



Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments: On-Site Sewage Facilities

Water Body	Galveston and Corpus Christi Bay System
Location	Coastal Counties
River Basin	Multiple Basins
Contractor	Texas AgriLife Research
Project Period	May 12, 2010 to August 31, 2015
Project Total	\$499,724 (Federal 60% and Local Match 40%)

Project Description

Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA) of the Coastal Management Act created a requirement for states and territories with federally approved Coastal Zone Management Programs (CMP) to develop and implement a coastal nonpoint source (NPS) control program. The program is unique in that it establishes a set of management measures for states to use in addressing polluted runoff.

On-site sewage facilities (OSSF) are a potential contributor of contaminants to coastal watersheds. Proper operation of these systems is critical to removal of contaminants from wastewater and limiting the transport of contaminants to water resources. These systems need to be evaluated at a specified frequency to determine the operational status and limit the risk of OSSFs contributing contaminants to the watershed.

For this project, Texas AgriLife Research and Texas AgriLife Extension are implementing activities to reduce overall loading of contaminants from OSSFs in targeted coastal counties within the CMP Boundary. Reconnaissance is being conducted to identify areas of chronic OSSF failure. Guidance has been developed for conducting visual evaluations of anaerobic OSSFs, and a training event has been held to teach local health department staff how to conduct visual inspections. A list of targeted sites for conducting septage removal from anaerobic OSSFs continues to be developed and, where needed and feasible, malfunctioning OSSFs are being replaced. [Free educational programs](#) that provide guidance on the proper operation and maintenance of an OSSF are being provided to homeowners. An inventory of OSSFs in the coastal zone is being conducted.

Current Status

Phase I of the project closed on August 31, 2014. Results include 63 septic systems inspected, 39,150 gallons of septage pumped, and 20 septic systems re-



placed. In Phase II, nine OSSFs have been inspected and two have been replaced. The inventory of OSSFs in three counties has been initiated.

For More Information

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Project Highlights

- 05/10/2010 – The Phase I contract was executed.
- 01/14/2011 – The first set of potential areas of OSSF failure were identified.
- 03/11/2011 – The first set of potential areas of OSSF failure were verified.
- 04/07/2011 – The first homeowner educational event was conducted; another was conducted 04/28/2011.
- 04/15/2011 – The guidance document on septic system inspections was approved. A reconnaissance summary report was also completed.
- 03/16/2012 – A report on identifying potential areas of septic system failure was completed.
- 09/01/2012 – The Phase II contract executed.
- 01/31/2013 – New evaluation criteria for septic systems was established. A homeowner brochure and a homeowner flyer were completed. A project fact sheet was completed.
- 09/23/2014 – An NPS Annual Report article summarizing Phase I of the project was submitted.
- 02/26/2015 – A final report for Phase I was submitted and accepted.
- 11/9/2015 – Contract amended to add Inventory task.
- 2/29/2016 – Nine OSSFs inspected and two systems replaced. Inventory ongoing in three coastal counties.