

**08162000 Colorado River at Wharton, TX**

Lower Colorado Basin  
Lower Colorado Subbasin

LOCATION.--Lat 29°18'32", long 96°06'13" referenced to North American Datum of 1927, Wharton County, TX, Hydrologic Unit 12090302, near left bank at downstream side of downstream bridge on U.S. Highway 59 in Wharton, 1,100 ft downstream from Texas and New Orleans Railroad Co. bridge, 12 mi upstream from Jones Creek, and at mile 66.6.

DRAINAGE AREA.--42,003 mi<sup>2</sup> of which 11,403 mi<sup>2</sup> probably is noncontributing.

**SURFACE-WATER RECORDS**

PERIOD OF RECORD.--July 1916 to Aug. 1918 (intermittent periods), Mar. 1919 to Sept. 1925 and July and Aug. 1938 (flood discharge measurements only), Oct. 1938 to current year. June to Nov. 1901, May to Sept. 1902, daily records published in U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Experiment Stations, Bulletin Nos. 119 and 133. Gage-height records collected in this vicinity since 1935 are contained in reports of the National Weather Service. Water-quality records: Specific conductance (daily records): Apr. 1944 to Sept. 1992. Water temperature (daily records): Oct. 1945 to Sept 1948, March 1950 to Sept. 1992. Chemical data: Apr. 1944 to Sept. 1995. Biochemical data: Jan. 1968 to Sept. 1995. Radiochemical data: Dec. 1973 to Sept. 1995. Pesticide data: Oct. 1967 to June 1982. Sediment data: Oct. 1974 to Sept. 1995.

REVISED RECORDS.--WSP 878: 1938(M). WDR TX-81-3: Drainage area. WDR TX-88-3: 1985.

GAGE.--Water-stage recorder. Datum of gage is 52.42 ft above NGVD of 1929. Prior to Oct. 1, 1938, various types of recording and nonrecording gages 800 ft upstream at different datum. Oct. 1, 1938, to June 1, 1956, nonrecording gage 100 ft upstream at datum 13.00 ft higher. June 1, 1966, to Sept. 30, 1975, water-stage recorder at present site at datum 13.00 ft higher. Oct. 1, 1975, to Mar. 1, 1983, water-stage recorder at present site at datum 10.00 ft higher. Satellite telemeter at station.

REMARKS.--Records good. Since installation of gage in Oct. 1938, at least 10% of contributing drainage area has been regulated. There are many diversions above station for irrigation, municipal supply, cooling water for thermal-electric power plant, and oil field operations.

EXTREMES OUTSIDE PERIOD OF RECORD.--Maximum stage since at least 1869, 51.9 ft Dec. 8, 1913, present datum, from information by local residents; below Wharton floodwater combined with that of the Brazos River. Flood of about July 12, 1869, reached about same height. Flood of June 20, 1935, reached a stage of 51.2 ft, present datum, furnished by National Weather Service (discharge, 159,000 ft<sup>3</sup>/s), from rating curve defined by current-meter measurements below 145,000 ft<sup>3</sup>/s. Flood of July 30, 1938, reached a stage of 50.4 ft, present datum, observed by U.S. Geological Survey personnel (discharge, 145,000 ft<sup>3</sup>/s).

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**DISCHARGE, CUBIC FEET PER SECOND**  
**WATER YEAR OCTOBER 2006 TO SEPTEMBER 2007**  
**DAILY MEAN VALUES**

Day	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
1	940	1,000	452	949	1,410	659	10,200	1,400	11,500	20,200	9,160	5,780
2	833	867	439	2,070	1,310	652	13,300	2,230	7,200	26,800	8,020	5,820
3	784	768	432	2,260	1,210	632	8,380	3,460	6,280	27,700	7,690	6,240
4	697	704	428	2,190	1,130	657	4,200	3,250	6,110	27,700	9,300	6,810
5	577	655	585	2,190	1,070	628	2,880	7,940	7,690	30,200	9,530	6,040
6	519	637	685	3,240	1,030	604	2,300	6,390	11,400	31,500	7,390	5,110
7	555	637	626	3,550	1,020	596	2,070	3,920	12,200	33,200	6,730	4,810
8	550	606	560	2,630	1,010	590	2,140	2,420	7,230	35,800	6,440	4,710
9	595	580	507	1,670	993	581	1,860	1,720	5,320	37,400	6,240	4,460
10	787	572	494	1,270	956	571	2,280	1,360	4,710	35,700	6,060	4,280
11	916	579	484	1,040	924	558	2,480	1,040	4,450	32,000	5,280	4,130
12	676	556	467	897	904	696	2,130	821	4,200	29,300	4,760	3,950
13	677	540	456	834	880	659	1,680	691	4,060	28,200	4,600	3,950
14	825	542	443	1,430	869	11,500	1,440	591	3,990	27,300	4,350	4,650
15	854	515	441	10,100	839	23,300	1,320	589	3,510	27,000	4,240	4,680
16	1,480	489	437	20,900	830	22,200	1,180	536	2,620	27,800	4,780	4,150
17	2,870	475	437	18,500	814	11,700	1,100	423	2,510	27,600	5,480	3,940
18	1,590	471	426	8,200	805	4,790	1,050	337	2,470	27,700	4,450	3,870
19	1,800	461	439	5,270	787	3,170	927	352	2,640	25,200	3,740	3,920
20	1,960	453	474	4,220	772	2,470	828	991	3,530	22,800	4,960	3,950
21	2,000	454	464	3,520	754	2,050	867	985	4,720	20,900	5,870	3,920
22	2,950	450	449	2,960	702	1,730	884	966	10,800	16,500	5,570	3,900
23	2,030	456	439	2,570	706	1,480	882	1,230	17,000	16,200	5,360	3,910
24	1,470	456	550	3,630	723	1,360	870	1,430	18,300	15,700	5,220	3,170
25	1,170	453	559	4,890	715	1,260	1,510	1,740	15,500	11,200	5,120	2,150
26	1,000	445	525	5,960	695	1,180	1,330	2,660	13,100	11,200	5,060	1,780
27	1,050	444	639	4,400	674	1,160	1,120	5,920	9,350	18,900	4,990	1,590
28	1,510	440	1,920	3,210	655	1,530	2,100	15,400	7,440	21,100	5,640	1,470
29	1,210	439	1,540	2,280	---	5,030	1,710	15,000	7,420	18,300	6,000	1,370
30	1,230	440	1,380	1,780	---	6,380	1,310	15,900	12,000	14,700	5,810	1,360
31	1,210	---	1,060	1,530	---	4,890	---	16,100	---	11,100	5,940	---
<b>Total</b>	37,315	16,584	19,237	130,140	25,187	115,263	76,328	117,792	229,250	756,900	183,780	119,870
<b>Mean</b>	1,204	553	621	4,198	900	3,718	2,544	3,800	7,642	24,420	5,928	3,996
<b>Max</b>	2,950	1,000	1,920	20,900	1,410	23,300	13,300	16,100	18,300	37,400	9,530	6,810
<b>Min</b>	519	439	426	834	655	558	828	337	2,470	11,100	3,740	1,360
<b>Ac-ft</b>	74,010	32,890	38,160	258,100	49,960	228,600	151,400	233,600	454,700	1,501,000	364,500	237,800

**STATISTICS OF MONTHLY MEAN DATA FOR WATER YEARS 1939 - 2007, BY WATER YEAR (WY)**

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
<b>Mean</b>	2,236	2,657	2,373	2,512	2,962	2,848	2,995	3,912	4,595	2,944	1,405	1,865
<b>Max</b>	14,590	16,940	15,060	21,810	35,520	21,550	13,730	27,300	30,910	24,420	5,928	9,394
<b>(WY)</b>	(1999)	(2005)	(1992)	(1992)	(1992)	(1992)	(1977)	(1957)	(1987)	(2007)	(2007)	(1961)
<b>Min</b>	296	220	253	224	268	328	566	825	838	706	406	436
<b>(WY)</b>	(1957)	(1957)	(1990)	(1964)	(1967)	(1952)	(1951)	(1962)	(1948)	(1967)	(1964)	(1954)

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SUMMARY STATISTICS

	Calendar Year 2006		Water Year 2007		Water Years 1939 - 2007	
<b>Annual total</b>	280,421		1,827,646			
<b>Annual mean</b>	768		5,007		2,771	
<b>Highest annual mean</b>					11,120	1992
<b>Lowest annual mean</b>					615	1964
<b>Highest daily mean</b>	3,430	May 10	37,400	Jul 9	90,600	Jul 3, 1940
<b>Lowest daily mean</b>	168	Aug 22	337	May 18	42	Aug 22, 1964
<b>Annual seven-day minimum</b>	257	Aug 18	439	Nov 28	110	Dec 11, 1956
<b>Maximum peak flow</b>			37,600	Jul 9	100,000	Jul 3, 1940
<b>Maximum peak stage</b>			35.01	Jul 9	48.99	Jul 3, 1940
<b>Annual runoff (ac-ft)</b>	556,200		3,625,000		2,008,000	
<b>10 percent exceeds</b>	1,490		15,400		5,570	
<b>50 percent exceeds</b>	573		1,800		1,320	
<b>90 percent exceeds</b>	423		502		474	

