

NONPOINT SOURCE SUMMARY PAGE

FY 02 CWA 319(h)

1. **TITLE OF PROJECT:** The Little River Atrazine Remediation Project (Central Texas SWCD)
2. **PROJECT GOALS/OBJECTIVES:** This project will provide corn and sorghum producers in the Little River watershed with an opportunity to participate in water quality educational activities, technical assistance, and financial assistance for the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs), in order to reduce the runoff of atrazine. The main goal of this project is to maintain the drinking water quality of these waterbodies and allow them to be removed from the State of Texas §303(d) List.
3. **PROJECT TASKS:** (1) To provide producers with water quality educational opportunities which pertain to the reduction of runoff from atrazine. (2) To provide corn and sorghum producers with technical and financial assistance to aid in the development and implementation of Water Quality Management Plans (WQMPs) to reduce the runoff of atrazine. (3) To compile information on the number, types, and locations of BMPs implemented.
4. **MEASURES OF SUCCESS:** (1) Implementation of 30 WQMPs. (2) Provide 2 education programs describing methods to reduce atrazine runoff. (3) Reduction in percentage of samples exceeding §303(d) list screening criteria (1.5 ug/L) to less than 20%. (4) Removal of lakes from §303(d) list.
5. **PROJECT TYPE:** Statewide () Watershed (X) Demonstration ()
6. **WATERBODY TYPE:** River (X) Lake () Wetland () Ground Water () Other ()
7. **PROJECT LOCATION:** Little River Segment 1213
8. **NPS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM REFERENCE:** State of Texas Agricultural/Silvicultural Nonpoint Source Management Program – Approved February 15, 2000.
9. **NPS ASSESSMENT REPORT STATUS:** Impaired () Impacted () Threatened (X)
10. **KEY PROJECT ACTIVITIES:** Hire Staff (X) Monitoring () Technical Assistance (X) Education (X) BMP Implementation (X) Demonstration Project () Other ()
11. **NPS Management Program Elements:** Implementing Milestones from the 1999 Texas Nonpoint Source Pollution Assessment Report and Management Program:
 - Provide financial assistance to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) for the implementation of Water Quality Management Plans in order to reduce NPS pollution.
 - Coordination with Federal, State, and Local Programs
 - TSSWCB is committed to technology transfer, technical support, administrative support and cooperation between agencies and programs for the prevention of NPS pollution.
12. **PROJECT COSTS:** Federal: (\$483,482) Local Match: (\$101,166) Total Project: (\$584,648);
13. **PROJECT MANAGEMENT:** Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
14. **PROJECT PERIOD:** Three years from start date.

Little River Atrazine Remediation Project

FY02 CWA Section 319(h)

WORKPLAN

Problem Need/Statement

Little River (Segment 1213) is considered to be threatened by atrazine, according to the draft version of the 2000 State of Texas §303(d) List. To remove this threat, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) will work cooperatively with the Central Texas, and Little River-San Gabriel SWCDs, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Texas Agricultural Extension Service (TAEX), Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), and Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (TAES) to provide water quality education, technical assistance, and financial assistance for BMP implementation, to corn and sorghum producers in order to reduce the potential for runoff of atrazine.

General Project Description

WQMPs insure farming or ranching operations are carried out in a manner consistent with state water quality goals. All approved WQMPs have the same legal status as the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission's (TNRCC's) point source pollution permits. The TSSWCB will review all of the WQMPs to make certain they are consistent with the state water quality standards and certify those that meet the necessary criteria. The objective of WQMP implementation is to achieve a level of pollution prevention or abatement determined to be consistent with State water quality standards.

BMPs to reduce the runoff of atrazine are implemented through the development of WQMPs. Highest priorities are given to the implementation of cost effective pollution abatement practices. TSSWCB, Central Texas SWCD, and Central Texas SWCD will determine which landowners receive technical assistance for the development and implementation of WQMPs. Examples of potential BMPs that may be included in WQMPs are:

- Buffer strips
- Integrated pest management (e.g., sprayer calibration, incorporation banding, follow label)
- Terraces and grassed waterways
- Conservation tillage
- Contour farming with strip cropping or buffer strips
- Conversion of cropland to grassland

The following are actions that will be undertaken by this project to reduce the potential for atrazine runoff into these waterbodies:

- Provide technical assistance to corn and sorghum producers concerning the implementation of appropriate BMPs to aid in the reduction of atrazine runoff.
- Provide two educational events describing methods for the reduction of atrazine runoff.
- Provide financial assistance to corn and sorghum producers for the implementation of BMPs in order to aid in the reduction of atrazine runoff.

The TNRCC will continue to evaluate atrazine levels within each waterbody through the on-going State monitoring regime.

Tasks, Objectives, Schedules, and Estimated Costs

Task 1: Program Coordination and Management

Costs: \$76,891.00 (Federal), \$4,500.00 (State), \$81,391.00 (Total)

Objective: Organize an integrated team among the multiple agencies and groups involved with the project to efficiently and effectively achieve project goals.

Subtask 1.1: Attend monthly SWCD board meetings to discuss technical assistance activities, project schedule, lines of responsibility, communication needs, and other required tasks with project participants. (Month 1 through month 36)

Subtask 1.2: Prepare quarterly and final reports. The final Report will be submitted to the TSSWCB, via CD, at the culmination of the project. The TSSWCB project manager will set dates for the reports. (Month 1 to Month 36)

Subtask 1.3: The technician will attend the Texas Watershed Protection Committee meetings to offer input on efforts in controlling atrazine runoff in the Little River Watershed. (Month 1 to Month 36)

Subtask 1.4: The technician will attend quarterly meeting with the TSSWCB project manager to review project status, deliverables, etc. (Month 1 to Month 36)

Deliverables

- Quarterly and final reports documenting project status.
- Semi-annual reports will be developed by the TSSWCB project manager to be submitted to EPA.
- Agendas and material presented to TWPC meetings.

Task 2: Water Quality Education of Best Management Practices to Reduce Atrazine

Costs: \$7,735.86 (Federal), \$0 (State), \$7,735.86 (Total).

Objective: To promote the implementation of cost effective BMPs that reduce atrazine runoff by informing and educating corn and sorghum producers about appropriate BMPs.

Subtask 2.1: Cooperate with the Dal-worth SWCD, Ellis-Prairie SWCD, Navarro SWCD, Hill County-Blackland SWCD, Johnson County SWCD, Limestone-Falls SWCD, NRCS, TAEX, TAES, and TDA to provide two educational/training events describing methods for the reduction of atrazine runoff. (Month 1 through month 24)

Deliverables:

- Training and workshop schedules, agendas, and participants.
- All educational materials distributed.
- Report describing all relative educational activities performed within the watershed.

Task 3: Development and Implementation of WQMPs

Costs: \$398,855.14 (Federal), \$96,666.00 (State), \$495,521.14 (Total)

Objective: Encourage agricultural landowners to comply with state water quality laws through a traditional voluntary based incentive program and assistance to producers in developing and implementing WQMPs.

Subtask 3.1: The Central Texas SWCD, will hire a technician to provide technical assistance to corn and sorghum producers and develop WQMPs (Month 1 to month 6)

Subtask 3.2: The Central Texas SWCD, with assistance from NRCS, will send out notifications announcing the availability of assistance for implementing WQMPs/BMPs, prioritize the WQMP applications and rank landowners based on greatest need of BMP implementation. (Month 1 to Month 3)

Subtask 3.3: The SWCD technician will provide landowners information on appropriate BMPs and will work with the TSSWCB Regional Office in developing and implementing WQMPs. (Month 1 to Month 36)

Subtask 3.4: The Central Texas SWCD technician will develop approximately 30 WQMPs. The SWCD technician will complete all WQMPs with assistance from the NRCS, and the TSSWCB Regional Office as needed. (Month 1 to Month 36)

Subtask 3.5: TSSWCB will provide technical review and certification of WQMPs. During this process, TSSWCB will certify all WQMPs and ensure that they are consistent with state water quality standards (Month 1 to Month 36)

Subtask 3.6: The SWCD technicians will conduct annual status reviews on all WQMPs developed to ensure that the implementation schedule is followed and funds are properly administered. (Month 1 to Month 36)

Subtask 3.7: The NRCS will provide the needed training for the technician with assistance from the TSSWCB. (Month 1 to Month 36)

Deliverables:

- 30 WQMPs developed and implemented within the Central Texas SWCD.
- The SWCD Technician will submit records of BMPs implemented to date by each producer.
- Annual status reviews will be submitted to the TSSWCB

Coordination, Roles and Responsibilities:

Participating Agencies and Organizations along with their roles in this project include:

- Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board: Project management. Responsible for technical review and certification of WQMPs. Provide assistance to the local SWCD in the implementation and development of WQMPs. Also assist the local SWCD in inventorying current BMPs and land use practices and the implementation of WQMPs.
- Little River-San Gabriel Soil and Water Conservation District: Oversee technician during the development and implementation of WQMPs/BMPs. Track BMP implementation using maps and spreadsheets.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service: Work with and assist local SWCD and TSSWCB in development and implementation of WQMPs. Provide training for the technician.

Measures of Success:

- Implementation of approximately 30 WQMPs in the Central Texas SWCD
- Conduct two education programs for local corn and sorghum producers during the course of the project.
- Reduce detections of atrazine concentrations in segment 1213 to levels which remain below the established target level
- Removal of segment 1213 from the State of Texas §303(d) List.

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