

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:

Best Practices for Storm Water Treatment in North Texas

2. Please describe the project and its purpose:

This project creates a model for storm water treatments (such as urban filter strips, green roofs, and other best management practices) which use designed open space to return a measurably improved quality of runoff water from the upper reaches of the Trinity River watershed to its main channel. Standards for the amount and type of open space needed to achieve predetermined water quality goals are expected to be determined from the study. The impact of these standards on open-space plans, recreation, tax bases, and residential and commercial development are to be determined, and an educational program is included to implement the project's findings.

This project is an outgrowth of a memorandum of agreement between regional entities of The University of Texas System and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, focusing on problem identification and problem solving of environmental issues in the North Texas region. This cross-system collaboration increases the applied scientific capacities of the collaborating institutions in a cost-effective manner through the sharing of existing resources unique to each institution and institutional system.

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

This project creates a model for storm water treatments (such as urban filter strips, green roofs, and other best management practices) which use designed open space to return a measurably improved quality of runoff water from the upper reaches of the Trinity River watershed to its main channel. Standards for the amount and type of open space needed to achieve predetermined water quality goals are expected to be determined from the study. We anticipate funds will be split 50/50 between the University of Texas at Arlington and Texas A&M AgriLife at Texas A&M University. Funds will be used on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Support (Hardware and software), GIS lab modifications, data input (three stakeholder information sessions/tele-conferencing capabilities), educational programming, travel, salaries and material production.

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):

This project extends the purposes of the Clean Water Act and the Water Resources Development Act by proposing a model for urban and suburban development that ensures a measurably higher quality of storm water runoff than is currently common to metropolitan areas. Besides the value the project brings to a large inland river basin, the project's results can influence the bio-rich resources of Galveston Bay, the Gulf of Mexico, and downriver urban areas such as Houston, Texas. The results also can serve as a national and global model for surface water quality and best land use practices for built-out and soon-to-be-built-out regions of the country. Conceivably, these practices can change the way metropolitan areas look and function as a result of grounded standards for open-space quality and quantity.

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

The 26th district of Texas serves as a major "intersection" of rivers, creeks, intermittent streams, and lakes that all impact the urban community of the DFW Metroplex. Special consideration should be given to this project because of the balance to maintain water quality as well as manage floodwaters during torrential downpours.

III. REQUEST

1. Amount of money you are requesting:

\$1.29 million

2. Agency from which you are requesting funds:

Department of the Army; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Civil

3. Account from which you are requesting funds:

Investigations

IV. FUNDING HISTORY

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

\$ 5 million

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

N/a

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

N/a

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

Anticipate 25% or \$433,000 matching funds through state employee salaries and benefits, and associated personnel costs. In addition to this request for federal funding, the project teams of both university systems will work cooperatively to obtain funds from competitive grant programs through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and others as appropriate.

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

We anticipate funds will be split 50/50 between the University of Texas at Arlington and Texas A&M AgriLife at Texas A&M University. Specifically, funds will be used on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Support (Hardware and software @ \$76,000), GIS lab modifications (\$36,000), data input (three stakeholder information sessions/tele-conferencing capabilities and educational programming @ \$66,000), travel (\$8,000), salaries (\$1,078,000) and material production (\$35,000).

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.

Water Resources Development Act of 2007 Section 5141 "Dallas Floodway, Dallas, Texas"

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).

Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, U.S. EPA, The University of Texas at Dallas, The University of Texas at Arlington. Additional associations vital to this project include those with Vision North Texas, The University of North Texas, The Botanical Research Institute of Texas, and the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

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).

N/a

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

This project will take place over a 3-year period. First year will be spent collecting and disseminating existing data regarding water quality standards, measurement of open space for water quality goals. 2nd and third year will be spent evaluating practices such as urban filter strips, green roofs, and other best management practices for water quality success.

VI. CONTACTS

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

Name Pat D. Taylor, Ph.D.
Title Director, The University of Texas at Arlington

Name Frank Gilstrap, Ph.D, Co-PI

Title Director, Texas A&M Urban Solutions Center at Dallas

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

The University of Texas at Arlington
Phone: 817.272.2801
Fax: 817.272.5098
Email: pdt@uta.edu

Texas A&M Urban Solutions Center at Dallas
Phone: (972) 231-5362
Fax: (972) 952-9216
Email: f-gilstrap@tamu.edu

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

Program in Landscape Architecture
Box 19108
The University of Texas at Arlington
Arlington TX 76019-0108 USA
And
Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Urban Solutions Center
17360 Coit Road
Dallas, Texas 75252

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, Ronald Lacewell, ATTEST THAT THIS PROJECT REQUEST MADE ON BEHALF OF

Texas A&M AgriLife 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 for Federal Relations

Project name as it will appear in the bill Best Practices for Storm Water Treatment in North Texas

Legal name of entity making request Texas AgriLife Research and Extension

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


Signature

3/7/2008
Date