



Nonpoint Source Pollution, National Estuary Program, and Stormwater Funding Through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund

What is nonpoint source pollution?

Nonpoint source pollution is water pollution that results when rainfall or irrigation runoff carries pollutants into streams, lakes, and bays. The types of pollutants include fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, oil, grease, sediments, documented failing on-site sewage facilities, and animal waste. Nonpoint source pollution may come from many different locations and is often difficult to identify or control.

What is the National Estuary Program?

An estuary is a partially enclosed body of water along the coast where freshwater from rivers and streams mixes with saltwater from the ocean. The National Estuary Program, specifically the Gulf of Mexico Program in Texas, protects, restores, and enhances the coastal and marine waters of the Gulf of Mexico and its coastal natural habitats. The program also sustains living resources and protects human health and the food supply. It ensures the recreational use of Gulf shores, beaches, and waters in ways consistent with the economic well-being of the region.

What is stormwater?

When precipitation occurs (rain, snow, ice), stormwater is created. In undeveloped areas, precipitation typically soaks into the ground. When buildings, parking lots, roads, and other hard surfaces are added to the landscape, however, the ground cannot absorb the water and stormwater often runs off into nearby streams, rivers, or other bodies of water. Because stormwater can flow over many surfaces, it can pick up pollutants along the way, which also end up in these bodies of water.

What type of funding is available and who can apply?

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) provides financial assistance for nonpoint source pollution abatement, estuary management projects, and stormwater projects through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) at below-market interest rates. Financial assistance may be provided to cities, counties, districts, river authorities, water supply corporations that are Designated Management

Agencies, and other public bodies. A water quality-based priority system, which evaluates the environmental benefits of proposed projects, is used to rank applications and fund projects.

What is an eligible project?

Nonpoint source projects eligible for funding must be

- an identified practice within a water quality management plan or watershed protection plan; or
- a best management practice listed in the Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program, available online at www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/nonpoint-source/mgmt-plan.

National estuary projects eligible for funding must be consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program, available online at www.epa.gov/nep

Stormwater projects may be

- publicly or privately owned;
- permitted and unpermitted; or
- used for measures to manage, reduce, treat, or recapture stormwater or subsurface drainage water.

Activities eligible for funding include the following:

- Agricultural, rural, and urban runoff control
- Estuary improvement
- Nonpoint source pollution education
- Connecting failing on-site sewage facilities to a centralized sewer system
- Wet weather flow control for stormwater

How can nonpoint source pollution and National Estuary Program funds be used?

Funds may be used for planning, acquisition, design, and construction of nonpoint source pollution control activities, as well as developing and implementing comprehensive conservation and management plans associated with the National Estuary Program.

How can stormwater funds be used?

Funds may be used for projects specifically required by a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) permit; for projects outside of an MS4; for “soft” structures (ponds, swales, wetlands, and green infrastructure); and for “hard” drainage structures (pipes or concrete channels).

Where can I get more information?

For more information, email

Financial_Assistance@twdb.texas.gov.

Additional information on the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and other financial assistance programs is also available on the TWDB website at [www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/ programs](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs).