



TSSWCB PROGRAM GOALS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Operation and Maintenance Grants

Goal – Through a grant program eliminate the existing backlog of operation and maintenance needs on flood control dams.

Evaluation Criteria – Funds are allocated to dam sponsors based on their reported needs and the amount of available funding. Needs are reported to the agency through periodic surveys. Through the survey the agency determines what the individual needs are for all dam sponsors and the total amount of needs in the state. The State Board approves a program budget for operation and maintenance grants. The amount of the program budget is divided by the total reported needs for the state to determine what percentage of needs will be met. This percentage is applied to a sponsor's individual needs to establish the sponsor's grant allocation amount.

Compliance Monitoring – Agency rules specify which activities may be financed with program funding and to what extent a local share of the cost is required. The agency monitors the total needs of the state based on an analysis of all available information and survey results. Activities financed with program funds are reported to the agency upon a request for reimbursement. Documentation from subcontracted vendors is required prior to reimbursement at the rate specified in agency rule.

Analysis – Upon the completion of each fiscal year for which funds were approved for operation and maintenance grants, agency staff analyzes the work completed compared to the known remaining needs to determine the progress toward meeting the goal of eliminating the backlog.

Progress - The agency is monitoring spending amounts (both agency and local entities) toward the original known financial needs from 2008, which were estimated to be \$11.2 million. The agency has obligated a total of \$6.8 million to O&M needs from the 2010, 2011, and 2013 fiscal year appropriations. This expenditure required a 10% match by rule, making the estimated total work performed approximately \$7.5 million, or 67% progress toward eliminating the initial documented need as of July 2014.

Structural Repair and Rehabilitation Grants

Goal – Eliminate the backlog of known repair needs on flood control dams through a competitive grant program giving priority to those dams that have the highest hazard classification and the highest potential to fail as a result of a rainfall event.

Evaluation Criteria – Award grant funds to the highest ranking application based on:

- The existence of an order to complete a repair on a flood control dam issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regarding dam safety
- A flood control dam's hazard classification as determined by the TCEQ
- The type of repair activity required
- The priority that a dam sponsor places on one dam repair compared to others under its jurisdiction

Compliance Monitoring – All information required to verify compliance with the goal is available prior to initiating a repair.

Analysis – An analysis is conducted of applications for repair grant funding and known repair needs identified by the USDA-NRCS and the TCEQ's Dam Safety Program at the end of each funding cycle to determine the relative progress in eliminating the repair backlog.

Progress - Since 2008, TSSWCB has repaired 19 dams with \$6.8 million in State funds, and \$1.0 million in local sponsor and federal funds, for a total of \$7.8 million. (These amounts were for construction only). An additional 24 dams were repaired by NRCS (ARRA, EWP, Watershed funds) without involvement by TSSWCB.

TSSWCB has provided \$5.7 million and local sponsors have provided \$295,000 for repair of one high hazard dam that is currently under construction (These amounts were for construction only). The federal government is providing funds in the amount of \$670,000 for engineering services and construction inspection on this project.

Remaining needs are 194 dams (9.5% of the eligible watershed program dams in Texas) at an estimated cost of \$74 million (this amount includes engineering services).

Goal – Leverage federal funding from the USDA-NRCS Federal Rehabilitation Program to the maximum amount possible using state flood control funds as the non-federal match requirement when possible.

Evaluation Criteria – Include the the presence of federal funds as a criterion for selecting projects toward the goal of eliminating the repair backlog.

Compliance Monitoring – All information required to verify compliance with the goal is available prior to initiating a repair.

Analysis – An analysis is conducted of applications for repair grant funding and known repair needs identified by the USDA-NRCS and the TCEQ's Dam Safety Program at the end of each funding cycle to determine the relative progress in eliminating the repair backlog.

Progress - TSSWCB has awarded state grants (14% of project cost, \$1.9 million) to local watershed sponsors of 5 high hazard dams that received federal rehabilitation funding (65% of project cost, \$12.5 million). Local sponsors are providing the remaining 21% (\$3.4 million) of project cost. These projects are currently under construction.

For FY 2015, TSSWCB plans to provide \$4.9 million in state funds to match \$9.6 million in federal funds and \$260,000 in local sponsor funds for rehabilitation of 3 additional high hazard dams.

Remaining high hazard dam rehabilitation needs in Texas are 277 dams (13.3% of watershed program dams in Texas) with an estimated total cost of \$554 million. If funding is available for these needs, 65% will be federal cost, 33% will be State cost, and 2% will be local sponsor cost.