



CWA § 319(h) NPS Grant Program Changes & Strategies for Moving Forward

EPA Region 6 NPS Program

Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable

January 25, 2012



CWA § 319(h) NPS Grant Program Changes & Strategies for Moving Forward

- National Audit and Study of NPS Program
- Anticipated Changes to NPS Program
- EPA Region 6 Proactive Approach



National Audit and Study of NPS Program

- Congress requested national audit of NPS program to assess effectiveness; Government Accountability Office (GAO) report is pending
- EPA Headquarters conducted self-evaluation of 319(h), with assistance from States. Report and recommendations submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
- FY11 budget was cut \$25 million; at least \$10.7 million cut in FY12 for national budget of about \$165 million



Anticipated Changes to NPS Program

EPA HQ's report to OMB calls for:

- Program improvements
 - Increase fiscal and programmatic accountability
 - Increase rigor of annual satisfactory progress determination
 - More detailed and thorough work scopes and annual reports
 - Improve fiscal management
- Increased need to demonstrate water quality results
 - Only 1% of NPS-impaired waterbodies restored nationwide in past 6 years
- Leaner budget is expected to focus on results-oriented, targeted priorities



Region 6 Proactive Approach

- **Improve fiscal accountability**
 - Deadline to finalize grant packages is May 31, 2012 or funds will be re-competed within the Region
 - Increase grant drawdowns to reduce unliquidated obligations (ULOs) particularly for grants 3 years and older
 - Scope projects at a manageable scale so that funds are spent in no more than 3 years



Region 6 Proactive Approach

- **Programmatic accountability**
 - Interim satisfactory progress criteria to be drafted in 2012 and finalized in 2013
 - Update or complete watershed based plans (WBPs) consistent with 319(h) guidelines
 - Improve milestones that can be measured and tracked
 - At the State level in the Management Plan
 - At the watershed level in WBPs
 - At the project level in work scopes



Region 6 Proactive Approach

- **Demonstrate water quality results**
 - Target resources to waterbodies/watersheds where we can accelerate WQ improvements and restoration
 - Generate more success stories



Region 6 NPS Contacts

- Tina Hendon
Technical Program Manager for TX
Hendon.Tina@epa.gov
214-665-6619
- Henry Brewer
Project Officer for TSSWCB
Brewer.Henry@epa.gov
214-665-8146
- Leslie Rauscher
Project Officer for TCEQ
Rauscher.Leslie@epa.gov
214-665-2773