



WHAT IS THE TSSWCB?

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, a state agency established in 1939, administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and delivers coordinated natural resource conservation programs to agricultural producers throughout the state. Headquartered in Temple, Texas, the TSSWCB offers technical assistance to the State's 216 local soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs). A seven-member State Board governs the agency, which is composed of two members appointed by the Governor and five members elected from across Texas by the more than 1,000 local SWCD directors. The TSSWCB is responsible for planning, implementing, and managing programs for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint sources of water pollution; administers a water supply enhancement program to increase available surface and ground water supplies through the targeted control of water-depleting brush in areas in need of water conservation; works to ensure the State's network of 2,000 flood control dams is protecting lives, private property, and public infrastructure from flood damage; works to improve border security along the Rio Grande through control of invasive carrizo cane; and facilitates the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee.



REGIONAL OFFICE LOCATIONS

DUBLIN REGIONAL OFFICE
611 East Blackjack Street
Dublin, TX 76446
(254) 445-4814 or (254) 445-4815

HALE CENTER REGIONAL OFFICE
1201 Avenue E
Hale Center, TX 79041
(806) 839-1030

HARLINGEN REGIONAL OFFICE
1826 West Jefferson Avenue, Suite A
Harlingen, TX 78550
(956) 421-5841

MOUNT PLEASANT REGIONAL OFFICE
1809 West Ferguson Road, Suite B
Mount Pleasant, TX 75455
(903) 572-4471 or (903) 572-4472

SAN ANGELO REGIONAL OFFICE
3129 Executive Drive
San Angelo, TX 76904
(325) 949-3213

WHARTON REGIONAL OFFICE
1120 Hodges Lane
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-9496 or (979) 532-9497

WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM OFFICE
622 South Oakes Street, Suite H-2
San Angelo, TX 76903
(325) 481-0335

POULTRY PROGRAM OFFICE
2200 NW Stallings Drive, Suite 102
Nacogdoches, TX 75964
(936) 462-7020



TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

*PROTECTING AND ENHANCING
NATURAL RESOURCES
FOR TOMORROW*

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WATER QUALITY

Texas Agricultural and Silvicultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Program

The TSSWCB is the lead agency for agricultural and silvicultural (forestry) nonpoint source (NPS) water pollution abatement. NPS pollution originates from different sources that cannot be traced to any single point, such as a pipe. It is normally associated with agricultural and silvicultural runoff, urban stormwater, and runoff from construction sites.

The Texas Legislature, as well as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), provides funding to the



TSSWCB to demonstrate and implement activities that control and abate NPS pollution.

Local SWCDs and the TSSWCB employ the certified Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) Program as a first line of defense against NPS

pollution. A WQMP is a site-specific plan that includes appropriate and essential land treatment practices, production practices, management measures, or technologies applicable to the planned land use. This traditional conservation planning program is based on the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide, and is recognized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) as an effective alternative to water quality permitting on smaller animal feeding operations.

The TSSWCB also works with other state and federal agencies on NPS issues as they relate to water quality standards and criteria, Total Maximum Daily Loads, watershed protection plans, and Coastal Zone Protection. The TSSWCB works to ensure SWCDs and local landowners are adequately represented in these matters that could have a significant impact on future conservation and utilization of natural resources.

SWCD ASSISTANCE

The TSSWCB was created in 1939 by the Texas Legislature to organize the State into soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) and to serve as a centralized agency for communicating with other state and federal entities as well as the Texas Legislature.

Today there are 216 SWCDs across Texas. Each SWCD is an independent political subdivision of state government and is governed by five directors elected by rural landowners. SWCDs serve as the State's primary conservation delivery system through which technical assistance and financial incentives for natural resource conservation programs are channeled to agricultural producers and rural landowners.

Local SWCDs are actively involved throughout the State in soil and water conservation activities such as operation and maintenance of flood control structures, sponsoring pesticide workshops, producer field days, land and range judging contests, scholarships, and securing money for the construction of outdoor classrooms.

The TSSWCB provides assistance to SWCDs in financial and program matters, as well as administration of grant programs. Also, the TSSWCB provides SWCDs with information and guidance on planning and implementing projects and regulatory issues related to NPS pollution. TSSWCB Field Representatives regularly meet with SWCDs and provide assistance in areas such as the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Texas Open Records Act, audits and financial reporting, and wage and hour laws. In addition, the TSSWCB assists SWCDs in obtaining funding for a wide variety of special conservation initiatives.

The TSSWCB administers a state-funded technical assistance program and provides additional assistance to SWCDs through six Regional Offices located in Hale Center, Harlingen, Mount Pleasant, Dublin, San Angelo and Wharton.

The **Flood Control Operation and Maintenance and Structural Repair Grant Programs** provide financial assistance to local dam sponsors. These grants require local matching funds, and address approximately 2,000 flood control structures across the state.



WATER QUANTITY

Water Supply Enhancement Program

Scarcity and competition for water have made sound water planning and management increasingly important. With Texas' population expected to grow by 73% over the next 50 years, the availability of water supplies is essential for not only the Texans of today but also for those of tomorrow. Noxious brush, detrimental to water conservation, has invaded millions of acres of rangeland and riparian areas in Texas, reducing or eliminating stream flow and aquifer recharge through interception of rainfall and increased evapotranspiration.

In order to help meet the State's critical water conservation needs and ensure availability of public water supplies, the Texas Legislature established the Water Supply Enhancement Program (WSEP). The TSSWCB administers this program to increase available surface and ground water supplies through the targeted control of brush species that are detrimental to water conservation (for example, juniper, mesquite, saltcedar). Brush control has the potential to enhance water yield, restore native wildlife habitat, improve livestock grazing distribution, protect water quality, aid in wildfire suppression, and manage invasive species.



The TSSWCB collaborates with SWCDs and other agencies to identify watersheds across the state where it is feasible to implement brush control in order to enhance public water supplies. The TSSWCB uses a competitive grant process to rank feasible projects and allocate WSEP grant funds, giving priority to projects that balance the most critical water conservation need of municipal water user groups with the highest projected water yield from brush control.

In watersheds where WSEP grant funds have been allocated, the TSSWCB works through SWCDs to deliver technical assistance to landowners in order to implement brush control activities for water supply enhancement. A 10-year resource management plan is developed for each property enrolled in the WSEP which describes the brush control activities to be implemented, follow-up treatment requirements, brush density to be maintained after treatment, and supporting practices to be implemented. Financial incentives are provided through the WSEP to landowners implementing brush control activities on eligible acres.

