

Clean Rivers Program Long Term Plan

Program Goal: Maintain and improve the quality of water within each river basin in Texas through an ongoing partnership involving the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, river authorities, other agencies, regional entities, local governments, industry, and citizens. The program's watershed management approach will identify and evaluate water quality issues, establish priorities for corrective action, work to implement those actions, and adapt to changing priorities.

Objective 1:

Provide Quality-Assured Data to the Commission for Use in Water Quality Decision-Making

- a. Maintain a basin-wide, quality-assured routine monitoring program
- b. Conduct systematic, permit-support, and/or special study monitoring
- c. Integrate and coordinate water quality monitoring efforts throughout the basin under a TCEQ-approved quality assurance program
- d. Conduct strategic and comprehensive project planning
- e. Enhance expertise by participating in water quality training events
- f. Maintain a water quality database composed of quality assured data from a variety of sources

Objective 3:

Promote Cooperative Watershed Planning

- a. Facilitate cooperation among federal, state, regional, and local planning agencies and governments, regulated entities, and the public
- b. Strategize with local, regional, state, and federal entities on ways to address water quality issues and protect watersheds based on local priorities
- c. Recommend water quality management strategies for correcting priority water quality problems and pollution sources
- d. Provide input and represent stakeholders in the water quality assessment and Standards revision processes
- e. Participate in water quality initiatives such as Total Maximum Daily Loads and the Texas Water Plan

Objective 5:

Maintain Efficient Use of Public Funds

- a. Encourage 10% cap on administrative expenses
- b. Adhere to generally accepted accounting standards and reporting
- c. Conduct effective administration of contracts and subcontracts
- d. Leverage program funds to maximize the effectiveness of watershed activities

Objective 2:

Identify and Evaluate Water Quality Issues

- a. Perform watershed-based water quality reviews throughout each river and coastal basin
- b. Identify and describe water quality issues
- c. Identify potential threats and known impacts to water quality from point and non-point sources
- d. Select a set of priority watersheds and describe information and actions needed to define the issue
- e. Identify and describe significant efforts to protect or improve water quality
- f. Produce reports describing activities, findings, and actions recommended to the Commission to address water quality issues

Objective 4:

Inform and Engage Stakeholders

- a. Give stakeholders the opportunity to contribute their ideas and concerns through steering committee meetings, public meetings, and/or other forums
- b. Participate in public information and education activities to increase stakeholder involvement in the program and interest in water quality issues
- c. Communicate information on water quality issues to stakeholders so that priorities may be set considering local, regional, state, and federal needs
- d. Support stakeholders, volunteers, and other programs in addressing water quality issues
- e. Provide information requested by interested parties and disseminate information via the Internet

Objective 6:

Adapt Program to Emerging Water Quality Issues

- a. Convene committees of interested persons to develop action items and recommend changes to the Clean Rivers Program
- b. Revisit progress toward accomplishing the action items(s) on an annual basis
- c. Incorporate changes into Program Guidance as approved by the program partners