

DRAFT

TCEQ 2012 319h Grant Project Selection Criteria

Project proposals will be evaluated to determine which ones are 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

11. 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.
12. Is identified in the [Texas Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program](#).
13. Demonstrates knowledge, history, and current status of water quality and planning in the watershed.
14. Demonstrates effective partnership with an active local watershed stakeholder group.
15. 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.
16. Develops a portion of or completes a new WPP for an impaired water body.
17. Develops or implements a WPP for an unimpaired water body under significant threat of degradation.
18. Fills critical information gaps regarding NPS sources and/or BMP effectiveness.
19. Demonstrates self-sustaining non-Federal funds for implementing the watershed plan.

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

In water bodies identified on the list of high priority watersheds; see Appendix A.

1. In impaired water bodies classified as 5c on the [2010 Texas 303\(d\) List](#).
2. In current priority watersheds identified in the [2005 Management Program pgs 196-202](#).
3. Identified in the [2010 Texas Water Quality Inventory Sources of Impairments and Concerns](#).
4. In water bodies threatened with impairment or degradation due to new or growing nonpoint sources.
5. Addresses groundwater quality concerns related to NPS pollution as identified through assessment methods listed in the [2005 Management Program Chapter 5](#), pgs 80-84, [Appendix B](#), Table B.2 on page 195, and [Appendix D](#), planning methods listing on pgs 86-90.

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 statistically 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 statistically 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.
- Utilizes site-specific data rather than default or literature values.

Criteria D: Applicant/Team Qualifications

Has significant, ongoing accountability for the quality of the water body addressed by the project.

1. Has contributed significantly to water quality planning, particularly for the watershed project, and to knowledge about the water body and the water quality challenge to be addressed by the project.
2. Can demonstrate successful experience performing state or federally funded work.
3. 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.
4. 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

Results will be accomplished at relatively low cost, within the proposed budget and time frame, and additional funds have been leveraged.

1. CWA 319(h) funds are appropriate for this project, are critical for its success, and/or leverage added funds.
2. Match has been well documented with additional non-federal funds leveraged.