

Texas Water Development Board Request for Applications

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) solicits Request for Applications (RFAs) for the state fiscal year 2012. The total amount of the grants to be awarded by the TWDB shall not exceed \$600,000 from the Agricultural Water Conservation Fund. The rules governing the Agricultural Water Conservation Fund (31 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 367) and application instructions are available upon request from the TWDB.

Summary of the RFA

Solicitation Date (Opening)	Date published in the <i>Texas Register</i>
Due Date (Closing)	12:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 18, 2012
Anticipated Award Date	June 21, 2012
Estimated Total Funding	\$600,000
Eligible applicants	Political Subdivisions
Contact	Comer Tuck, Director Water Conservation Division Texas Water Development Board P.O. Box 13231, Austin, Texas 78711-3231 Phone: 512-936-2343 E-mail: comer.tuck@twdb.texas.gov

Agricultural Water Conservation Grant Categories:

1. Agricultural irrigation water use measurement

Grants to local political subdivisions may include the purchase and installation costs of agricultural irrigation measurement devices, automated gates, telemetry, and weather monitoring accessories. Applicants will be responsible for the costs of maintenance, data collection, and data reporting services for the duration of the contract. Water use data must be reported annually for each piece of equipment installed for a period of at least five years. Annual data reports are to include irrigated acreage, crop type, irrigation rate (inches per acre), total water use, and location by county (preferably including latitude/longitude coordinates). Additionally, annual rainfall totals must be provided (preferably as county totals). Annual water savings estimates (and an explanation of the water savings calculation methodology) resulting from use of the equipment must be reported as well.

2. Agricultural irrigation conservation education

Funding for this category is targeted towards educational efforts by local political subdivisions to assist in meeting the agricultural water conservation strategy of "irrigation conservation" as identified in the 2012 State Water Plan. This is not a category meant solely to develop new education tools and materials, but rather the technical aspects of the

applications must include implementation and outreach to educate area landowners and irrigators (preferably for a period of at least three years) about materials, resources, and technologies that will assist in their ability to meet pumping limitations. Projects should include relevant tools developed through previous TWDB projects, the private sector, and/or other resources available to the public. Funded projects will be required to report actual water savings at the end of the project and an explanation of the methodology used to calculate water savings.

3. Agricultural irrigation system audits

Applications from local political subdivisions may include the cost to purchase portable flow meters and other related equipment used to measure irrigation pumpage and/or irrigated crop water use. If the application is for equipment only, TWDB will cover 100 percent of the eligible equipment costs. If the applicant wishes to provide complete in-field irrigation system audits, TWDB will cover 50 percent of the total project costs including equipment, travel expenses, and labor. An irrigation system audit is intended to assess the efficiency of the irrigation system and recommend improvements to the entire system or to specific components. The audits must be used to educate irrigators about their irrigation efficiency and for determining improvements in their irrigation management. Equipment only applicants are required to report estimated accumulative water savings for three irrigation seasons after funding date. Full in-field irrigation system audit applicants are required to report a summary of all audits performed, system improvement recommendations, along with the three accumulative water savings reports.

Grant Amount

Up to \$600,000 has been initially authorized for fiscal year 2012 assistance for agricultural water conservation grants from the TWDB's Agricultural Water Conservation Fund (Fund). Funds will be awarded through a statewide competitive grants process. TWDB may fund single-and multi-year projects. Applicants may submit more than one application; however, individual applicants are only eligible to receive fiscal year 2012 agricultural water conservation grants not to exceed a total of \$200,000. All proposals will be evaluated based upon the specific criteria set forth in this solicitation.

Description of Applicant Criteria

The applicable scope of work, schedule, and contract amount will be negotiated after the TWDB selects the most qualified applicants. Failure to arrive at mutually agreeable terms of a contract with the most qualified applicant shall constitute a rejection of the Board's offer and may result in subsequent negotiations with the next most qualified applicant. The TWDB reserves the right to reject any or all applications if staff determines that the application(s) does not adequately meet the required criteria or if the funding available is less than the requested funding.

Application instructions available upon request from Comer Tuck, comer.tuck@twdb.texas.gov, or online at http://www.twdb.texas.gov/about/contract_admin/RFQ/index.asp

Deadline for Submission of Applications

Six double-sided, double-spaced copies on recycled paper and one digital copy (CD) of a completed application must be filed with the TWDB on or before 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 18, 2012. Applications can be directed either in person to David Carter, Texas Water Development Board, Stephen F. Austin Building, Room 610D, 1700 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas, 78701; or by mail to David Carter, Texas Water Development Board, P.O. Box 13231--Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-3231.

Staff Attorney
Texas Water Development Board

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