SABINE RIVER AUTHORITY OF TEXAS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Approved:
October 1, 2026

Sabine River Authority of Texas
Economic Development Program

In accordance with Texas Civil Statutes Article 8280-133, V.A.T.C.S. Water Code Sec. 152, the Board of Directors approve the following economic development program to increase the economic vitality of the Sabine River Basin (Basin) as it relates to the overall mission of the Sabine River Authority of Texas (SRA).

Objective: Work in tandem with existing counties, cities, communities and organizations to complement economic development efforts through:

1) **Community Assistance Program**
2) **Emergency Grants / Disaster Relief**
3) **Special Grants**
4) **Recreational Enhancements**
5) **Technical Assistance**

Purpose: The purpose of this program is to promote the improvement of the quality and quantity of services essential for the development of a viable community, to provide disaster relief assistance and to enhance recreational opportunities throughout the Basin to fulfill SRA's obligations to assist in the development of the Basin.

Funding: The SRA Board of Directors (Board) establishes the annual budget for funding this program. Staff recommendations for funding are brought to the Board for final approval. The Board authorizes the General Manager to utilize up to $50,000 in funding for disaster relief or emergency projects where funding is needed immediately. Those grants will be brought to the next Board meeting to be ratified. Budget amendments will be presented to the Board for approval on an as needed basis.

Community Assistance Program (CAP)

Community Assistance Program (CAP) Grants – Provide competitive grants that will complement or leverage funds for water or wastewater improvement projects for eligible entities in the Basin. Funds provided for the CAP grants shall not exceed $30,000 per project. Project applications will be reviewed based on need and use of funds by the SRA Executive staff. A recommendation will be submitted to the Board for final approval and funding.

Eligible Recipients for CAP:

- Cities within the Basin
- Counties within the Basin
- General and special law districts created in accordance with state law and with the authority and responsibility for water quality protection or municipal solid waste management (Municipal or Special Utility Districts) within the Basin

- Council of Governments (COG's) or other governmental entities within the Basin
- Member-owned water supply corporations within the Basin

Requirements for Water Supply (WSC) or Sewer Service Corporations:

- Non-profit, member-owned, and member-controlled corporations organized under Chapter 67 of the Texas Water Code.
- Audited annually by a certified public accounting firm. A financial statement may be accepted in lieu of an audit on a case-by-case basis.
- Must be located within the boundaries of the Sabine River Basin of Texas.

Eligible Project Categories:

- Water Supply – new or existing system improvements
- Wastewater Management - new or existing system improvements
- Water Conservation – measures to promote water use efficiency
- Water Quality – measures to improve instream water quality
- Other – at the discretion of the Board

Eligible Cost:

- Construction Costs
- Materials and Supplies
- Feasibility Studies or Reports

Project Rating Criteria:

- Match to Mission of SRA - The extent to which the proposed project supports and advances the mission, goals, and public-purpose responsibilities of the Sabine River Authority (SRA). Projects that directly contribute to the conservation, development, management, protection, or beneficial use of water resources within the SRA's service area should receive greater consideration.
- Location within the Sabine River Basin - The extent to which the proposed project is located within, or directly benefits, the Sabine River Basin. Priority may be given to projects located within the basin and to projects that demonstrate a direct and measurable benefit to water resources, communities, or environmental conditions within the basin.
- Local Commitment and Support - The level of financial, organizational, governmental, community, or other local support demonstrated for the proposed project. Consideration may include local financial contributions, in-kind contributions, partnerships, volunteer support, resolutions or letters of support, and other evidence that the applicant and local community are committed to the successful completion and continued benefit of the project.
- Recipient Frequency of prior CAP Grants awarded - The frequency with which the applicant has previously received funding through the SRA Community Assistance Program (CAP). Consideration should be

given to providing equitable opportunities for eligible applicants and communities that have received fewer or no prior CAP grants, while recognizing that prior funding does not, by itself, disqualify an otherwise eligible project.

- Recipient Past Performance on CAP Grants - The applicant's history of administering and completing projects funded through the SRA CAP. Consideration may include timely completion of projects, compliance with grant requirements, proper use and documentation of funds, submission of required reports, achievement of stated project objectives, and the applicant's overall performance in fulfilling prior grant obligations.
- Use of funds in conjunction with other funding sources - The extent to which SRA CAP funds will be leveraged with other sources of funding to maximize the overall impact of the grant. Consideration may be given to projects that combine CAP funds with local, state, federal, private, or other funding sources, including documented matching funds or in-kind contributions.
- Funding needs for compliance measures - The extent to which the proposed project addresses an identified regulatory, statutory, safety, environmental, or other compliance requirement and the applicant's demonstrated need for financial assistance to meet that requirement. Consideration should be given to the urgency of the compliance need, potential consequences of noncompliance, and the applicant's ability to fund the required improvements without grant assistance.
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SRA Customers - The extent to which the proposed project directly or indirectly benefits SRA customers, including communities, entities, or other customers that purchase, receive, or otherwise rely upon services or resources provided by SRA. Consideration may include the number of SRA customers benefiting from the project, the significance of the benefit, and whether the project supports the reliability, quality, conservation, or beneficial use of SRA resources.

Results of final scores and rankings are available to applicants upon request following approval at each quarterly Board of Directors meeting. Questions regarding results can be directed to the CAP grant program administrator.

Recipient Requirements:

- Recipients will be required to sign a grant agreement.
- Funds must be used within 12 months of the award date of the grant.
- The Board authorizes the General Manager to waive the 12-month completion requirement on a case-by-case basis.
- The recipient agrees to provide routine project updates to SRA.
- Upon completion of the project, the recipient agrees to submit the Grant Completion Form to SRA.

Underperforming Grantees:
As previously stated, grant recipients are required to sign a grant agreement prior to receipt of grant funds. Should a grant recipient breach the agreement or fail to comply with the stated parameters such documentation will be maintained by SRA. Underperformance may include, but is not limited to use of grant money for any purpose other than stated in the grant agreement or project not completed within twelve months. Underperformance by grantees will result in consequences such as returning grant funds, impaired scoring for future grant projects, or banning of an entity from the program for a stated period of time.

Application Process:
This is a competitive grant process which is subject to the project rating criteria stated above. Applications can be submitted through the SRA website and online portal. A link to the online portal can be found on our website through the Community Assistance Program page or by going directly to www.sratx.submittable.com/submit).

Emergency / Disaster Relief Grants

As an area of the State that has suffered from several natural disasters that include hurricanes, tropical storms, wildfires, and tornados, SRA may provide disaster relief funds that are available for counties, cities, and communities most devastated by a disaster. SRA staff will also coordinate with State and Federal Legislators, State and Federal agencies, counties, communities and water districts during disaster recovery to provide grant funds, technical assistance and resources. These funds, recommended by the General Manager, are brought to the Board for final approval and necessary budget amendment for funding. The Board authorizes the General Manager to utilize up to $50,000 in funding for disaster relief or emergency projects where funding is needed immediately. Those grants will be brought to the next Board meeting to be ratified.

Application Process:
This is a non-competitive grant and is not subject to scoring. SRA staff will provide affected entities with an Emergency Grant Request Form to submit with emergency or disaster related request(s).
Eligible Projects:
Emergency and Disaster Relief will be reviewed by SRA staff on a case-by-case basis for eligible projects, expenditures, or reimbursements.

Special Grants

Grants or low-interest loans shall be approved on a case-by-case basis where the project improves water availability, water quality or water management or provides economic growth for the communities within the Basin. These special assistance projects shall be approved by the Board based on need, economic impact to the community and use of funds.

Application Process:
This is a non-competitive grant and is not subject to scoring. Entities will be asked to submit Special Grant proposals for SRA staff review that include:

- Project Description
- Project Costs
- Explanation of Project Benefit to affected community
- Timeline of project

Recreational Enhancements

In order to assure an appropriate balance of parks and recreational facilities and amenities are present across the Basin, the Board approved a Parks and Recreation Master Plan that proposes to construct, improve and enhance major parks within the Basin. In assessing the appropriate facilities and amenities, the Plan will initially concentrate on sites around the reservoirs managed by SRA. Additional sites will be reviewed throughout the Basin. Funds for the recreational enhancements will be approved by the Board in the annual budget. Purchasing procedures will follow all the applicable laws and regulations.

The Board authorizes the General Manager to waive fees for the use of Authority property by government, public, or private entities that are promoting the economic and recreational growth or enhancement of the surrounding communities.

Application Process:
This is a non-competitive grant and is not subject to scoring. Recreational enhancements are based on items in the Master Plan and approved by the Board of Directors as part of the annual budget. Requests for waiving of fees need to be submitted in writing to SRA for consideration.

Technical Assistance

SRA staff will work in tandem with counties, cities, communities and organizations throughout the Basin to provide technical assistance and resources to enhance their economic development efforts to:

- Encourage economic diversification
- Contribute to the health and development of their community to improve the attractiveness of the community to public and private enterprises
- Improve the quality and quantity of services essential for development of viable communities and economic growth

Application Process:
This is a non-competitive grant and is not subject to scoring. Requests for technical assistance need to be submitted in writing to SRA for consideration.

SRA Grant Staff Requirement

All SRA Staff engaged in the SRA Economic Development Program shall abide to be free from any potential conflicts of interest with grantees. If a conflict of interest arises SRA Grant Staff shall notify management and recuse themselves from the review of the conflicted entity review and process. SRA will keep on file a conflict-of-interest form signed by SRA employees engaged in the SRA Economic Development Program.

The conduct of projects provided funding under this program shall be in accordance with all applicable state and local statues, rules, regulations, and guidelines.