



## TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

### Policy on Total Maximum Daily Loads and Watershed Planning, Assessment, and Implementation Activities

---

Being designated as the lead agency in this state for activity relating to abating agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source water pollution, and being responsible for planning, implementing, and managing programs and practices for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source water pollution, it the policy of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) to administer a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program and a Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) Program.

Further, it is the policy of the TSSWCB that these programs be administered in a manner consistent with Texas Agriculture Code §201.026, the *Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program*, the *Nonpoint Source Program and Grants Guidelines for States and Territories* promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the *TSSWCB Environmental Data Quality Management Plan* and the *Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Total Maximum Daily Loads, Implementation Plans, and Watershed Protection Plans* between the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The TSSWCB will only participate in the development and implementation of TMDLs or other watershed planning, assessment, and implementation activities that address verified or suspected agricultural or silvicultural nonpoint source pollution. Staff of the TSSWCB will work through local soil and water conservation districts to ensure agricultural producers and landowners are adequately represented as stakeholders at all times in these activities. Staff of the TSSWCB will maintain a list of watersheds in which agency resources are committed.

Pursuant to §b.6 of the MOA, the staff of the TSSWCB will bring all TMDLs and TMDL Implementation Plans that seek to attain or maintain water quality standards through load allocation of or strategies to control agricultural or silvicultural nonpoint source pollution to the TSSWCB for consideration of approval.

Whenever possible, any state funding appropriated to the TSSWCB for activities consistent with the *Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program* will be used to match federal funding. The TSSWCB authorizes the Executive Director to apply state appropriated funding to:

- grants to cooperating entities that further watershed planning, assessment, or implementation activities through water quality monitoring, modeling, bacterial source tracking, planning and demonstration, best management practice implementation, education, and research projects,
- direct administrative costs for administering the Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program, and
- indirect administrative costs.

The TSSWCB authorizes the Executive Director to establish a deadline within each fiscal year by which the staff of the TSSWCB will obligate through contract any state appropriated funding for grants. Staff of the TSSWCB will notify the TSSWCB as obligations are made at regularly scheduled State Board meetings.