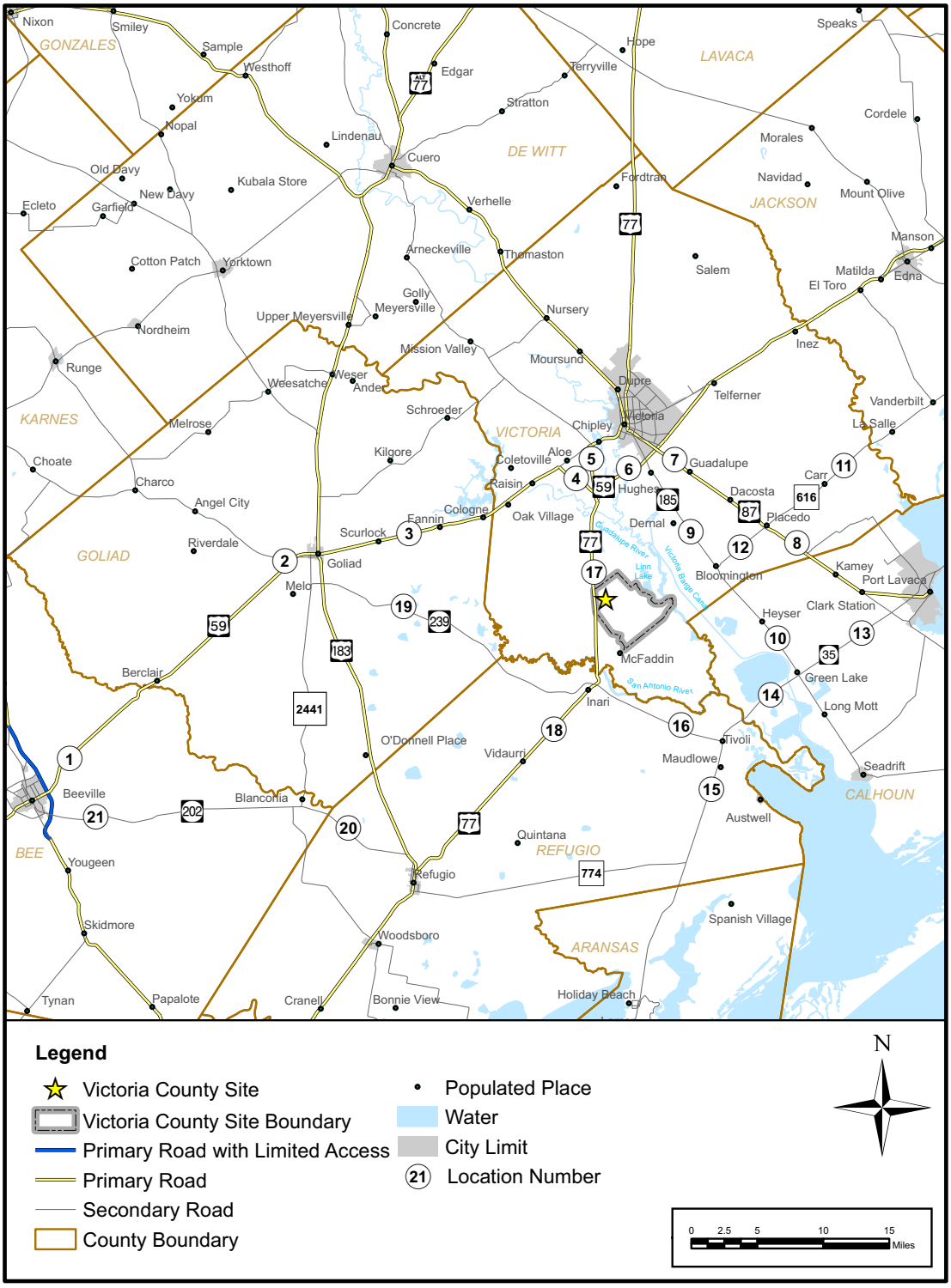


Figure 2.5.2-5 Transportation Routes to the Victoria County Station Site

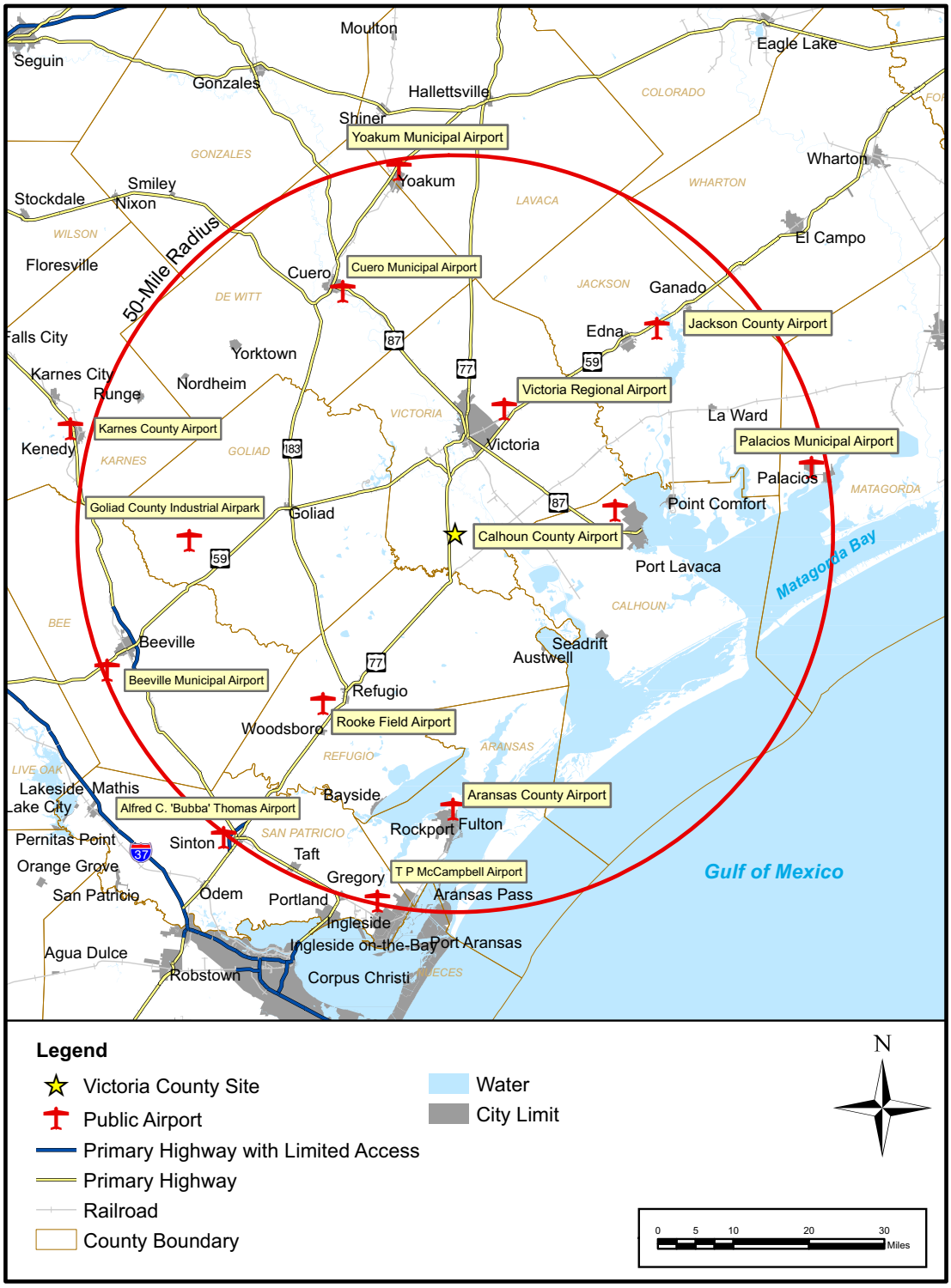
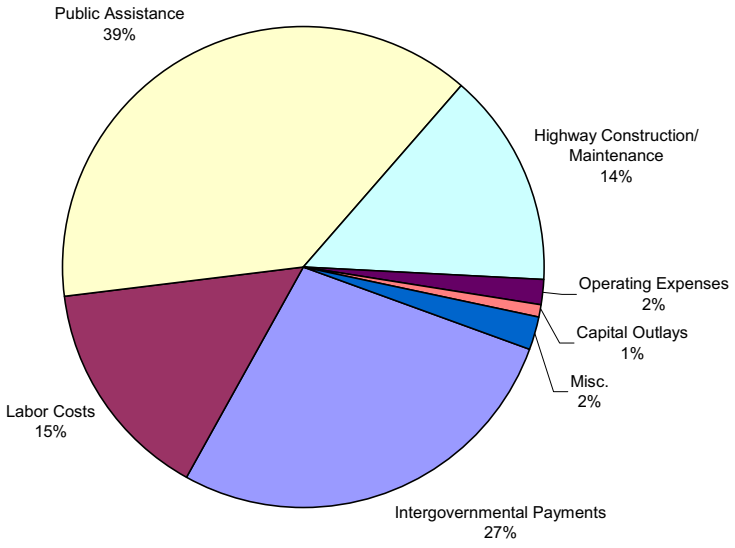
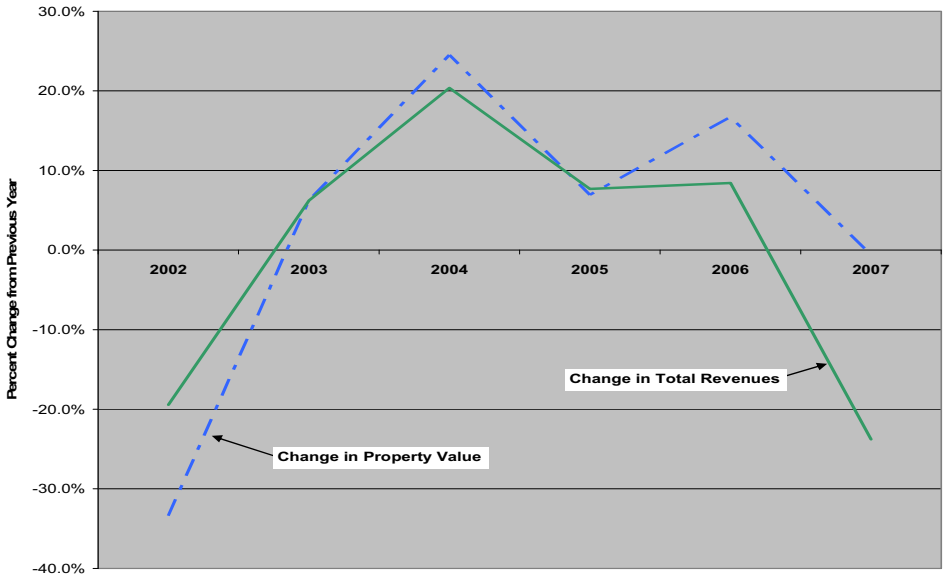


Figure 2.5.2-6 Airports in the 50–Mile Region



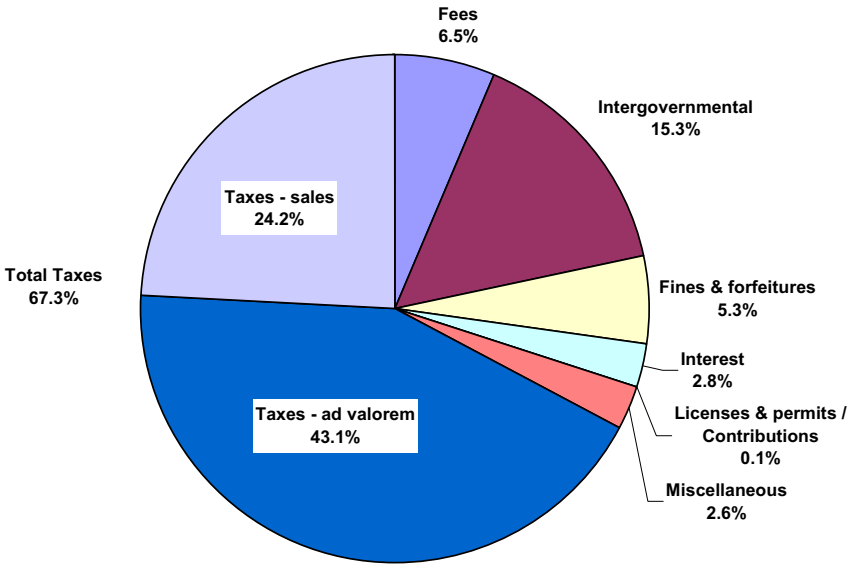
Source: TCPA 2007

Figure 2.5.2-7 State Expenditures by Category in ROI Counties, 2006



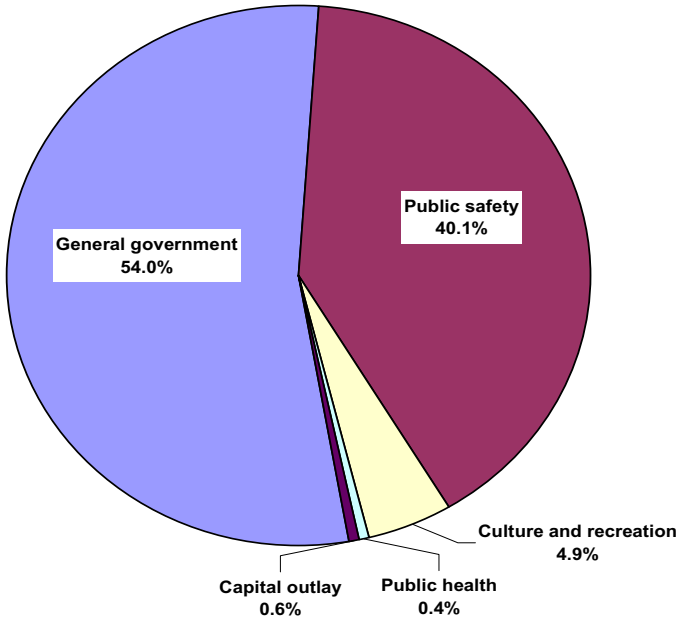
Source: RISD Feb 2008

Figure 2.5.2-8 Refugio ISD, Changes from Previous Year in Property Values and Revenues, 2001–2007



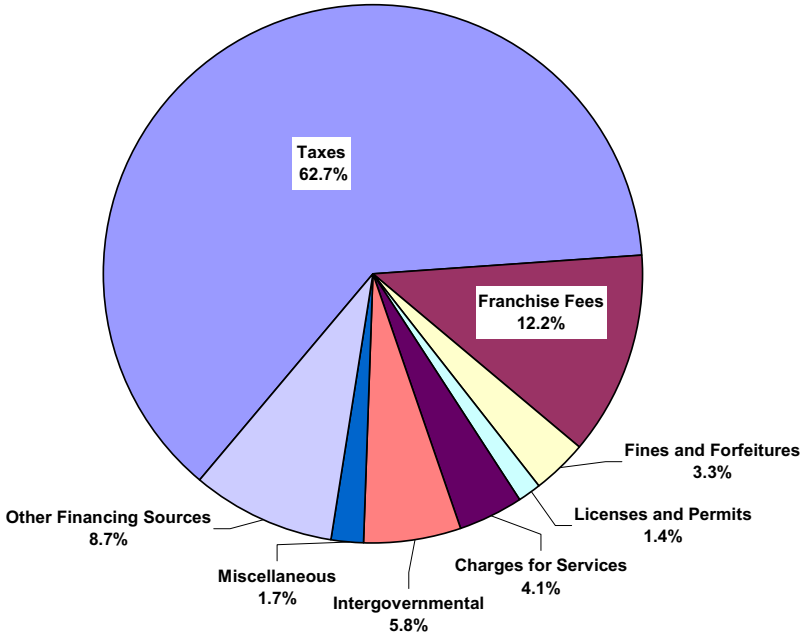
Source: VCA Jun 2007

Figure 2.5.2-9 Victoria County Revenues, 2006



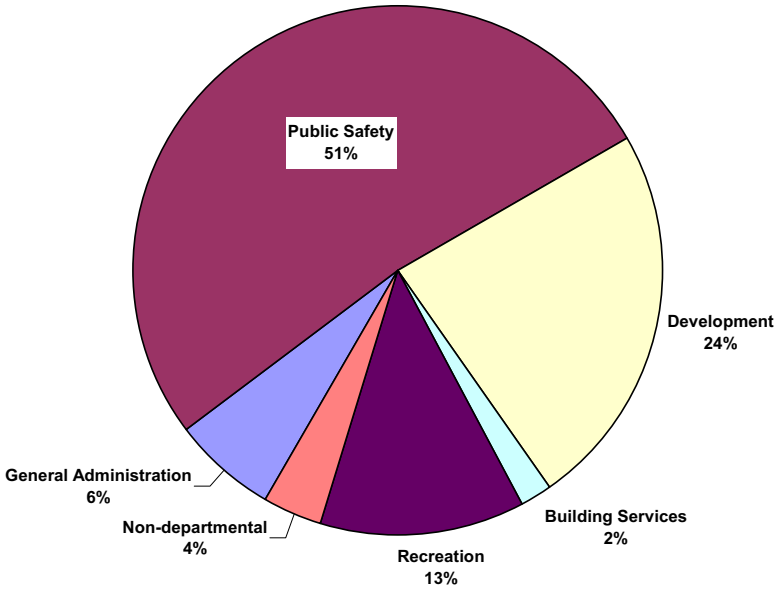
Source: VCA Jun 2007

Figure 2.5.2-10 Victoria County Expenditures, 2006



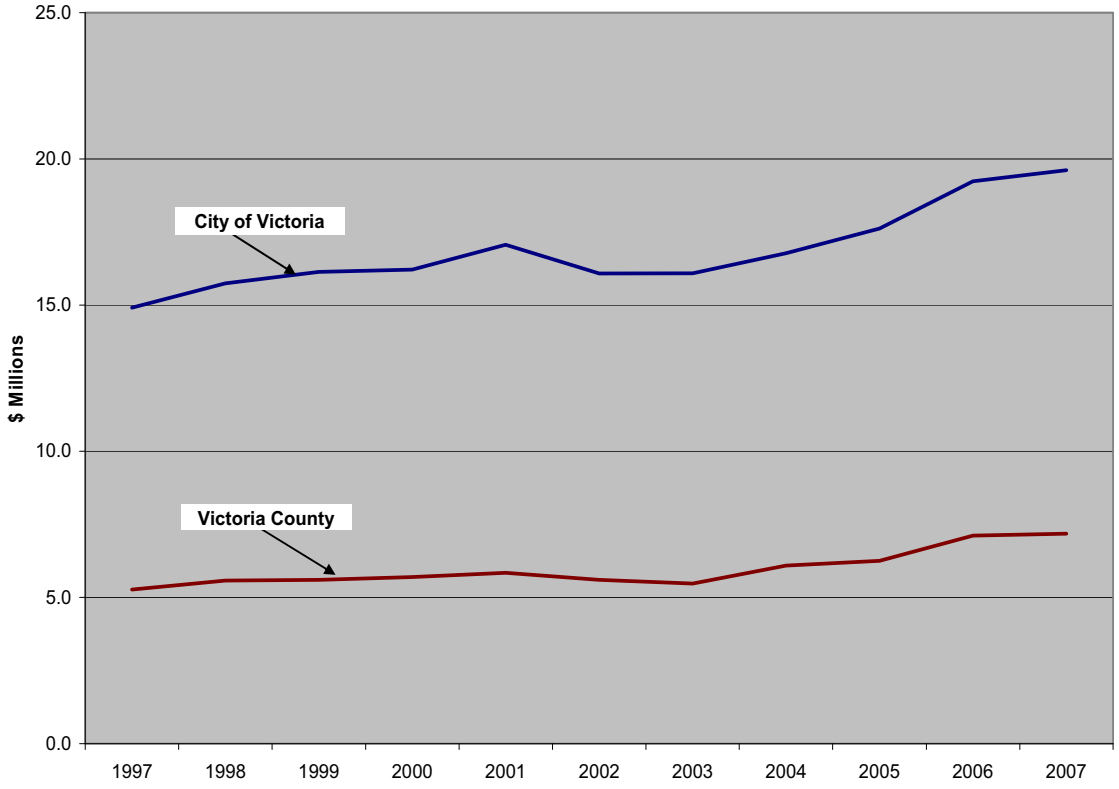
Source: Victoria 2007

Figure 2.5.2-11 City of Victoria Budgeted Revenues, 2006–2007



Source: Victoria 2007

Figure 2.5.2-12 City of Victoria Budgeted Expenditures, 2006–2007



Source: TCPA 2008g

Figure 2.5.2-13 Sales Taxes, Victoria County and City of Victoria, 1997–2007 (Adjusted for Inflation; Values are in 2007 Dollars)

Figure 2.5.2-14 Federal and State Recreational Areas within the 50-Mile Radius

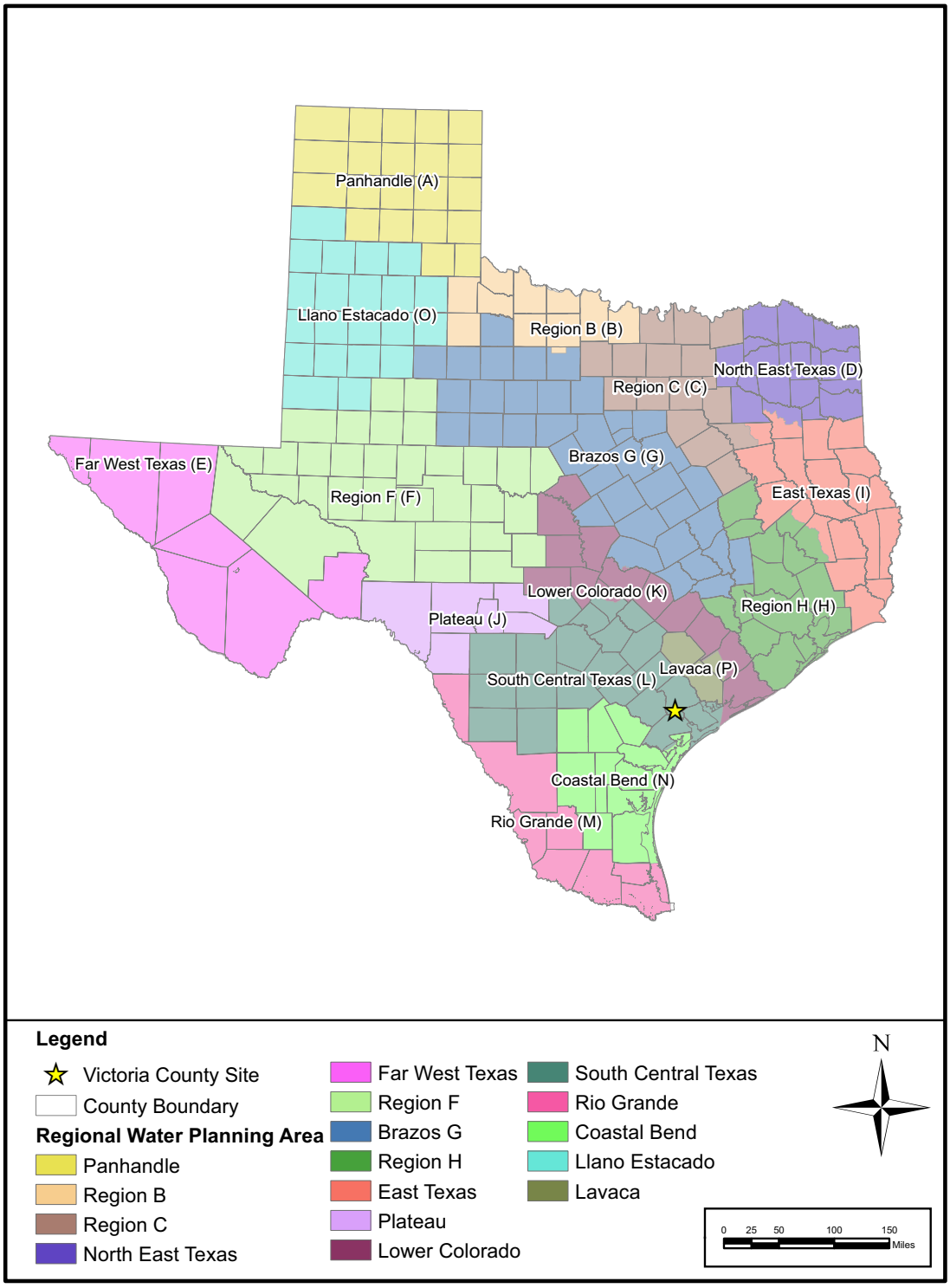


Figure 2.5.2-15 Regional Water Planning Areas

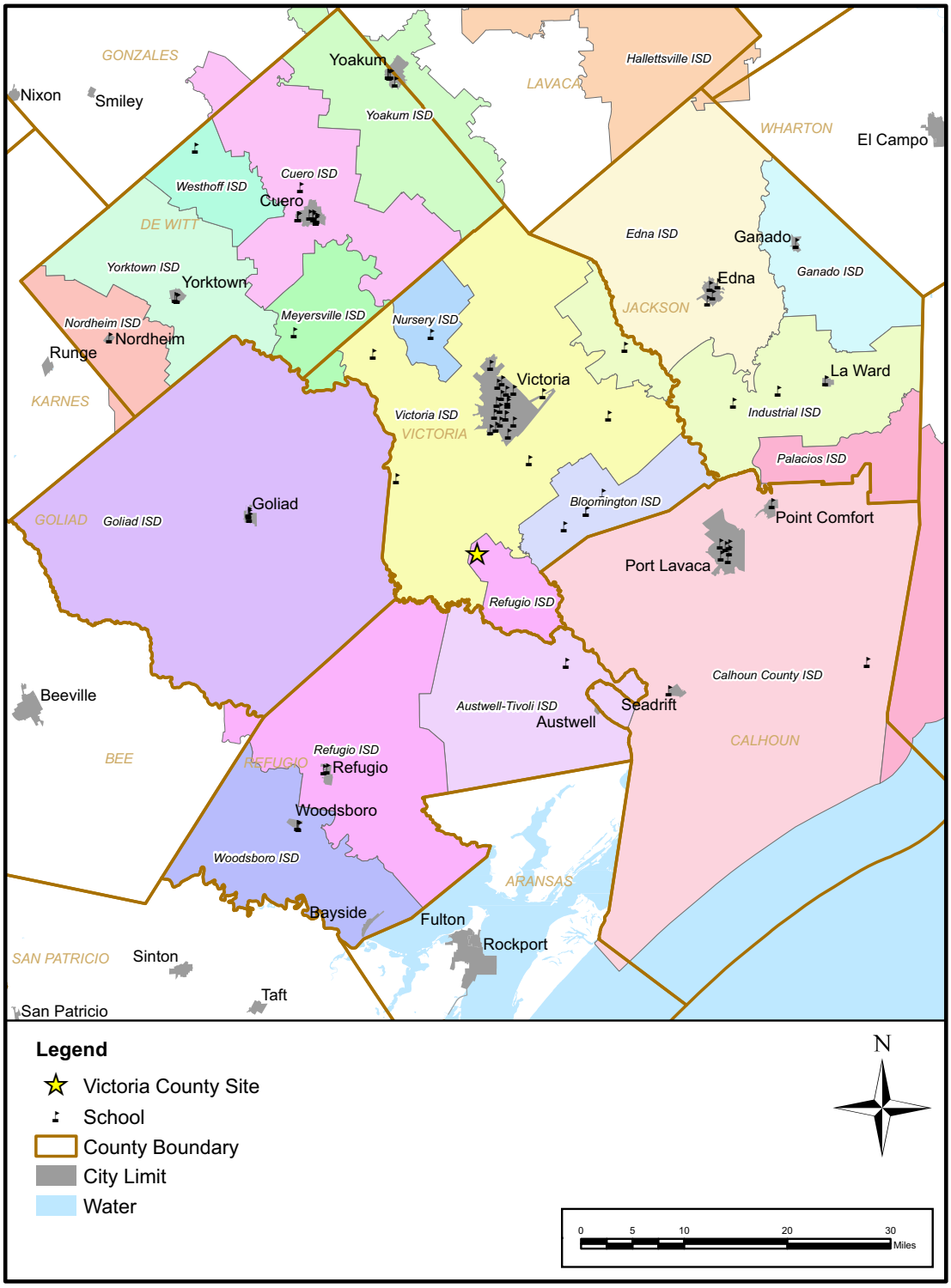


Figure 2.5.2-16 Public Schools and Independent School Districts

2.5.3 Historic Properties

2.5.3.1 Applicable Federal and State Historic Preservation Regulations

The NRC, a federal agency, would issue the early site permit for the VCS site; thus, the project is subject to review and consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 470 et seq.). In particular, Section 106 of the Act applies, along with the section's implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800. These regulations apply to resources determined potentially eligible or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The state of Texas' Government Code, Title 4, Chapter 442, Texas Historical Commission, Subsection 442.006(f) protects recorded Texas historic landmarks. State archeological landmarks are protected under the state of Texas' Natural Resources Code Title 9, Chapter 191, Antiquities Code. Historic Texas Cemeteries do not have specific protection. However, burials at any historic cemetery (dated post-1700) located on state, municipal, or private lands are protected by the Texas Health and Safety Code, Title 8, Chapters 694–715. Prehistoric burials located on state, municipal, or private lands do not have any additional protection, other than as an archaeological site, as addressed through the Antiquities Code.

The project currently does not include any federal land. If the transmission line corridor is routed in such a way that federal land is included in the right-of-way, then additional cultural resource regulations would pertain to cultural resources located on the federally owned land in the right-of-way. These regulations include the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), Archaeological Resources Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 470aa–mm), American Indian Religious Freedom Act (42 U.S.C. 1996), and Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 469).

2.5.3.2 Consultation with the Texas Historical Commission

Exelon has consulted with the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer regarding the project and cultural resource investigations associated with land selected for VCS and their results. Exelon held an initial meeting with the THC in December 2007 to introduce the site and to consult on planned Phase Ia investigations. The Phase Ia investigations would help define the areas of potential effect (APEs) for the project, and determine the follow-on Phase Ib (intensive inventory and initial evaluation) methodology for identifying historic properties (as defined in 36 CFR Part 800) and assessing the potential impact of the project on historic properties within the defined APEs. A copy of the Phase Ia report was provided to the THC in April 2008 for their review. Exelon then met with the THC to discuss the Phase Ia results and the proposed APEs and Phase Ib methodology. In May 2008, Exelon submitted a letter to the THC officially describing the proposed project APEs and Phase Ib investigation methodology (see A). The THC responded with a letter on May 8, 2008, concurring with the determination of the APEs and Phase Ib methodology (see A). The THC responded on May 29, 2008, with concurrence on the methodologies and findings

presented in the Phase Ia report (see A). Exelon provided copies of the Phase Ib report and its recommendations concerning historic property identification and assessment of effect to the THC for review and consultation on February 13, 2009 (see A). As requested by the THC, additional copies were provided on April 1, 2009. The SHPO responded on April 30, 2009 with their comments. Exelon revised the Phase Ib report in accordance with the SHPO comments. The decision to include additional technologies in the plant parameter envelope necessitated additional investigations to reassess visual effects to historic properties. Exelon consulted with the THC in October 2009 regarding the methodology to reassess potential effects. The Phase Ib report was revised to include the new assessment and will resubmitted to the THC for review.

2.5.3.3 Cultural Resource Investigations

2.5.3.3.1 Phase Ia Investigations for the VCS Site and the Definition of the Site APEs and Phase Ib Methodology

In consultation with the THC, Exelon conducted Phase Ia investigations to help define the APEs and determine Phase Ib methodologies to identify historic properties and assess potential impacts. The Phase Ia investigations were conducted by Geo-Marine, Inc. personnel who meet and exceed the professional qualifications stipulated in the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation* (36 CFR Part 61) (48 FR 44716 – 44742). The Phase Ia investigations were overseen by Tetra Tech, Inc. personnel who also meet and exceed the professional qualifications stipulated in the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.*

The Phase Ia investigations addressed the 11,532-acre VCS site and the vicinity within 10 miles surrounding the site. The Phase Ia investigations included background research, geoarchaeological investigations, line-of-sight analysis, and a windshield survey. Background research was conducted to identify previously recorded cultural resources located on and near the VCS site, to develop prehistoric and historic cultural contexts, to define the cultural landscape initially, and to identify areas as having low, moderate, or high potential to contain prehistoric and historic archaeological resources. A review of pertinent archaeological and historical resources records was conducted, which included the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas and Texas Historic Sites Atlas. A review was also conducted of primary sources such as historic maps and historic pictorial publications, and secondary sources such as published archaeological and historic research concerning the region, county histories, research monographs, and previous cultural resource investigations. Knowledgeable people from the area, including the McCan ranch owner, ranch workers, the Coastal Bend Museum in Victoria, a THC-designated site steward, and the head of the Victoria County Historical Commission were contacted for their insights into possible historical resources located in the APEs. Geoarchaeological investigations were conducted through excavation of backhoe trenches located across the VCS site and analysis of exposed soil profiles to identify soil structures

with the potential to contain archaeological resources, specifically with a focus on dynamic Holocene-aged depositional environments. The area surrounding the site, in which historic properties could have a view of the VCS structures, was determined by a line-of-sight analysis that was conducted using GIS and considered site topography, distance, and proposed structures. A windshield survey to locate historic structural resources was conducted in the area within 10 miles of the site to further clarify potential line-of-sight with regard to topography, vegetation, and orientation, and to perform initial identification of historic-age (i.e., greater than 50 years) properties.

Two APEs for historic properties were identified by the Phase Ia investigations that could potentially be affected by the construction of VCS: (1) the APE for physical disturbances and (2) the APE for visual effects (Figure 2.5.3-1). The APE for physical disturbances was estimated to be about 9,431 acres on site based on the anticipated location and extent of areas required for all VCS construction activities within the 11,532-acre site. A buffer area along the cooling basin's east side was included in this APE to capture additional area that could potentially receive indirect impacts during construction activities.

The Phase Ia report recommended a strategy for the Phase Ib archaeological survey of the APE for physical disturbances. The Phase Ia investigations determined that much of the site is located on a Pleistocene terrace, where the antiquity and relative geological stability of the formation tend to result in low potential for buried or intact surface archaeological resources. The strategy included a 10 percent sample survey of these uplands (806 acres), with one shovel test measuring approximately 1 foot in diameter and 2.6 feet deep excavated every 2 acres. A more intensive survey was recommended around a wetland area (248 acres) and along the lower, deeply incised portion of Dry Kuy Creek (248 acres), with shovel testing in a 30-meter grid. An intensive archaeological survey was also recommended for four valley margin locations (248 acres) where background research had indicated the presence of historic homesteads. These four locations would include shovel testing in a standard 30-meter grid and metal detector surveys over the areas. All of these areas (a total of 1550 acres) are in the APE for physical disturbances (Figure 2.5.3-2). Finally, the Guadalupe River valley margin along the eastern side of the site was identified in the Phase Ia investigations as an area with significant potential for buried cultural material. Based upon its designation as a high potential area, an intensive survey strategy, including shovel testing in a 30-meter grid and targeted backhoe trenching, was recommended for this area. Only the western portion of the valley margin area included in the Phase Ia investigations was included in the APE for physical disturbances.

The APE for visual effects to historic property settings extends 10 miles beyond the VCS facilities, including the power block structures and the dikes surrounding the cooling water basin. This 10-mile radius APE was recommended in the Phase Ia report based on investigations using GIS line-of-sight analysis, complemented by field visits to identify topography, orientation, vegetation, and distance factors. It was found that by 10 miles, potential visibility of proposed VCS structures would be

diminished because of changes in elevation gradient, back slopes, and land cover. The Phase Ia report recommended a Phase Ib strategy of intensive windshield survey covering all accessible roads in the APE to identify potentially eligible architectural properties and to assess visual impact. The Phase Ia report also recommended recording and evaluating the rural historic landscape as a resource. The strategy recommended for this study included archival research, field survey, and ethnographic interviews.

Exelon provided the Phase Ia investigations report to the THC for review, and met with the THC in April 2008 to discuss the results and the proposed Phase Ib methodology. Exelon submitted a letter to the THC formally proposing the two APEs and the Phase Ib methodology. The THC responded with a letter on May 8, 2008, concurring with the determination of the APEs and Phase Ib methodology. The THC responded on May 29, 2008, with concurrence on the methodologies and findings included in the Phase Ia report.

2.5.3.3.2 Phase Ib Investigations for the VCS Site

Exelon conducted the Phase Ib investigations of the VCS site from May 12 to June 17 of 2008. The methodology implemented complied with the methodology proposed in the Phase Ia report, which was concurred with by the THC and is described in Subsection 2.5.3.3.1. Exelon provided copies of the Phase Ib report and its recommendations concerning historic property identification and assessment of effect to the THC for review and consultation on February 13, 2009 (see A). Per THC's request, additional copies were provided on April 1, 2009. The SHPO responded on April 30, 2009 with their comments. Exelon revised the Phase Ib report in accordance with the SHPO comments. The decision to include additional technologies in the plant parameter envelope necessitated additional investigations to reassess visual effects to historic properties. Exelon consulted with the THC in October 2009 regarding the methodology to reassess potential effects. The Phase Ib report was revised to include the new assessment and will be resubmitted to the THC for review.

2.5.3.3.3 Definition of APEs and Phase Methodologies for Offsite Areas

Phase 1 investigation activities for offsite corridors will be conducted at the COL stage. Exelon will consult with the THC regarding the APEs and investigation methodologies after the corridors for the cooling basin blowdown pipeline and RWMU pipeline have been identified or confirmed.

2.5.3.3.4 Transmission Line Study Area

Identification of cultural resources in the transmission line corridor is considered separately from other offsite areas described above in Subsection 2.5.3.3.3. The specific location of the transmission line right-of-way has not yet been determined. Once a location has been determined by the Public Utility Commission of Texas, and before initiation of construction activities, cultural resource

investigations would be conducted by the transmission service provider to identify historic properties and assess the effects to these properties from constructing the transmission line in the vicinity.

A study was conducted for the transmission line area to identify known cultural resources. The study included research in the National Register of Historic Places, county architecture survey files, historic architecture reports on file at the THC, Texas Historic Sites Atlas, and Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas. Results are reported below in Subsection 2.5.3.9.

2.5.3.4 Cultural Resources in the Two VCS Site APEs

2.5.3.4.1 Resources in the APE for Physical Disturbances

The archaeological survey and shovel testing of the upland, wetland, and Dry Kuy Creek areas of the VCS site did not reveal prehistoric or historic cultural materials. All excavated shovel tests were able to reach subsoil, thus deep trenching via backhoe was not necessary.

The archaeological survey within the Guadalupe River valley margin and the four historic homestead areas of the VCS site resulted in discovery of three prehistoric sites, two historic sites, and three prehistoric localities. A site was defined when materials were recovered from two or more shovel tests or, for surface material, when five or more artifacts were found within a 20-meter square area. Artifact clusters not meeting the criteria for site were given the designation “locality.” All eight of the identified resources were recommended as not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places due to lack of integrity, lack of intact features, and/or low artifact density. The eight resources are listed in Table 2.5.3-1.The SHPO concurred with the findings of the archaeological survey and agreed that all eight resources are not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (A).

2.5.3.4.2 Resources in the APE for Visual Effects

The survey of the visual effects APE, which is a 10-mile radius surrounding the VCS site, recorded 468 historic resources, including individual buildings and structures, farmsteads, and homesteads. Of the 468 historic resources, 53 are recommended as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. These eligible historic properties are clustered in the locations of McFaddin, Tivoli, Guadalupe, and Victoria. They include 34 domestic dwellings, 9 agricultural outbuildings, 3 businesses, 1 cemetery, 3 churches, 1 school, 1 bridge, and 1 post office. Thirty-six of the 53 historic properties comprise a proposed Town of McFaddin Historic District.

2.5.3.4.3 Rural Historic Landscape

The Phase Ib investigations included identifying, recording, and evaluating the McFaddin Ranch Rural Historic Landscape. This landscape includes the entire physical disturbances APE. The

McFaddin Ranch is recommended as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and B for its associations with the cattle ranching and petroleum industries and with James A. McFaddin and Claude K. McCan, Sr. The period of significance extends from 1878, when James McFaddin established the ranch, to 1968, when the Victoria cattle breed received official recognition. The resource is comprised of the natural landscape and many ranching and petroleum industry features located on the ranch, including the road network, windmills, cisterns, water troughs, water features, creeks, culverts, bridges, gates, fences, cattle guards, well heads, and pipelines. A total of 96 such features date to the period of significance and are considered contributing features to the historical significance of this rural historic landscape.

The full results of the Phase Ib investigations will be provided for NRC review upon THC concurrence, after the submission of this ESP application.

2.5.3.5 Cultural Resources in the Offsite Areas

The results of the Phase I investigations in the offsite areas will be incorporated at the COL stage. The full results of the Phase I investigations in the VCS offsite areas will be provided as part of the COL application.

2.5.3.6 Native American Consultation

Exelon consulted with the THC to identify Native American groups who consider themselves to be culturally affiliated with the area that encompasses the VCS site and offsite areas. The information provided by the THC led to the identification of six groups with potential cultural concerns within the VCS site and offsite project areas. These groups include the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Comanche Tribe of Oklahoma, Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Wichita and affiliated tribes.

2.5.3.7 Significant Cultural Resources within 10 Miles of the VCS Site

There are five types of designations in Texas to recognize and protect significant historic and prehistoric properties—two are federal and three are state designations. The National Park Service designates areas as National Historic Landmarks and properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The THC offers three designations: recorded Texas historic landmark, state archeological landmark, and historic Texas cemetery. Each of the four counties within 10 miles of the site (Victoria, Goliad, Refugio, and Calhoun) has a County Historical Commission, but they do not have their own designations, nor do they maintain a separate listing of important cultural properties.

A search of records maintained by the National Park Service, THC, and Texas Archeological Research Laboratory was conducted to identify significant cultural resources located within 10 miles of the site. Forty-six such resources were identified and are described below.

The National Register, which is maintained by the National Park Service, is the official list of national historic landmarks and National Register properties. There are no National Historic Landmarks or National Register-listed properties within 10 miles of the VCS site (NPS 2008a and 2008b).

The Texas Historic Sites Atlas, which is maintained by the THC, contains the lists of recorded Texas historic landmarks and historic Texas cemeteries located in Victoria, Refugio, Calhoun, and Goliad counties (THC 2008a, 2008b, 2008c, and 2008d). There are no designated Historic Texas Cemeteries within 10 miles of the VCS site. There are four landmarks within the 10 miles. These four properties are listed in Table 2.5.3-2.

The Texas Archeological Research Laboratory is located at the University of Texas at Austin. This facility maintains the records of state archeological landmarks and records of all previously recorded archeological sites located in the state. There are no state archeological landmarks within 10 miles of the VCS site. There are 42 previously recorded archaeological sites located within 10 miles of the site. These sites are listed in Table 2.5.3-3.

2.5.3.8 Significant Cultural Resources within 1.2 Miles of the Offsite Areas

A search of records maintained by the National Park Service, THC, and Texas Archeological Research Laboratory was conducted to identify significant cultural resources located within 1.2 miles of the offsite areas, including the cooling basin blowdown pipeline and RWMU pipeline. There are no national historic landmarks, National Register-listed properties, recorded Texas historic landmarks, historic Texas cemeteries, or state archeological landmarks within a 1.2-mile radius of the offsite areas (NPS 2008a and 2008b; THC 2008a, 2008b, 2008c, and 2008d).

There are no previously recorded archaeological sites located within 1.2 miles of the RWMU pipeline Routes A or B. There is one previously recorded site within 1.2 miles of Route C, site 41VT88, which is a prehistoric lithic scatter. There are two previously recorded sites within 1.2 miles of the cooling basin blowdown pipeline. Site 41VT99 is a prehistoric camp and quarry, and site 41VT102 is a prehistoric lithic scatter.

2.5.3.9 Cultural Resources in the Transmission Line Study Area

The research of previously recorded cultural resources in the transmission line study area identified 121 historic architectural resources, 44 cemeteries, 45 recorded Texas historic landmarks, and 241 archaeological sites, of which 30 are state archeological landmarks. The more recently added transmission line from VCS to the Cholla substation, 20 miles north of VCS, was addressed as a separate study area, and that study area is discussed at the end of this section.

The 121 historic architectural resources were identified during a series of county-wide surveys conducted under the supervision of the THC. Generally, these county-wide building surveys

represent a non-systematic attempt to document what were considered to be historically and architecturally significant structures. Thus, each of the architectural resources examined is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The resources include mostly homes, but also courthouses, religious buildings (churches, temples), commercial buildings, a school, a windmill, and four historic districts. The resources are located in the towns of Victoria (111), Goliad (9), and Edna (1).

The 44 cemeteries are located in the counties of Victoria (9), Goliad (3), Jackson (26), Matagorda (5), and Wharton (1).

The 45 Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks include some of the historic architectural resources and cemeteries discussed above, plus others. The landmarks include homes, cemeteries, religious buildings, townsites, places of important events such as duels and battles, and community buildings.

The 241 archaeological sites come from both the historic and prehistoric periods. There are a total of 72 sites pertaining to the historic period, 16 to both the prehistoric and historic periods, and 153 to the prehistoric period. Of the 153 prehistoric sites identified, 43 were either potentially eligible for the National Register, already listed on the National Register, or recommended for further work to clarify their eligibility for the National Register. Seventy-nine sites have no recommendation at all. The remaining 31 sites were either recommended for no further work or not eligible for inclusion on the National Register. Many of the sites were identified and excavated in the 1960s and 1970s during the early days of compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. Accordingly, the National Register assessments for these sites are often problematic because they are rarely clearly defined, if defined at all. Prehistoric site types represented include occupation or campsites, shell middens, lithic or other artifact scatters, and quarries. These prehistoric archaeological sites are located in Victoria (36), Goliad (27), and Jackson (90) Counties.

Historic archaeological sites consist of artifact scatters, house sites, cemeteries, a kiln, a fort, a battlefield, a shipwreck, and a bridge. Of the 72 historic sites identified, 32 were either potentially eligible for the National Register, already listed on the National Register, or recommended for further work to clarify their eligibility for the National Register. Nineteen of the sites have no recommendation at all. The remaining 21 sites were either recommended for no further work or not eligible for inclusion on the National Register. These historic archaeological sites are located in the counties of Victoria (9), Goliad (1), and Jackson (62).

The 16 combination prehistoric/historic sites include prehistoric and historic artifact scatters, historic houses, and a historic cemetery. Eleven of the sites are either recommended for further work or potentially eligible for the National Register. Three had no recommendation at all, and two were recommended for no further work. These archaeological sites are located in the counties of Victoria (3), Goliad (1), and Jackson (12).

Of the 241 archaeological sites located in the transmission corridor study area, 30 were deemed to be sufficiently significant to be listed as state archeological landmarks. However, of these 30 landmarks, only two are listed on the National Register and only two others are recommended for further work to clarify their National Register status. Of the remaining 26, four have a recommendation of "no further work" while the remaining 22 have no National Register recommendation. The landmarks consist of 26 prehistoric sites, three historic sites, and a combination prehistoric/historic site. The landmarks include prehistoric lithic scatters, shell middens, campsites, historic houses, cemeteries, artifact scatters, a fort, and a steamboat. The state archeological landmarks are located in the counties of Goliad (19), Jackson (1) and Victoria (10).

The VCS to Cholla study area contains no historic structures, 12 cemeteries, and 96 archaeological sites. The archaeological sites are spread between the counties of DeWitt (13), Goliad (13), and Victoria (70).

The distribution of archaeological sites within the transmission corridor study area is skewed because only a small portion of the study area has been surveyed, resulting in incomplete survey coverage and data. Approximately 12 percent fall in Goliad County, another 35 percent fall in Victoria County, 4 percent are in DeWitt County, and the remaining 49 percent fall in Jackson County. Although incomplete coverage may skew the site distribution, some general patterns have been observed in the distribution of sites. Prehistoric sites tend to cluster near water sources, such as river floodplains, and natural resources, like chert outcroppings, while historic archaeological sites will group around transportation centers, like railroads and bridges. However, agricultural sites associated with the historic period can be more widely spread. Sites from both the prehistoric and historic periods are prevalent on high, level land within a short distance to a reliable water source.

A smaller recommended corridor, approximately 3 miles wide, was delineated in the study area in response to environmental resource location data, including the locations of the cultural resources described above for the study area. This smaller corridor avoids most of the known cultural resources described above by avoiding high resource concentration areas around Coleto Creek Reservoir and Lake Texana. This corridor also minimizes drainage crossings, which is important for cultural resources because, in this region, drainage crossings tend to have a high potential for archaeological sites. Finally, the smaller corridor also minimizes the proximity to developed areas such as towns. This is important for cultural resources because developed areas are where important architectural resources are likely to be located.

2.5.3.10 **References**

NPS 2008a. National Park Service, *National Historic Landmarks Survey, Listing of National Historic Landmarks by State, Texas (46)*, available at http://www.nps.gov/history/nhl/designations/listsofNHLs.htm, accessed April 9, 2008.

NPS 2008b. National Park Service, *National Register of Historic Places, Victoria County, Goliad County, Calhoun County, and Refugio County*, available at http://www.nr.nps.gov/iwisapi/explorer.dll/x2_3anr4_3aNRIS1/script/report.iws, accessed April 7, 2008.

THC 2008a. Texas Historical Commission, *Texas Historic Sites Atlas, Victoria County*, available at http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us, accessed April 7, 2008.

THC 2008b. Texas Historical Commission, *Texas Historic Sites Atlas, Refugio County*, available at http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us, accessed April 7, 2008.

THC 2008c. Texas Historical Commission, *Texas Historic Sites Atlas, Calhoun County*, available at http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us, accessed April 7, 2008.

THC 2008d. Texas Historical Commission, *Texas Historic Sites Atlas, Goliad County*, available at http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us, accessed April 7, 2008.

Table 2.5.3-1
Recorded Archaeological Resources on the VCS Site

Resource Identifier	Size (m^2)	Temporal Affiliation	NRHP Eligibility
VCS-001	7,225	Historic 19th century	Not eligible
VCS-002	2,700	Historic 19th century	Not eligible
VCS-003	10	Unspecified prehistoric	Not eligible
VCS-004	100	Unspecified prehistoric	Not eligible
VCS-005	200	Unspecified prehistoric	Not eligible
Locality 1	10	Unspecified prehistoric	Not eligible
Locality 2	10	Unspecified prehistoric	Not eligible
Locality 3	20	Unspecified prehistoric	Not eligible

Table 2.5.3-2
Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks Within 10 Miles of the VCS Site

Resource Name	Description	Location	Approximate Distance to Site
McFaddin Mercantile	1910 board-and-batten building	McFaddin	½ mile S
McFaddin Post Office	1913 board-and-batten building	McFaddin	½ mile S
Infant Jesus of Prague Catholic Church	1916 redwood church	McFaddin	½ mile S
T-C Ranch House	1874 ranch house	US 77, 25 miles north of Refugio	5 miles SW

Sources: THC 2008a, 2008b

Table 2.5.3-3 (Sheet 1 of 2)
Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites within 10 Miles of the VCS Site

Site Number	Description	County
41CL59	Archaic shell midden, lithic scatter	Calhoun
41CL60	Archaic shell midden, artifact scatter	Calhoun
41CL61	Archaic shell midden	Calhoun
41CL62	Archaic shell midden, scatter of lithic, bone, and ceramic artifacts	Calhoun
41CL63	Archaic shell midden, lithic scatter	Calhoun
41CL75	prehistoric shell midden	Calhoun
41CL76	prehistoric shell midden	Calhoun
41CL77	prehistoric shell midden, scatter of lithic, ceramic, and historic artifacts	Calhoun
41CL80	prehistoric shell midden	Calhoun
41GD136	prehistoric camp, lithic and bone scatter	Goliad
41GD137	Early Archaic camp, lithic scatter	Goliad
41GD138	prehistoric camp, lithic and bone scatter	Goliad
41RF15	prehistoric lithic scatter, 19th century homestead	Refugio
41RF17	prehistoric lithic scatter	Refugio
41VT9	prehistoric burials, artifact scatter	Victoria
41VT12	unknown	Victoria
41VT65	de la Garza homestead	Victoria
41VT78	prehistoric burial	Victoria
41VT79	prehistoric camp, artifact scatter	Victoria
41VT80	Eagles Roost, prehistoric shell midden, lithic scatter	Victoria
41VT81	prehistoric habitation, artifact scatter	Victoria
41VT82	prehistoric bone and lithic scatter	Victoria
41VT83	prehistoric artifact scatter	Victoria
41VT84	prehistoric shell midden	Victoria
41VT85	prehistoric shell midden, Clovis point	Victoria
41VT86	prehistoric shell midden, artifact scatter	Victoria
41VT87	prehistoric shell midden	Victoria
41VT88	prehistoric lithic scatter	Victoria
41VT89	unknown	Victoria
41VT94	Blue Bayou, prehistoric cemetery, prehistoric to historic habitation	Victoria
41VT95	prehistoric quarry	Victoria
41VT98	Archaic cemetery and habitation	Victoria
41VT99	prehistoric camp, quarry	Victoria
41VT101	prehistoric lithic scatter	Victoria
41VT102	prehistoric lithic scatter	Victoria
41VT103	prehistoric lithic scatter	Victoria
41VT113	Dalton Bridge	Victoria

Table 2.5.3-3 (Sheet 2 of 2)
Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites within 10 Miles of the VCS Site

Site Number	Description	County
41VT115	prehistoric lithic scatter	Victoria
41VT116	unknown	Victoria
41VT117	prehistoric lithic scatter	Victoria
41VT118	Civil War-era homestead	Victoria
41VT119	prehistoric shell midden, lithic scatter	Victoria

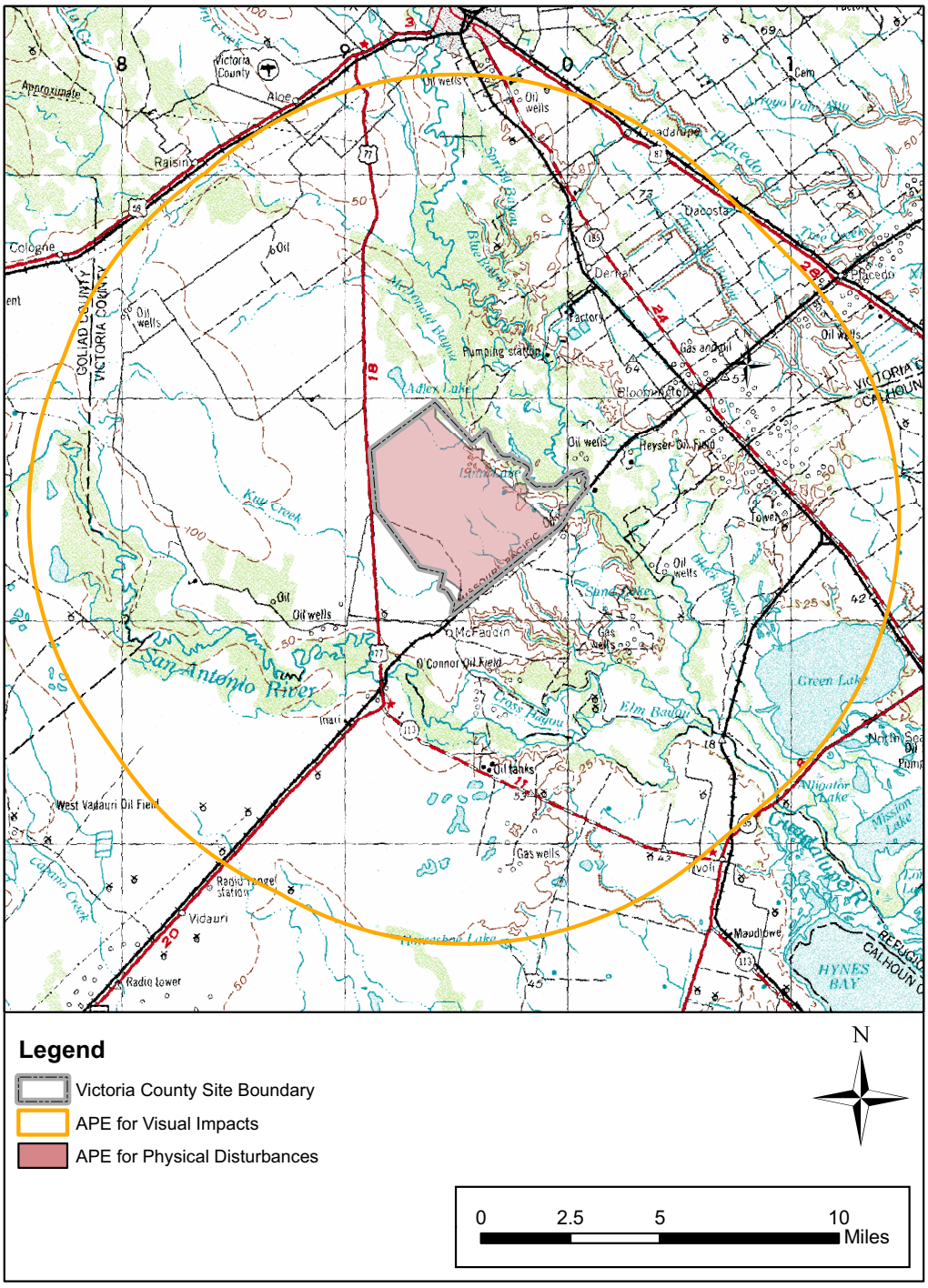


Figure 2.5.3-1 Areas of Potential Effect (APE)

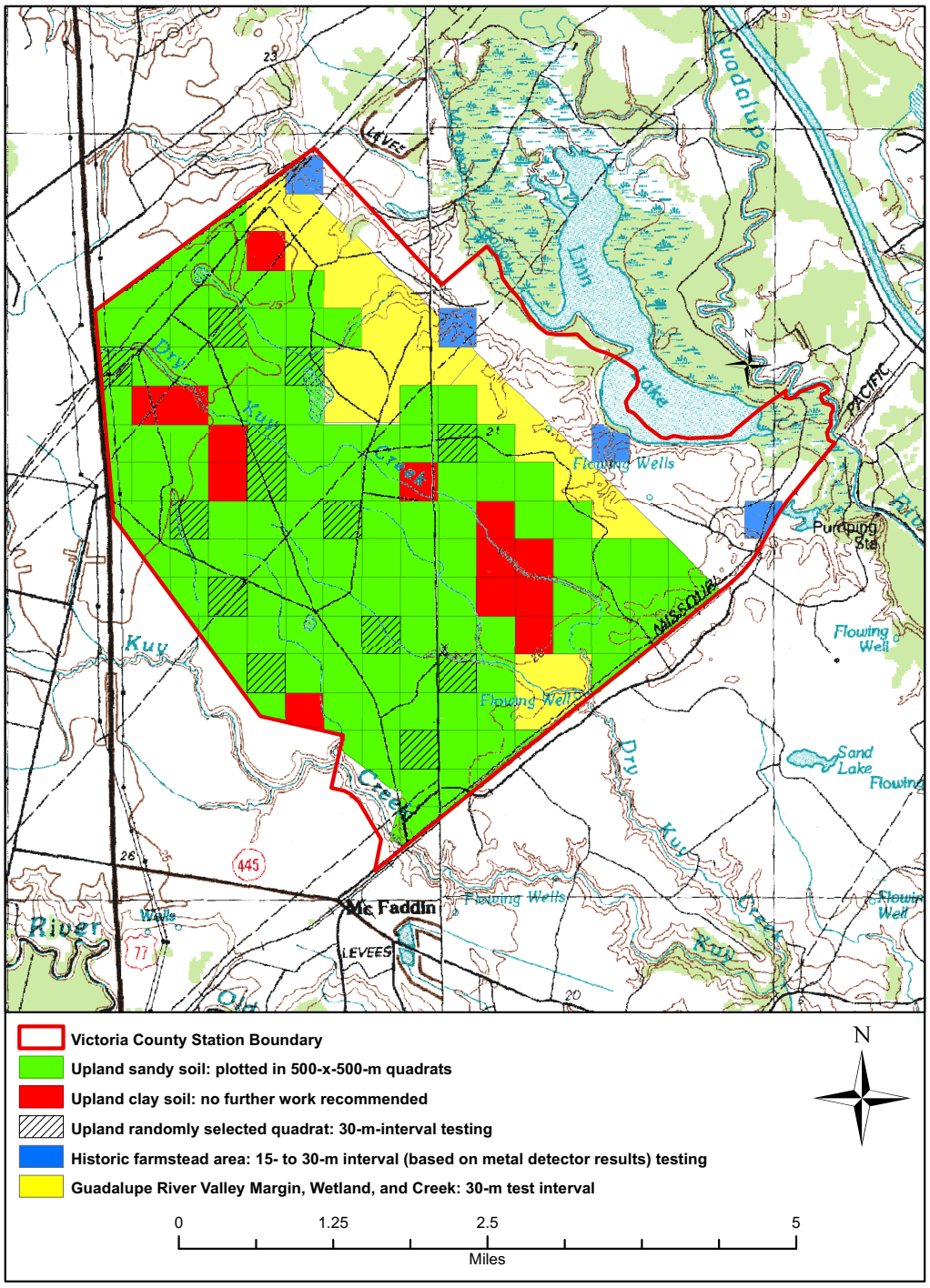


Figure 2.5.3-2 Location of Phase Ib Archaeological Survey Areas

2.5.4 Environmental Justice

2.5.4.1 Methodology

Environmental justice is defined as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies (U.S. EPA Feb 2008). Concern that minority and/or low-income populations might be bearing a disproportionate share of adverse health and environmental impacts led President Clinton to issue Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations." This order directs federal agencies to make environmental justice part of their mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. The Council on Environmental Quality has provided guidance for addressing environmental justice (CEQ Dec 1997). The NRC has also issued guidance on environmental justice analysis in "Procedural Guidance for Preparing Environmental Assessments and Considering Environmental Issues" (U.S. NRC May 2004). Exelon used NRC guidance in determining the minority and low-income composition in the environmental impact area.

The NRC previously concluded that a 50-mile radius could reasonably be expected to contain the area of potential impact and that the state was appropriate as the geographic area for comparative analysis. The NRC's methodology identifies minority and low-income populations within the 50-mile region and then determines if these populations could receive disproportionately high adverse impacts from the proposed action. Exelon has adopted this approach for identifying the minority and low-income populations and associated impacts that could be caused by the proposed action. While this subsection identifies the locations of minority and low-income populations in the area surrounding the site, the potential adverse impacts to these groups from construction and operations are identified and discussed in Chapters 4 and 5, respectively.

Exelon used ArcGIS®[5] 9.2 software and U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) 2000 census data to determine minority and low-income characteristics by block group within 50 miles of the proposed VCS site (i.e., the environmental impact area). A census block group is a geographic unit used by the USCB, which is between the census tract and the census block. There are, on average, about 39 blocks in a block group. Exelon included a block group if any part of its occupied area fell within 50 miles of the proposed site. A total of 216 block groups were identified within the 50-mile area. Consistent with NRC guidance, Exelon defined the geographic area for comparative analysis as the state of Texas.

5. ®ArcGIS is a trademark of Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.

2.5.4.2 Minority Populations

The NRC's "Procedural Guidance for Preparing Environmental Assessments and Considering Environmental Issues" defines minority categories as: American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, Black races, and Hispanic ethnicity (U.S. NRC May 2004). Additionally, the guidance states that "other" may be considered a separate category and requires that the multiracial and aggregate minority categories be analyzed separately. The guidance also indicates that a significant minority population exists if either of these two conditions exists:

- The minority population of the block group or environmental impact area exceeds 50 percent.
- The minority population percentage of the environmental impact area is significantly greater (typically at least 20 percentage points) than the minority population percentage in the geographic area chosen for comparative analysis.

Exelon calculated the percentage of the block group's population represented by each minority category for each of the 216 block groups within the 50-mile radius (the environmental impact area), using the USCB 2000 census data, and calculated the percentage in each minority category for the state. If the percentage of any block group minority category exceeded 50 percent of the total block group population or exceeded its corresponding state percentage by more than 20 percent, it was identified as containing a significant minority population.

Census data for Texas characterizes 11.5 percent of the population as Black or African American, 0.6 percent as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 2.7 percent as Asian, 0.1 percent as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, 11.7 percent as Other, 2.5 percent as multiracial (two or more races), 29.0 percent as aggregate of minority races, and 32.0 percent as Hispanic ethnicity (USCB 2000a).

Table 2.5.4-1 and Figures 2.5.4-1 through 2.5.4-5 present the results of the analysis. Three census block groups within the 50-mile radius have significant Black or African American populations. However, as shown in Figure 2.5.4-1, none of these block groups are located in Victoria County. One block group, located in Matagorda County, has a significant Asian minority population (Figure 2.5.4-2). Twelve block groups have a significant "Other" race population. As shown in Figure 2.5.4-3, the closest block groups for this category are located directly east of the site in Victoria County and in the city of Victoria.

Nine block groups within the 50-mile radius have significant aggregate minority population percentages (Figure 2.5.4-4). The closest of these are located directly east of the site and in the city of Victoria. Sixty-eight census block groups within the 50-mile radius have significant Hispanic ethnicity populations. Figure 2.5.4-5 shows the location of these block groups, many of which are located in Victoria County. Based on the two criteria established previously, no significant American

Indian or Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, or multiracial minorities exist in the geographic area. In addition, there are no American Indian reservations within 50 miles of the Victoria County site.

Seasonal agricultural (migrant) workers may make up a portion of the minority population within the 50-mile radius. While migrant worker population counts are not available from USCB, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has collected information on farms that employ migrant labor. Farms in the following Texas counties, which fall wholly or partially within the 50-mile radius, employ migrant labor: Calhoun (2), Colorado (29), DeWitt (10), Goliad (1), Gonzales (7), Jackson (1), Lavaca (11), Matagorda (72), Nueces (13), Refugio (6), San Patricio (21), and Wharton (40). Aransas, Bee, Karnes, and Victoria counties did not report any farms employing migrant labor (USDA Jun 2004).

2.5.4.3 Low-Income Populations

The NRC guidance defines low-income households based on statistical poverty thresholds (U.S. NRC May 2004). A block group is considered low-income if either of the following two conditions is met:

- The low-income population in the census block group or the environmental impact site exceeds 50 percent.

- The percentage of households below the poverty level in an environmental impact site is significantly greater (typically at least 20 percentage points) than the low-income population percentage in the geographic area chosen for comparative analysis.

Exelon divided USCB low-income households in each census block group by the total number of households for that block group to obtain the percentage of low-income households per block group. Using the state of Texas as the geographical area for comparative analysis, Exelon determined that 14.0 percent of households are low-income in the state (USCB 2000b). Fourteen census block groups within the 50-mile radius have a significant percentage of low-income households. Table 2.5.4-1 identifies and Figure 2.5.4-6 locates the low-income block groups, none of which are in Victoria County.

2.5.4.4 Potential for Disproportionate Impacts

Exelon contacted local government officials and the staff of social welfare agencies concerning unusual resource dependencies or practices that could result in potentially disproportionate impacts to minority and low-income populations. Contact with multiple agencies in Calhoun, DeWitt, Jackson, Refugio, and Victoria counties was attempted. No appropriate agencies in Goliad County were identified. Many agencies had no information concerning activities and health issues of minority populations. Successful interviews were conducted with the Calhoun County Health Department, the

U.S. Department of Agriculture in Calhoun County, the DeWitt County Commerce and Health Department, Family Promise of Victoria, the Health Department of Victoria County, the Neighborhood Services Program in Victoria County, and the United Way of Victoria County. No agency reported dependencies or practices, such as subsistence agriculture, hunting, or fishing, or preexisting health conditions through which the populations could be disproportionately adversely affected by the construction project.

As Figure 2.5.4-2 shows, the area surrounding Palacios has an unusually high percentage of Asian Americans because it is home to a large community of Vietnamese immigrants and their families. Tens of thousands of Vietnamese settled along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts around 1978 to shrimp, crab, fish, and work in seafood processing and wholesaling (Tang Aug 2003). While many in the Vietnamese community make their living by catching seafood, the seafood is generally sold commercially rather than for personal sustenance. No unique preexisting health conditions were identified for this particular community.

2.5.4.5 References

CEQ Dec 1997. Council on Environmental Quality, *Environmental Justice Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act*, December 1997, Executive Office of the President.

Tang Aug 2003. I. Tang, *Still Shrimping: Vietnamese American Shrimpers 25 Years After the Second Wave*, August 29, 2003, Asian Week.

USCB 2000a. U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Texas Places*, available at http://factfinder.census.gov, accessed July 30, 2007.

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USDA Jun 2004. U.S. Department of Agriculture, *Texas State and County Data, 2002 Census of Agriculture, Volume 1, Geographic Area Series*, Part 43A, AC-02-A-43A, June 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

U.S. EPA Feb 2008. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Environmental Justice*. Available at http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/index.html, accessed March 4, 2008.

U.S. NRC May 2004. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, *Procedural Guidance for Preparing Environmental Assessments and Considering Environmental Issues*, NRR Office Instruction No. LIC-203, Revision 1, May 2004.

Table 2.5.4-1
Block Groups within 50 Miles of the Victoria County Station Site with Significant Minority or Low-Income Populations

County Name	Number of Block Groups	Black	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiracial	Aggregate	Hispanic	Low-Income Households
Aransas	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Bee	25	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	18	6
Calhoun	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
Colorado	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
De Witt	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Goliad	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Gonzales	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jackson	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Karnes	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0
Lavaca	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Matagorda	8	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	0
Nueces	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Refugio	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
San Patricio	21	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	11	4
Victoria	62	0	0	0	0	7	0	4	23	0
Wharton	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS:	216	3	0	1	0	12	0	9	68	14

	Black	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiracial	Aggregate	Hispanic	Low-Income Households
Texas Percentages	11.53	0.57	2.70	0.07	11.69	2.47	29.03	31.99	13.98

Note: Highlighted counties are completely contained within the 50-mile radius.

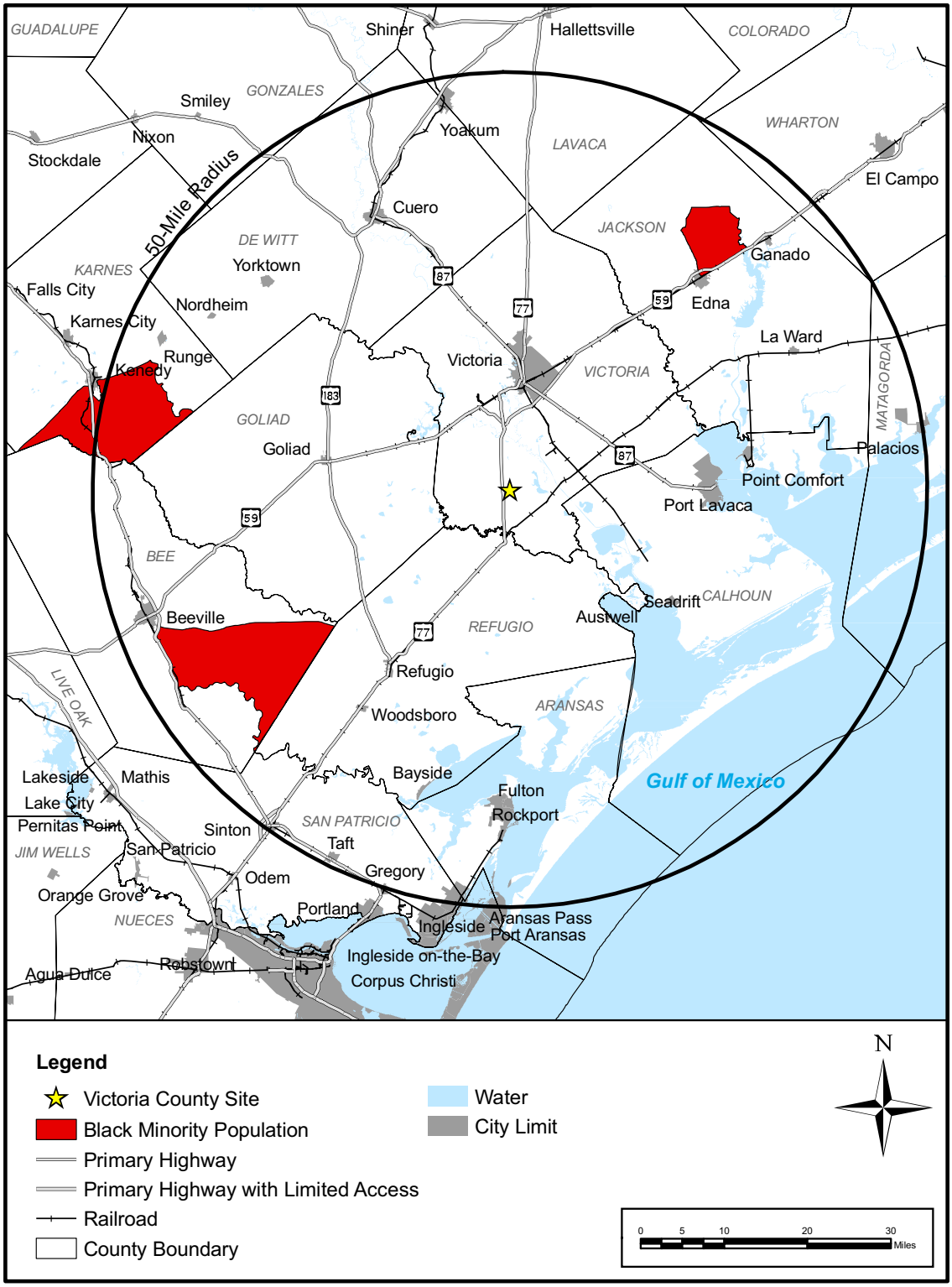

Figure 2.5.4-1 Black Population within the 50-Mile Region

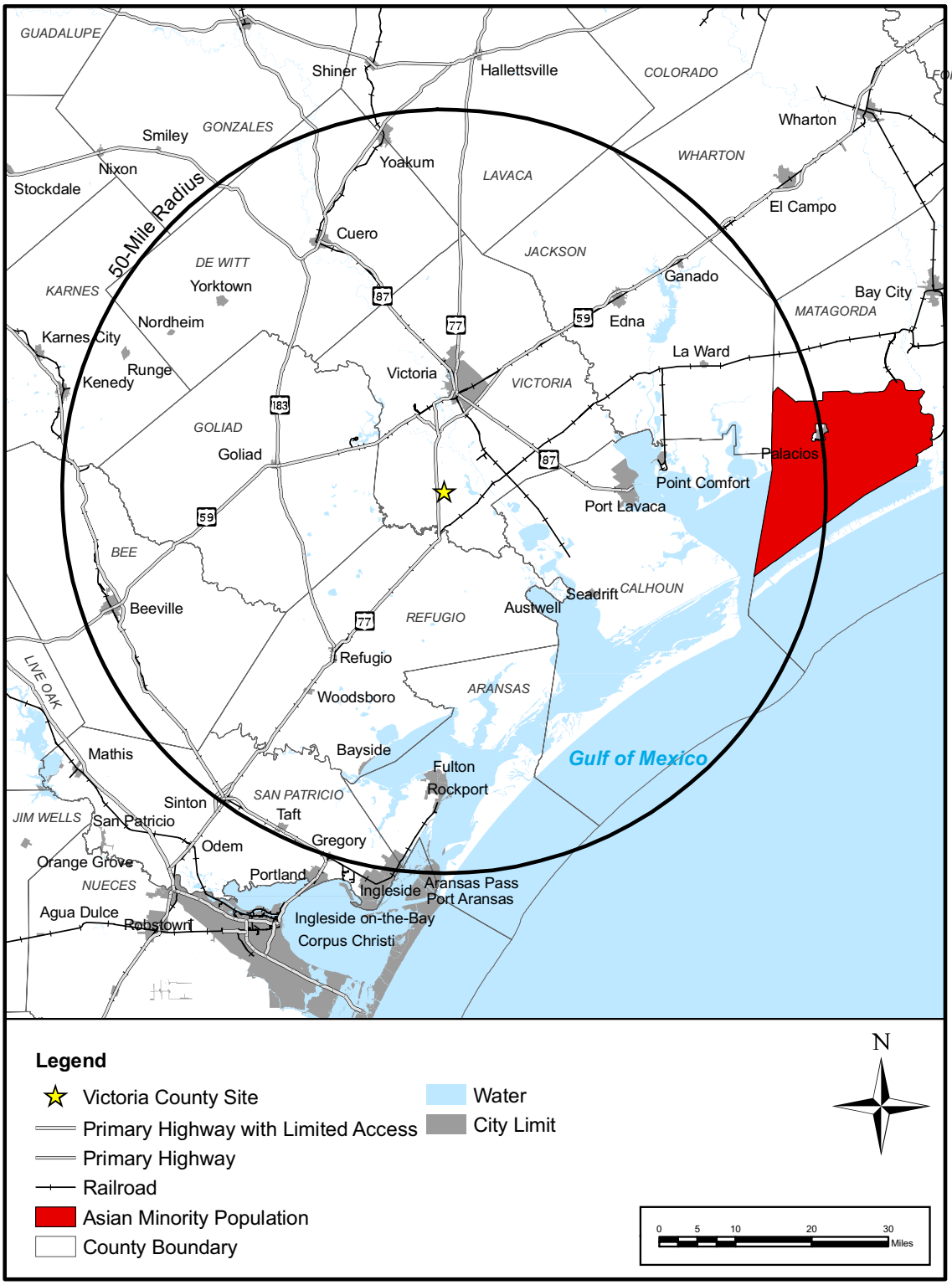

Figure 2.5.4-2 Asian Minority Population within the 50-Mile Region

Figure 2.5.4-3 Other Minority Population within the 50-Mile Region

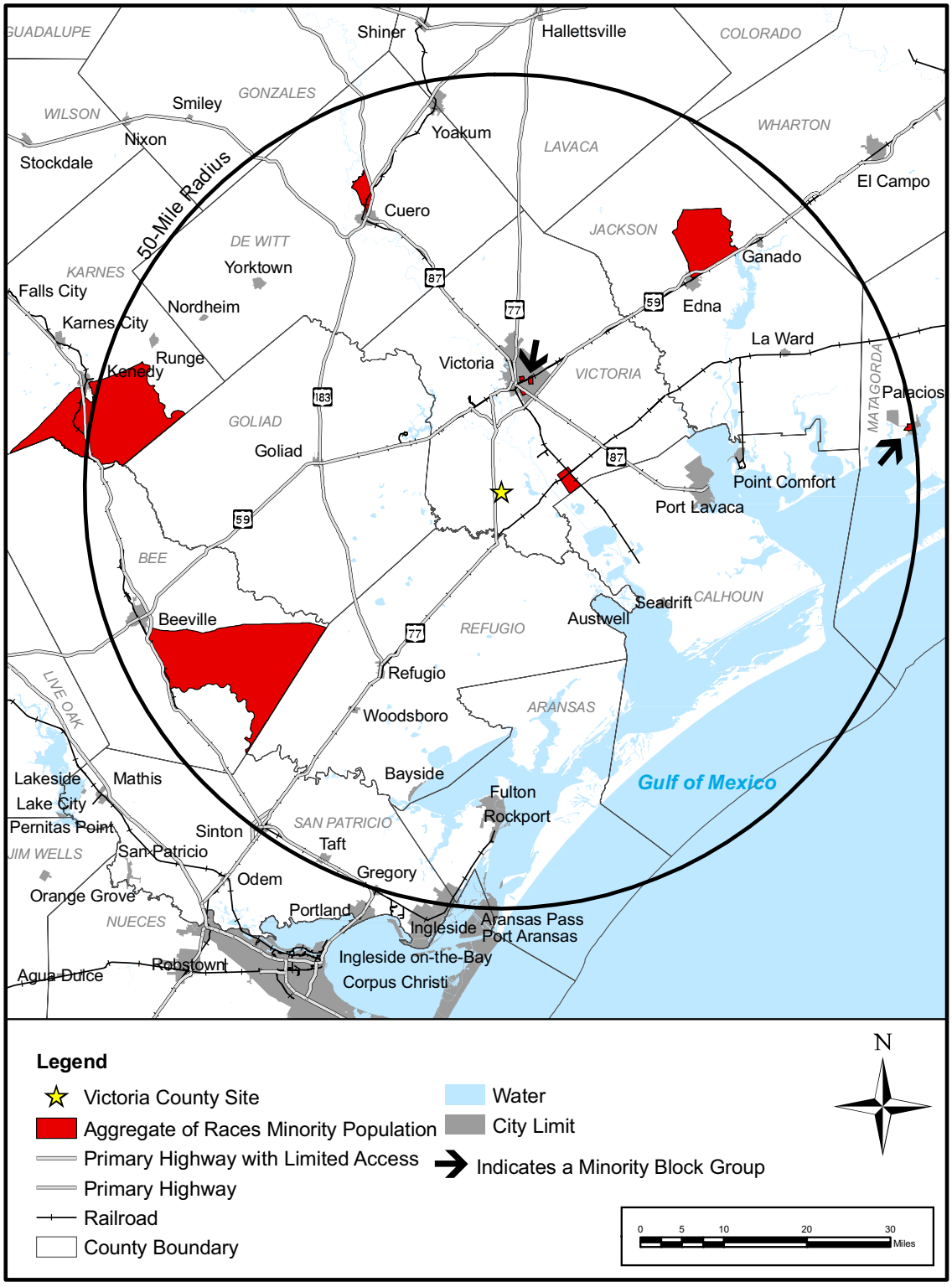

Figure 2.5.4-4 Aggregate of Races Minority Population within the 50-Mile Region

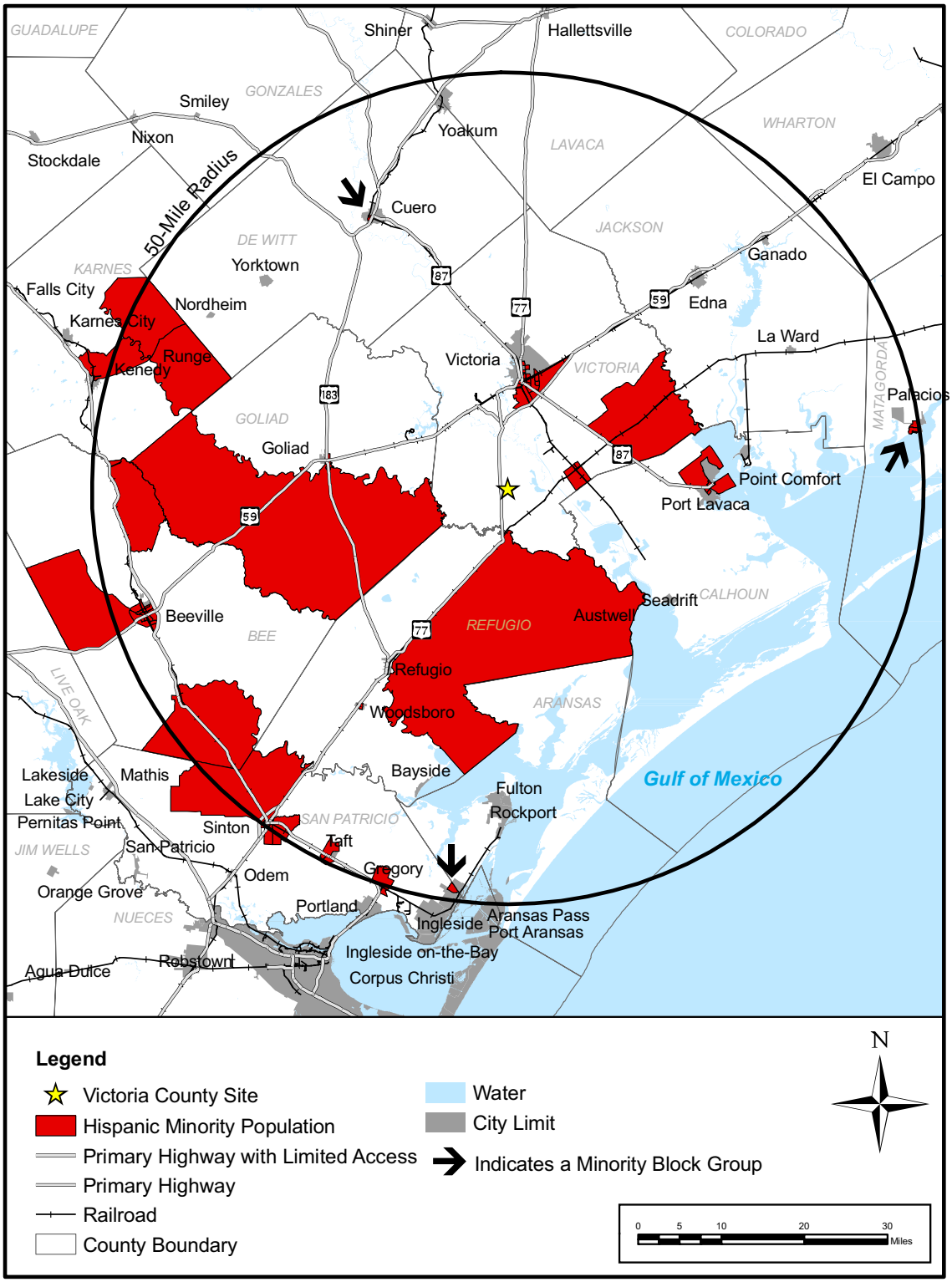

Figure 2.5.4-5 Hispanic Minority Population within the 50-Mile Region

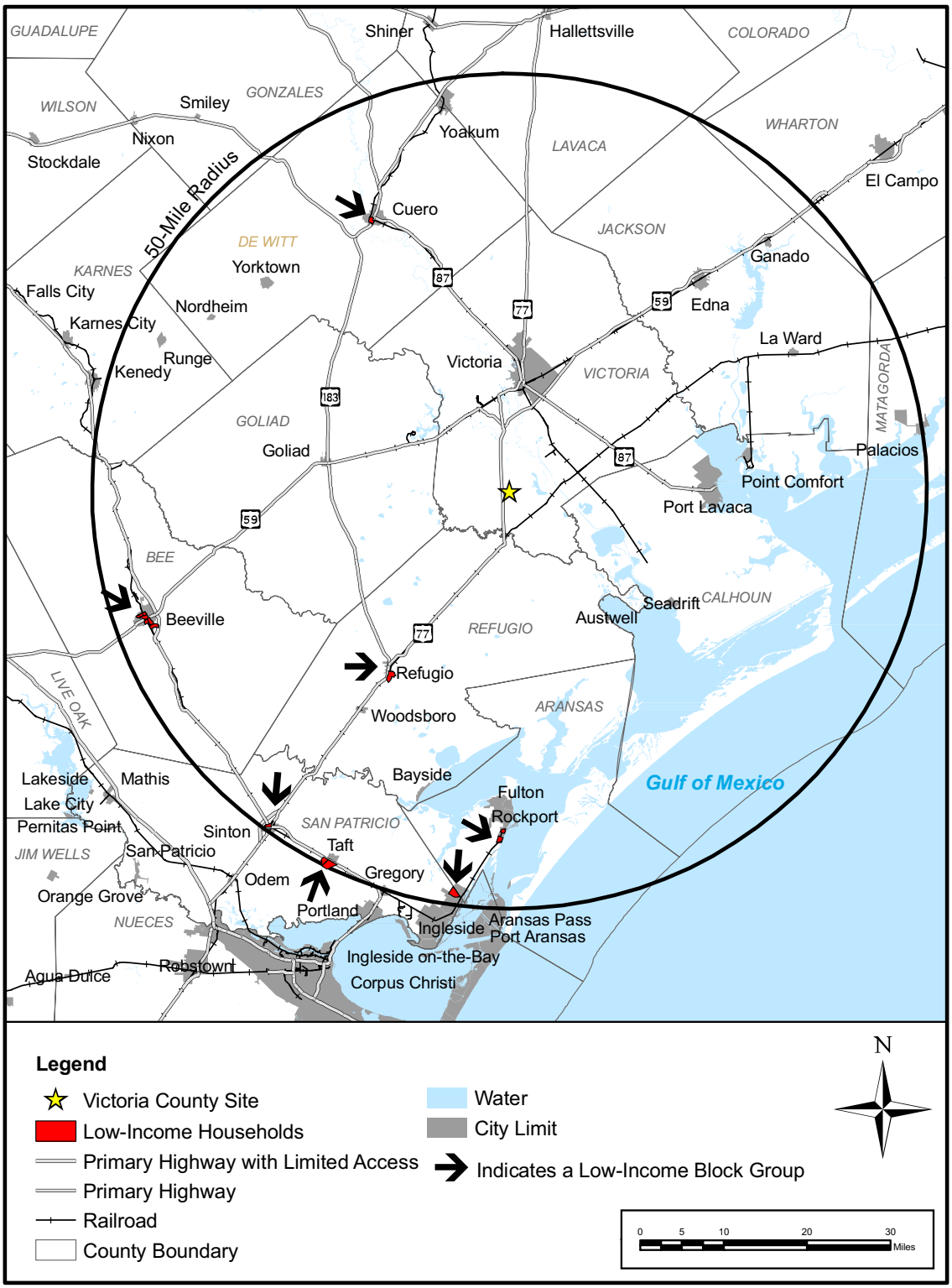

Figure 2.5.4-6 Low-Income Populations within the 50-Mile Region