

Request for Statements of Interest for Federal Funding under the Texas Environmental Infrastructure Program

The Texas Water Development Board (board) is requesting Statements of Interest (SOIs) from interested political subdivisions. These SOIs will be used to provide the U.S. Congress with a list of projects for funding consideration under the Texas Environmental Infrastructure Program, authorized through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under Public Law 110-114, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA).

The Texas Environmental Infrastructure Program (Program) provision in WRDA authorizes a \$40,000,000 program for water resources projects, “as identified by the Texas Water Development Board.” The board will forward a list of eligible SOIs to the U.S. Congress. An SOI is eligible if the project is listed in the State Water Plan and the Regional Water Plan, and if the project has not received funding under WRDA or been previously listed under WRDA. In the event sufficient funds are appropriated, the funds will be distributed directly from the federal government to the political subdivision. The funding will cover 75% of the cost of the project. The funding is also available for discrete portions of an identified project.

Intent and Purpose of Program

The intent of the Program is to provide federal support for the implementation of water management strategies recommended in “Water for Texas – 2007,” the Texas State Water Plan and not otherwise authorized under WRDA. The Program will allow the USACE to directly support projects implementing the water management strategies. The funding is also available for discrete portions of an identified project.

The Program offers assistance “in the form of planning, design and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects in Texas, including projects for water supply, storage, treatment and related facilities, environmental restoration, and surface water resource protection and development, as identified by the Texas Water Development Board.” The board will categorize the eligible SOIs based on the activity to be funded. The board’s objective is to facilitate construction of projects or discrete increments of projects that are being implemented to meet near term water supplies. Near term water supplies means those that will meet project needs for 2020 as identified in the State Water Plan.

Funding Limitations

The \$40,000,000 authorized in WRDA is dedicated to a cost-sharing program wherein the federal share of the cost of the project shall be 75%, which may be provided in the form of grants or reimbursements of project costs. The non-federal share of 25% may be provided in the form of materials and in-kind services, including planning, design, construction and management services, as determined to be compatible with, and necessary for, the project. Therefore, design work carried out before the date of the project funded under WRDA may be credited toward the non-federal share. Additionally, the non-federal share may be in the form of a credit for land, easements, rights-of-way, and relocations. Fuller details on eligibility for the non-federal cost-

share will be available upon the release of USACE implementation guidance for the Program. Finally, the eligible applicant may apply for funding of the non-federal 25% share through one of the board's loan funding programs.

General Requirements

Political subdivisions otherwise eligible for funding from the board should submit an SOI to the address below no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 25, 2008. Responses should be limited to ten pages, excluding necessary maps.

The SOI shall contain the following information:

1. Name and address and geographical jurisdiction of the project sponsor(s);
2. Name, phone number and email address of main points of contact for the sponsor;
3. Name of project as identified in the State Water Plan, "Water for Texas – 2007," and in the applicable Regional Water Plan identified by page number references to the project proposed for funding; and the project shall meet a need for 2020.
4. Description of the physical boundaries of the project and the geographic area and region to be served by the project; the congressional district in which the project is located;
5. Brief description of overall project and estimated total cost of entire project;
6. Brief description of the portion of the project for which federal funding is requested under the Program, and estimated cost, date of the cost estimate, and estimated time to completion of the project;
7. A resolution from the governing body of the political subdivision approving the SOI for federal funds.

If, due to the schedule for governing body meetings, the applicant cannot provide a resolution by the April 25, 2008 deadline for SOI, then the board will accept:

- (a) a letter from the chair of the governing body or
- (b) a letter from the chief executive of the governing body stating the intent to request a resolution at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the governing body.

Submission of SOI

The SOI shall be submitted by U.S. Mail to:

Mr. Dave Mitamura
Texas Water Development Board
P.O. Box 13231
Austin, Texas 78711-3231
(512) 463-7965

The SOI must be received at the above address by 5:00pm, Friday, April 25, 2008.

This Request for Statements of Interest has been reviewed by the TWDB's legal counsel and is in compliance with applicable state and federal laws.