

FISCAL YEAR 2009 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE -- REP. Michael Burgess (TX-26)

Must be completed and submitted NO LATER than COB March 7, 2008

Please submit completed questionnaire to josh.martin@mail.house.gov

PLEASE NOTE: ALL REQUESTS MUST INCLUDE A FORMAL LETTER OF REQUEST ON OFFICIAL LETTERHEAD EXPLAINING THE PROJECT. THIS QUESTIONNAIRE SHOULD ACCOMPANY, NOT REPLACE, A FORMAL LETTER OF REQUEST AND ANY OTHER QUESTIONNAIRE

I. PROJECT BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

1. Please provide a formal name for this project:

Trinity Basin Environmental Restoration Reconnaissance Study

2. Please describe the project and its purpose:

Description: Work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a reconnaissance study in support of Governor Perry's announced Trinity River Environmental Restoration Initiative. The study would detail projects needed to restore functions and ecosystems in the basin and for other allied purposes.

Relevance and Background: The Trinity River drains one of the largest and most rapidly urbanizing areas in the nation. From its headwaters north and west of the Dallas–Fort Worth Metroplex to its outlet into Galveston Bay, the Trinity River and its tributaries drain an area of over 11.5 million acres. While providing water for almost 9 million people, the Trinity also sustains substantial agricultural and ecological resources, including significant areas of wetlands, bottomland hardwoods, and other forestlands.

With well-planned environmental restoration efforts, the Trinity River Basin can supply the region's drinking water while protecting water quality and maintaining important ecological resources. Restoration of wetlands and bottomland hardwoods and careful management of urban landscapes will enhance water quality, improve basin hydrology, mitigate flood events, conserve wildlife, and provide recreational opportunities.

3. Please outline the project plan, including the finance plan:

This program will be implemented by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service through the Institute of Renewable and Natural Resources and the Texas Water Resources Institute. Funds supporting this study will detail project priorities needed to restore important habitats and ecosystem services in the Trinity River Basin. Specifically, financial expenditures for FY09 will approximately be utilized as follows:

Salaries (including Fringes):	\$600,000
Equipment:	\$200,000
Supplies & Materials:	\$100,000
Travel:	\$100,000

II. BENEFIT TO THE 26th DISTRICT AND/OR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. Please explain how this project will improve life, the economy or the general welfare of the 26th District and/or the country at-large. Please be specific (i.e. outline number of jobs created, savings to economy or taxpayers, improve national security):

The Trinity has been abused while providing water supply for millions of Texans. The functioning of the ecosystem is damaged reducing products there from. This project would support the sustainability of a

clean water supply for the citizens in the 26th district and protection to the natural resources of the 26th district.

2. Please explain why this project should be considered a priority:

As part of the national priority on clean rivers, Safe Water Drinking Act and Clean Water Act, the Trinity arises as a top priority to meet these federal policy and environmental goals.

III. REQUEST

1. Amount of money you are requesting:

Texas AgriLife Extension Service is requesting \$1.0 Million for FY09

2. Agency from which you are requesting funds:

Department of Defense, US Army Corps of Engineers

3. Account from which you are requesting funds:

Subcommittee: Energy and Water

Account: Corps of Engineers

IV. FUNDING HISTORY

1. What is the total project cost and can you provide a federal-state/local-other funding breakdown?

Texas AgriLife Extension Service is requesting \$1.0 Million for FY09 for a 3 year project (total future funding request are: \$1.0 million each year for 2009, 2010 and 2011). For FY 2009, the federal/non-federal share will be:

Federal share: \$1 million

Non-Federal share: \$250,000

2. Has the project ever received federal funds before? If so, please elaborate.

No, this is a new congressional request. However, this project has received federal funds from USDA-NRI (\$250,000) and USGS.

3. Has the project received state, local or private funds before? If so, please elaborate.

Since 2006, the project has received \$200,000 from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, \$200,000 from Texas Water Development Board, \$75,000 from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and significant in-kind salary contributions from Texas AgriLife Research and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

4. Can you demonstrate a commitment for future funds from state, local, or private sectors? If so, please elaborate to the extent possible.

This project is supported by State Agencies with seed dollars and strong push by the Governor. While match is not required, Texas AgriLife Extension anticipates receipt of funds from state agencies for faculty salary, lab use, and indirect costs (\$300,000). Also, contracts with foundations and private sector (\$200,000).

5. How do you intend to spend federal funds for this project (operating, construction, studies, equipment purchase, salaries, other)?

Financial expenditures for FY09 will approximately be utilized as follows:

Salaries (including Fringes):\$600,000
Equipment: \$200,000
Supplies & Materials: \$100,000
Travel: \$100,000

6. Does the project request stem from a currently-funded federal program (i.e., an already existing congressional authorization)? If so, please explain and be as specific as possible.

No

V. PROJECT HISTORY

1. Please briefly explain the level of support for the project in the local and any other community (if letters of support exist, please attach to this form).

This project is the result of a Governor announced initiative and has significant support from local and community organizations. Namely the Trinity River Authority, city and county governments, local and state natural resource organizations and groups as well as private landowners.

2. Has the project encountered any objections within the local or other interested communities? If so, please describe (if letters or official records exist noting objections to the project, please attach to this form).

No

3. Please briefly explain the current stage and expected timeline of the project in a great a detail as possible.

Project has already begun engaging stakeholders and private landowners and collecting available scientific data and information for prioritizing environmental restoration projects. In addition, educational efforts are underway for adult and youth in the basin regarding natural resource management and related policy implications. Meetings to arrange coordination among federal, state and local governments will be among the first priority efforts within FY2009. Efforts will then focus on implementing best management practices to develop ecological sustainability of urban landscapes and wildlife habitats, wetland enhancement, expansion of bottomland hardwoods and maintenance of recreational assets.

VI. CONTACTS

1. Who is the primary point of contact for the request?

Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Ron Lacewell

2. Contact information (telephone and e-mail):

Phone number: 979.862.7138

Email Address: r-lacewell@tamu.edu

3. Mailing address of entity that would receive the funding?

1500 Research Parkway

Centeq, Suite #255

2259 TAMU

College Station, TX 77843-2259

VII. TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

1. How much of this request can be spent in fiscal year 2009?

2. If this is a highway, transit, rail, or aviation request, did you check eligibility with the state DOT, FTA, FRA, or FAA?

2a. If yes, did the agency indicate the project is eligible under the account requested?

3. If this is an FHWA request, is the project considered by the state and/or regional transportation officials as critical to their needs?

4. If a highway request, is the project on the state's transportation improvement plan?

PRIORITY PROJECT REQUEST CRITERIA

CERTIFICATION:

I, _____, ATTEST THAT THIS PROJECT REQUEST MADE ON BEHALF OF
_____ MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1. All appropriations requests must be a priority for the 26th District and/or the country-at large as defined as enhancing life, liberty, or the general welfare.
2. All requests must be a proper and wise use of federal taxpayer dollars and must be justified as such. Projects that include a commitment to match federal funds will receive priority consideration.
3. All requests will be immediately posted on the website and supporting documentation made available to press outlets and interested individuals.
4. None of the funding requested will be used for a building, program, or project that has been named for Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D. No request will be made that Congressman Burgess or his spouse has any financial interest.
5. All requests shall be made in accordance with House of Representatives rules, and within Appropriations Committee deadlines. No funding request will be submitted after the deadline established by the Committee

Name of person certifying Ronald D. Lacewell

Title of person certifying Assistant Vice Chancellor, Office of Federal Relations

Project name as it will appear in the bill Trinity Basin Environmental Restoration Reconnaissance Study

Legal name of entity making request Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Address 1500 Research Parkway, Centeq, Suite #255, 2259 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-2259


Signature

3/7/2008
Date