



TSSWCB PROGRAM GOALS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Operation and Maintenance Grants

Goal – Through a grant program eliminate the existing backlog of operation and maintenance needs on flood control dams.

Evaluation Criteria – Operation and maintenance needs of flood control dams were determined in previous surveys. The last survey was conducted in 2014 and estimated that about \$14 million was needed to address all known O&M needs. The State Board approves a program budget for operation and maintenance each fiscal year. Funds are allocated to dam sponsors based on submitted proposals on a first-come first-served basis until the approved budget amount is expended.

Compliance Monitoring – Agency rules specify which activities may be financed with program funding and to what extent a local share of the cost is required. The agency monitors the total needs of the state based on an analysis of all available information and survey results. Activities financed with program funds are reported to the agency upon a request for reimbursement. Documentation from subcontracted vendors is required prior to reimbursement at the rate specified in agency rule.

Analysis – Upon the completion of each fiscal year for which funds were approved for operation and maintenance grants, agency staff analyzes the work completed compared to the known remaining needs to determine the progress toward meeting the goal of eliminating the backlog.

Progress - The agency is monitoring spending amounts (both agency and local entities) toward the known financial needs from 2014, which were estimated to be \$14 million. Ongoing annual O&M cost is estimated to be \$1,500 per dam, or about \$3 million for 2,000 dams eligible for program assistance. From 2014 through 2021, an average of \$2.7 million was allocated to O&M. Thus, the backlog of O&M needs is still about \$14 million due to insufficient funding to reduce the backlog.

For fiscal years 2020 and 2021, the agency obligated a total of \$9.4 million to address O&M needs from fiscal year appropriations. This expenditure required a 10% match by rule, making the estimated total work performed approximately \$10.4 million. With continuing allocations of \$4 to \$5 million per year, the agency believes that the backlog may be eliminated in 5 to 7 years.

Structural Repair and Rehabilitation Grants

Goal – Eliminate the backlog of known structural repair and rehabilitation needs on flood control dams through a competitive grant program giving priority to those dams

that have the highest hazard classification and highest potential to fail as a result of a rainfall event.

Evaluation Criteria – Award grant funds to the highest-ranking application based on:

- The existence of an order to complete a repair on a flood control dam issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regarding dam safety
- A flood control dam's hazard classification as determined by the TCEQ
- The type of repair activity required
- The priority that a dam sponsor places on one dam repair compared to others under its jurisdiction

Compliance Monitoring – All information required to verify compliance with the goal is available prior to initiating a repair.

Analysis – An analysis is conducted of applications for repair grant funding and known repair needs identified by the USDA-NRCS and the TCEQ's Dam Safety Program at the end of each funding cycle to determine the relative progress in eliminating the repair backlog.

Progress – In 2019, TSSWCB received \$150 million from the Economic Stabilization Fund for the structural repair program. These funds were obligated to 41 dam repairs, 15 state funded high hazard dam upgrades, and matching funds for 6 federal rehabilitation projects. In addition, about \$3.3 million of general revenue was obligated to 6 dam repairs during the 2020-2021 biennium.

Remaining repair needs are 160 dams (7.8% of the eligible watershed program dams in Texas) at an estimated cost of \$107 million (this amount includes engineering services).

Goal – Leverage federal funding from the USDA-NRCS Federal Rehabilitation Program to the maximum amount possible using state flood control funds as the non-federal match requirement when possible.

Evaluation Criteria – Include the presence of federal funds as a criterion for selecting projects toward the goal of eliminating the backlog of dam repair, upgrade, and rehabilitation.

Compliance Monitoring – All sponsors must submit applications for the federal rehabilitation funds and for state matching funds. Projects that receive federal funding are high priority for available state matching funds. Information required to verify compliance with the goal is available prior to initiating a rehabilitation project.

Analysis – An analysis is conducted of applications for grant funding and known needs identified by the USDA-NRCS and the TCEQ's Dam Safety Program at the end of each funding cycle to determine the relative progress in eliminating the backlog.

Progress - Since 2014, TSSWCB has awarded state grants to local watershed sponsors of 21 high hazard dams that received federal rehabilitation funding. Federal funds provide 65% of project cost, state funds provide 33.25% of project cost, and local sponsors provide the remaining 1.75%. Eleven of these projects have been completed, and the remaining 10 projects are currently contracted for construction. There are about 514 additional high hazard dams that need to be upgraded/rehabilitated to meet high hazard criteria at an estimated construction cost of about \$2 billion.