

Texas Association of Resource Conservation and Development Areas, Inc.

Cleanup of Unauthorized Dumpsites

SEP No. 2012-05

Project Description

Texas Association of Resource Conservation and Development Areas, Inc. ("RC&D") is organized as a main State Office ("State Office") and regional RC&D Councils ("RC&D Councils"). The State Office will receive SEP contributions under this Agreement, deposit them in the SEP Fund Account, then distribute the SEP Funds to the RC&D Councils for performance of the Project throughout the state.

The health risks associated with illegal dumping are significant. Areas used for illegal dumping may be easily accessible to people, including children, who are vulnerable to the physical hazards posed by wastes. Rodents, insects, and other vermin attracted to dump sites may also pose health risks by spreading disease. Dump sites that contain scrap tires create an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes, which can breed 100 times faster in the warm, stagnant water standing in scrap tire casings. Severe illnesses have been attributed to disease-carrying mosquitoes. In addition, neighborhoods have been evacuated and property damage has been significant due to dump sites that caught fire by spontaneous combustion or arson. Illegal dumping can impact drainage of runoff by making areas more susceptible to flooding when wastes block waterways. Open burning at dump sites can cause forest fires and erosion as fires burn away trees and undergrowth. Dumping has a negative impact on trees and wildlife. Additionally, runoff from dumpsites contains chemicals that may contaminate wells and surface water used for drinking.

RC&D shall coordinate with city and county government officials and private entities to clean up sites where trash, tires, or other materials have been illegally disposed of.

RC&D shall ensure that collected debris and waste is properly transported to and disposed of at an authorized disposal facility. If a licensed hauler is needed for tires or other waste collected from sites, RC&D shall ensure that only properly licensed haulers are used for transport and disposal of tires and other waste.

Eligible Sites

Eligible sites will be limited to those where the responsible party is financially unable to clean up the site or where a responsible party cannot be identified. RC&D may not use SEP Funds to clean up a site that is the subject of a TCEQ enforcement action.

SEP Funds for this Project should be used for sites where trash, such as household and construction waste, has been illegally dumped. Tires may also be present at an eligible site, but SEP Funds for this Project should not be used to clean up abandoned tire sites.

Environmental Benefit

This SEP shall rid communities of the dangers and health threats associated with non-regulated dumping and will provide removal of waste that contaminates air, soil, and water, and harbors disease-carrying animals and insects.

Eligible Areas and Counties

Statewide

Minimum Contribution Amount

\$500

Total Project Budget

\$45,414