

Flood Control Dam Program

Our Requests

Overview

Flood control dams are critical for protecting communities from flooding. The Flood Control Dam Program oversees 2,038 dams, playing a key role in safeguarding lives, property, and local economies. Working with local sponsors, the program ensures these structures are properly maintained, repaired, and upgraded. Maintaining and enhancing these dams requires significant resources, making financial support essential, especially as infrastructure is reclassified to high hazard dams.



The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board is requesting appropriations in the amount of **\$150 million** to address a significant portion of the backlog of rehabilitation/upgrade and repair needs. This would address known repair needs and rehabilitation/upgrades.

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board is requesting **one Full-Time Equivalent (FTE), and \$250,000 for the biennium** to employ a dam safety engineer to assist local sponsors with O&M work and safety inspection requirements.

ATSWCD fully supports these two requests.

The Risks

Aging flood control dams pose significant risks to surrounding communities as infrastructure deteriorates. Weakening structures increase the likelihood of failure, which could lead to catastrophic flooding. Without proper maintenance and upgrades, these aging dams threaten public safety and could cause widespread damage.

A failure of the flood control dam could potentially affect 94,000 residents, risking property damage and loss of life. The incident would strain local resources and infrastructure, leaving the community vulnerable in both the short and long term.

Program History

In 2010, the Texas Legislature began allocating funds to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) to administer grants for maintaining the state's 2,038 flood control dams. These dams, vital to managing flood risks and protecting communities across Texas, require ongoing attention to ensure their integrity and effectiveness.

Local sponsors, including soil and water conservation districts, play a crucial role in carrying out the operation, maintenance, repairs, and rehabilitation of the dams. They work closely with TSSWCB to identify priorities for dam upgrades, conduct inspections, and address any structural issues that could compromise safety. TSSWCB allocates the funds to these local entities, helping to ensure that flood control infrastructure remains robust and ready to protect the public in times of need. This partnership between state and local organizations is essential for the long-term sustainability of Texas' flood control efforts.



Current Funding

For the 2024-2025 biennium, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) received \$50.9 million in General Revenue to support the Operation & Maintenance and Rehabilitation Grant Programs. These funds will cover O&M activities, state matching funds.

TSSWCB also receives federal funding for flood control projects, totaling \$77 million as of September 2022. This includes 10 dam rehabilitation projects, with eight slated for completion in Fiscal Year 2024. Federal projects require a 35% non-federal match, funded through state appropriations.



Who are we

The Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts (ATSWCD) is a nonprofit founded in 1959 that advocates for soil and water conservation across Texas. It represents 216 local soil and water conservation districts, promoting sustainable land and water use. ATSWCD offers resources, and training to district staff and landowners, aiming to improve conservation efforts, soil health, and water quality, while protecting Texas' natural resources for future generations.

2,038

Flood Control Dams

752

High Hazard Dams

607

Do Not Meet Standards

180

Need Repairs

\$3-4

Billions for Rehabilitation