

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

NONPOINT SOURCE (NPS) PROGRAM

Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319(h) Grant

DRAFT Timeline and Selection Criteria

Deadlines and Schedules

Grant Applications must be received by 3:00 p.m. on July 31, 2012. Applicant selection will be completed by October 24, 2012. Approved projects will be contracted and managed by TCEQ staff.

Schedule for the FY 2013 RFGA and Funding

Early June	RFGA Opens - Submission of Grant Application Period Begins
End of July	RFGA Closes - Deadline for Submission of Grant Applications
Early November	Notify Applicants of Potential Project Selection
December - March	Coordination with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
September 1, 2013	Target Date for Projects to Begin
August 31, 2016	Projects End

Project Selection Criteria

Project proposals will be evaluated to determine the best fit for the CWA Section 319(h) grant program in Texas. Individual criteria listed in the following section are not mandatory, but each contributes to the overall ranking of proposals. The numbered items are in order of priority; bulleted items are not in rank order.

Proposal Ranking Priorities

Criteria A: Project is Part of an Established Planning Process

1. Implements Best Management Practices (BMPs) proposed by a completed [Watershed Protection Plan \(WPP\)](#) or [Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\) Implementation-Plan \(I-Plan\)](#) for an impaired water body.
2. Develops a portion of, or completes, a TMDL, TMDL I-Plan, or WPP for an impaired water body.
3. Implements BMPs proposed by a completed WPP for an unimpaired water body.
4. Is identified in the [Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program](#).
5. Demonstrates effective partnership with an active local watershed stakeholder group.
6. Demonstrates knowledge, history, and current status of water quality and planning in the watershed.
7. Demonstrates and helps institutionalize Low Impact Development (LID) practices as strategic means of addressing impairments or threats to water quality due to urban storm water.
8. Develops a portion of, or completes, a WPP for an unimpaired water body under significant threat of degradation.
9. Fills critical information gaps regarding NPS sources and/or BMP effectiveness.
10. Demonstrates self-sustaining non-federal funds for implementing the watershed-based plan.

Criteria B: Implements NPS BMPs that Address Priority Water Quality Impairments or Concerns

- In water bodies identified on the Priority Watersheds Report draft 2012 [Texas NPS Management Program](#) Appendix C.
- Identified in the [2010 Texas Integrated Report: Water Bodies With Concerns](#).

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- In water bodies threatened with impairment or degradation due to new or growing NPS sources.
- Addressing groundwater quality concerns related to NPS pollution as identified through assessment, ranking, and prioritization methods listed in the draft 2012 [Texas NPS Management Program](#), Groundwater Constituents of Concern Report section in Chapter 3 and in Appendix D.

Criteria C: Project Likely to Contribute to Measurable Improvement in Water Quality

Documentation that the project will likely address specific NPS sources to do the following:

1. Reduce concentrations of one or more pollutants of concern in impaired water bodies by a significant amount, particularly if attainment of [Surface Water Quality Standards](#) and/or an [EPA Success Story](#) is likely.
2. Reduce total pollutant loadings for nitrogen, phosphorus, and/or sediment in a water body impacted by such pollutants, by a significant amount.
3. Prevent increased loading of pollutants that threaten impairment, documented as a trend of increasing concentrations and/or a near non-attainment.

The documentation regarding reductions in NPS pollution will be evaluated in regard to the extent it exhibits the following:

- Is based on credible data sources;
- Utilizes methods of calculation that provide accurate and precise results;
- Accurately applies the methods of calculation to the proposed BMPs and site context;
- Provides specific documentation for the proposed BMPs and the proposed locations, e.g., BMP type and dimensions, design details, size of catchment area to be treated, and the storm water volume and flow rate capacity of the BMP; and
- Utilizes site-specific data rather than default or literature values.

Criteria D: Applicant/Team Qualifications

1. Has significant, ongoing accountability for the quality of the water body addressed by the project.
2. Has contributed significantly to water quality planning projects, particularly for the project watershed, and is knowledgeable about the water body and the water quality challenge to be addressed by the project.
3. Can demonstrate successful experience performing state or federally funded work.
4. Has demonstrated in previous projects the capacity and intention to implement the proposed BMPs effectively and efficiently and to continue with needed BMP operation and maintenance.
5. Has demonstrated significant and broad stakeholder support for the project and participation in planning and implementation efforts, particularly for the project watershed.

Criteria E: Cost Effectiveness

1. Results will be accomplished at relatively low cost, within the proposed budget and time frame.
2. CWA Section 319(h) funds are appropriate for this project and are critical for its success.
3. Additional funding has been leveraged to support water quality improvements for the water body.