



TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD FLOOD CONTROL PROGRAM

Protecting our Communities

Purpose

The primary purpose of the 2,040 Watershed Program dams is to protect lives and property by reducing the velocity of floodwaters, and thereby reducing flows to a safer rate. These are earthen dams that exist on private property. They were built with the understanding that the private property owner would provide the land, the federal government, United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) would provide the technical design expertise and the funding to construct them, and then units of local government (sponsors) would be responsible for maintaining them into the future.

Brief History

Due to the passage of time and difficulty in raising adequate funds locally, many sponsors approached the Texas Legislature with their concerns over the amount of needed maintenance and repairs. Local sponsors of the dams were required before a federal project was begun. Local sponsors signed a watershed agreement which outlined the duties and responsibilities of the federal and local sponsors. In general, local sponsors are required to obtain and enforce easements, conduct operation and maintenance (O&M) inspections, maintain the structures, and implement land treatment measures in the watershed.

TSSWCB assembled a representative stakeholder group and began the process of developing programs to deliver the funds to the sponsors of flood control dams. It was determined that the most efficient and effective way to proceed was to develop two separate grant programs, one to address maintenance, and the other to address structural repairs and rehabilitation, due to their difference in complexity.

WATERSHED SPONSORS IN TEXAS

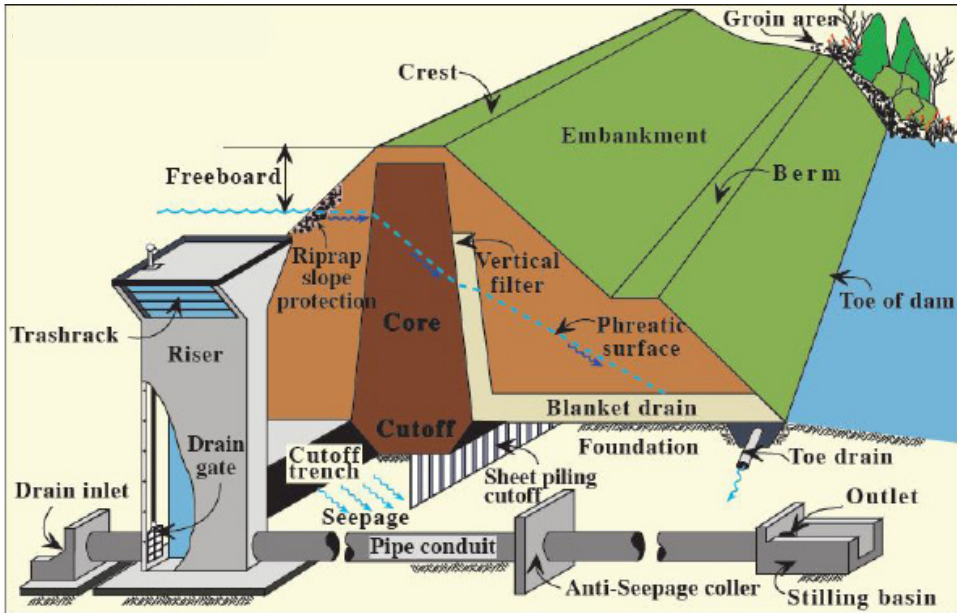
Soil and Water Conservation Districts -----	106
Counties -----	86
Cities -----	50
Water Control and Improvement Districts -----	20
Watershed Authorities and Associations -----	6
Other Special Purpose Districts -----	14
River Authorities -----	1
State Recreation Areas -----	1



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT STEVE BEDNARZ

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EXAMPLE OF EARTHEN DAM



Source: ODNR Division of Water and FEMA Living with Dams publication

Dam Rehabilitation and Repair

With aging dams, and rapid urbanization in many parts of Texas, the need for rehabilitation/upgrade continues to grow each year. With continuing urbanization, the number of high hazard dams is growing by about 20 dams per year. These dams will continue to serve as a critical protection for our state's infrastructure, private property, and lives.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FUNDING

To receive O&M funding fill out the form titled:
Proposal for Operation and Maintenance Funds

Scan the QR code below to access the form:

