

Draft FY26-27 H-GAC Clean Rivers Program Budget

PROJECT NAME: Clean Rivers Program			
TEXAS TAX ID NUMBER: 74-1557575		RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION Houston-Galveston Area Council 3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120 Houston, Texas, 77027	
TOTAL PROJECT PERIOD: 9/1/2025 through 8/31/2027			
BUDGET CATEGORIES*	FY 2026 9/1/25 - 8/31/26	FY 2027 9/1/26 - 8/31/27	FY26 - FY27 TOTAL
a. Personnel/Salary	\$ 424,655.92	\$ 441,642.16	\$ 866,298.08
b. Fringe Benefits (46.27% of a.)	\$ 196,488.29	\$ 204,347.83	\$ 400,836.12
c. Travel	\$ 11,542.50	\$ 11,542.50	\$ 23,085.00
d. Supplies	\$ 15,440.42	\$ 15,440.42	\$ 30,880.84
e. Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
f. Contractual	\$ 238,146.00	\$ 238,146.00	\$ 476,292.00
g. Other	\$ 163,875.00	\$ 169,466.68	\$ 333,341.68
h. Total Direct Costs (sum a-g)	\$ 1,050,148.13	\$ 1,080,585.59	\$ 2,130,733.72
i. Indirect costs (13.32% x a+b)	\$ 82,736.41	\$ 86,045.87	\$ 168,782.28
j. Total Reimbursable Costs (h+i)	\$ 1,132,884.54	\$ 1,166,631.46	\$ 2,299,516.00

SCOPE OF WORK

Task 1: Project Administration

Objective: To manage all administrative functions required to support the Clean Rivers Program (CRP) contract, including:

- Informative and timely progress reports.
- Participation in conference calls.
- Participation at CRP meetings.
- Timely and accurate reimbursement forms with adequate documentation.
- Efficient cost control to ensure expenses are allowable and applicable.
- Responsibility for procurement and oversight of subcontractors.
- Participation in fiscal monitoring reviews.
- Timely and accurate deliverables that meet the intent of the FY2026-2027 CRP Guidance.
- Adherence to TCEQ contract provisions.
- Detailed and reasonable work plan development.
- Financial reporting and budget monitoring.
- Training to ensure personnel are properly prepared to conduct work.

Task Description: The Performing Party's project and finance staff will work with TCEQ's project manager to meet all TCEQ administrative requirements for this Contract. The Principal Financial Analyst for the Performing Party's Community and Environmental Planning Department will assist with the tracking and documentation requirements for this Contract in coordination with the TCEQ contract manager. The Performing Party will handle all subcontract administration and fiscal monitoring under this task. Equipment purchases will be reported under this task.

The Performing Party will complete the following subtasks:

Progress Reports—Progress reports will contain a level of detail sufficient to document the activities which occurred during the appropriate quarter and provide detailed supporting documentation and justification for reimbursement requests. Progress reports will contain a general description of activities, a detailed tracking of deliverables, and the water quality monitoring activities which occurred during the quarter. The Progress Report will be in the format provided in Exhibit 1D of the FY2026-2027 CRP Guidance.

Reimbursement Requests—A Financial Status Report, Supplemental Forms, and a current Personnel Eligibility List (PEL) will be submitted along with appropriate additional documentation (e.g., subcontractor invoices) on a quarterly basis. An updated Equipment Inventory List will be submitted with the Reimbursement request when changes occur during the quarter. Budget Revision Requests will be made in advance of making changes to the budget.

Performing Party and Subcontractor Evaluations—An annual self-evaluation and evaluations of subcontractors will be submitted at the end of each fiscal year.

Procurement Procedures Documentation—Documentation of the procurement process used to solicit, evaluate, pay, and oversee subcontractors, as specified in the FY2026-2027 CRP Guidance, will be developed. This documentation will be maintained in-house and will be made available for review by TCEQ staff upon request. For each subcontract made in association with this contract, the Performing Party will provide a memo describing the procurement method used and a summary of the work to be performed to the TCEQ CRP project manager. In addition, a Procurement System Certification will be submitted with the supporting documentation required with the FY2026-2027 work plan, in accordance with the FY2026-2027 CRP Guidance.

Conference Calls—The Performing Party will participate in all scheduled conference calls unless other arrangements are made with the TCEQ CRP project manager.

Conferences and Training Events or Other Events—The Performing Party will participate in meetings and training events as scheduled by TCEQ for the Texas CRP. All non-CRP conferences and training events need to be pre-approved by the TCEQ CRP project manager prior to incurring costs associated with such events. Staff, as appropriate, will attend approved conferences and advisory groups related to CRP priorities and objectives. Approved conferences and meetings include but are not limited to:

- Texas Water Association meetings and technical conferences
- State of the Bay (Galveston Bay) Symposium(s)
- National Water Quality Monitoring Conference(s)
- North Houston Association Environmental Committee Meetings
- Harris County Community Flood Resilience Task Force Meetings
- Bayou Preservation Association Meetings
- Texas Stream Team Advisory Council Meetings
- Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP) Monitoring and Research Subcommittee Meetings
- GBEP Water and Sediment Quality Subcommittee Meetings
- GBEP Public Participation and Education Subcommittee Meetings
- Galveston Bay Council Meetings
- Environmental Institute of Houston Advisory Board Meetings
- Texas A&M (Texas Water Research Institute) Modeling Course
- EPA Region 6 Quality Assurance Training
- Texas Stream Team Meeting of the Monitors, State- wide Partners Meeting

As conferences, training events, or other meetings are scheduled, prior email approval will be obtained for Performing Party staff to participate/attend events outside of the above list.

Documentation for Desk Review or On-Site Visit—Detailed supporting documentation, in addition to the quarterly reimbursement documentation, will be made available upon request. The additional supporting documentation will include those items outlined in Exhibit 1B of the FY2026-2027 CRP Guidance. In the case of an on-site visit, the appropriate Performing Party personnel will be available during the visit.

FY2028-2029 Work Plan and Supporting Documentation—The work plan and supporting documentation will be prepared and submitted as specified in the FY2028-2029 CRP Guidance. Supporting documentation will include (as applicable): budget by category, budget by task, PEL, fringe rate methodology, indirect rate methodology, allocated costs documentation, equipment purchase request list, equipment inventory, a list of subcontracted tasks, a list of known training events and conferences, and a signed Procurement System Certification. The work plan will include the tasks and deliverables outlined in the FY2028-2029 Guidance and will be negotiated with TCEQ. A proposed work plan will be submitted to TCEQ for review, and comments will be provided. The Performing Party will address all TCEQ comments and submit a final work plan.

Deliverables and Due Dates:

September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026

- A. Progress Reports—December 15, 2025; March 15 and June 15, 2026
- B. Reimbursement Requests—due 30 days after the close of each quarter
- C. Annual Self-Evaluation and, if applicable, Subcontractor Evaluations—August 31, 2026
- D. Procurement Procedures Documentation Memo—within 30 days after the subcontract is executed
- E. Additional Supporting Documentation for Desk Review or Site Visit—upon request

September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027

- A. Progress Reports—September 15 and December 15, 2026; March 15, June 15, and August 15, 2027
- B. Reimbursement Requests—due 30 days after the close of each quarter; final due no later than 45 days following the contract termination date
- C. Proposed FY2028 - 2029 Work Plan and Supporting Documentation—December 15, 2026
- D. Final FY2028 - 2029 Work Plan and Supporting Documentation—February 1, 2027
- E. Annual Self Evaluation and, if applicable, Subcontractor Evaluations—August 31, 2027
- F. Procurement Procedures Documentation Memo—within 30 days after the subcontract is executed

G. Additional Supporting Documentation for Desk Review or Site Visit—upon request

Task 2: Quality Assurance

Objective: To conduct data collection activities in accordance with an integrated system of quality management activities involving planning, assessment, implementation, training, and quality improvement. This task addresses objectives and processes for:

- Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) development and implementation.
- Laboratory quality assurance.
- Data review, verification, and validation.
- Oversight of project(s).
- Special studies project planning.

Task Description: All work funded by this contract that involves the acquisition of environmental data generated from direct measurement activities, collected from other sources, or compiled from computerized databases and information systems will be planned in consultation with TCEQ and documented in a fully approved TCEQ QAPP before data collection can be implemented.

Regional Monitoring Workgroup (RMW)—The Performing Party will coordinate the RMW. The workgroup serves as the point of contact for the Performing Party to provide Quality Assurance (QA) materials and QA training to local agencies and subcontractors. The RMW is described in greater detail in Task 3 and RMW activities will be summarized in the quarterly progress report.

Water Quality Monitoring Training for Local Agencies—The Performing Party will arrange training sessions for local field personnel and subcontractors as necessary or requested. The TCEQ Surface Water Quality Monitoring (SWQM) staff, the Performing Party staff, local agency staff, or vendors may conduct training sessions. Training may cover sampling techniques described in the *TCEQ Surface Water Quality Monitoring Procedures* or the use of new technology (e.g., multi-probe meters or flow meters). All training sessions will be coordinated with the TCEQ CRP project manager and will be summarized in the quarterly progress report.

The Performing Party will complete the following subtasks:

NELAP Accreditation—Laboratory data will be produced by laboratories (and subcontracted laboratories) whose quality assurance program is consistent with the NELAC Institute (TNI) standards. Per TCEQ requirements, all laboratories submitting data to TCEQ must be National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) accredited. The Performing Party will reimburse the required TCEQ annual accreditation fees, as well as semi-annual verification checks (Proficiency Test samples) from a TCEQ-accredited third-party vendor, for the Houston Health Department Laboratory, Houston Drinking Water Operations Laboratory, and Harris County

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Pollution Control Services Laboratory to maintain NELAP accreditation status. A summary of these fees and charges will be included in the quarterly progress report.

Multi-Basin QAPP—The multi-basin QAPP will be submitted to TCEQ in the TCEQ-approved shell format. Only those sites covered by the QAPP and parameters satisfying the requirements of Texas Water Code (TWC) Chapter 5, Subchapter R (TWC Section 5.801 et seq) and Title 30, Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC) Chapter 25, Subchapters A and B will be included in the document. The Performing Party will address all TCEQ comments and submit the revised QAPP to the TCEQ CRP project manager within 15 days after receiving comments from TCEQ.

The Performing Party will secure written documentation (signature in the QAPP or Adherence Letter) from participants under the QAPP stating their awareness of and commitment to adhere to the requirements contained in the QAPP and any appendices and amendments. This documentation will be maintained as part of the Performing Party's quality assurance records. Copies of all Adherence Letters must be forwarded to the TCEQ CRP project manager no later than 45 days following TCEQ's approval of the QAPP, but prior to the monitoring event. (Note: Adherence Letters are not required for entities who sign the QAPP). The Performing Party will distribute the QAPP to all participants (including the laboratory).

Documentation of QAPP distribution and acknowledgement of QAPP receipt will be maintained by the Performing Party and be available for review during a TCEQ monitoring systems audit.

Sections of the multi-basin QAPP will be posted to the Performing Party's CRP webpage. These sections include the monitoring program or project objectives, measurement performance specifications (i.e., Table A7 of the QAPP), appendices, and the monitoring schedule and maps of sampling sites.

QAPP Amendment to Appendix B—The monitoring schedule in Appendix B of the multi-basin QAPP will be updated for the second year of the contract biennium after the annual coordinated monitoring meeting. This special type of QAPP amendment will be submitted using the TCEQ-approved shell format. Only the sites covered by the Performing Party's QAPP will be included in Appendix B of the QAPP.

Planning for Special Studies or Permit Support Monitoring—In consultation with TCEQ staff, and in consideration of the elements of the QAPP, special studies and monitoring projects to support permits will be systematically planned. The Performing Party project manager will coordinate with the TCEQ CRP project manager to establish the planning team, schedule the meeting (90 days prior to the planned sampling date), distribute meeting materials in advance of the meeting, facilitate the meeting, and prepare meeting minutes. The Performing Party will submit planning materials for the meeting to all participants no later than one week prior to the meeting. Meeting materials will include, as appropriate, a problem definition, as currently understood, a description of the budget, personnel and schedule issues, maps, information on past or on-going studies, historical water quality data, Texas Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality (IR) findings, wastewater discharge information, known or expected sources of contamination, existing monitoring sites, land use information, etc. Planning meeting summary notes will be provided to participants within two weeks of the meeting. The information developed during the planning meeting will be incorporated into a QAPP appendix.

QAPP Appendices—Special studies and permit support monitoring projects that have different objectives than those described in the multi-basin QAPP will be incorporated into the QAPP as appendices after they are thoroughly planned in consultation with TCEQ. The QAPP appendices will be written in the TCEQ prescribed format and reference sections of the multi-basin QAPP as appropriate and otherwise address information unique to the project. Unique aspects of special projects include the problem definition, the task description, measurement performance specifications, sample design rationale, sampling methods requirements, etc. QAPP appendices will be sent to the TCEQ CRP project manager. QAPP appendices for special studies or permit support monitoring will be submitted to the TCEQ CRP project manager no later than 30 days after the planning meeting using the TCEQ-approved shell format. The Performing Party will address TCEQ comments, modify the document, and submit the final QAPP appendix to the TCEQ CRP project manager within 15 days of receipt of TCEQ comments.

QAPP Amendments and Revisions to Appendices—Changes in parameters, sampling or analytical procedures, project organization, and other items of an existing project necessitates an amendment to the QAPP or Revisions to Appendices. Amendments and Revisions to Appendices will be submitted electronically to the TCEQ CRP project manager on an "as needed" basis in the TCEQ-approved shell format for agency review. Upon approval, QAPP Amendments and Revisions to Appendices will be distributed to all personnel on the distribution list maintained by the Performing Party. Documentation of distribution and acknowledgement of receipt will be maintained by the Performing Party and be available for review during a TCEQ monitoring systems audit.

Project Oversight—The Performing Party will participate in monitoring systems audits and laboratory inspections by TCEQ.

The Performing Party will conduct oversight of subparticipants (including contractors and in-kind participants) who conduct field monitoring under their multi-basin QAPP. Monitoring systems audits will be performed once during the contract cycle in the case of on-going projects, once during a project's lifetime in the case of short-lived special studies, or as otherwise specified in the multi-basin QAPP. In the event a new subparticipant begins collecting data for CRP, a readiness review will be conducted on the new subparticipant's monitoring program before the first CRP samples are collected by the subparticipant and accepted by the Performing Party.

Following the on-site assessment, the Performing Party will provide the audited organization with an audit report within 30 days. If no findings are made, the report will make this clear. Findings made during the audit will be documented in the audit report. Audit reports will contain references to written specifications, as defined in the QAPP or in a standard operating procedure (SOP). The audited organization will be asked to respond in writing to the report within 30 days. A copy of the audit report and the response will be submitted as a deliverable to the TCEQ CRP project manager with the progress report no later than the quarter following the one in which the audit was conducted.

Corrective Action Reports—Issues that may affect data quality and availability will be tracked, addressed, and reported to the TCEQ CRP project manager using the definitions and corrective action strategy laid out in the FY2026-2027 CRP Guidance. The Performing Party must address deviations associated with sampling activities,

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chain-of-custody, analytical method requirements, quality control, and data management.

Deliverables and Due Dates:

September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026

- A. Multi-basin QAPP receipt acknowledgement and adherence letters (if applicable)—October 15, 2025
- B. Specified sections of the multi-basin QAPP posted to the webpage—October 31, 2025; and documented in the subsequent progress report
- C. Draft QAPP Appendix B Amendment for FY2027 monitoring—June 1, 2026
- D. Final QAPP Appendix B Amendment for FY2027 monitoring—August 1, 2026
- E. Planning meetings for special studies or permit support monitoring (if applicable)—90 days prior to the planned sampling date
- F. Planning meeting summary notes for special studies or permit support monitoring (if applicable)—no later than two weeks after the planning meeting
- G. Draft QAPP Appendices for special studies or permit support monitoring (if applicable)—no later than 30 days after the planning meeting
- H. Final QAPP Appendices for special studies or permit support monitoring (if applicable)—no later than 30 days after the receipt of TCEQ comments
- I. QAPP Amendments and Revisions to Appendices (if applicable)—as needed
- J. QAPP Appendix and Amendment Receipt Acknowledgement and Adherence Letters (if applicable)—no later than 45 days after TCEQ approval of the QAPP, but prior to the monitoring event
- K. Participate in TCEQ monitoring systems audit(s) and response to comments (if applicable)—date planned in consultation with TCEQ; participation reported in progress reports
- L. Conduct on-site oversight assessment of subparticipants, once during each project or once during contract cycle (if applicable)—to be scheduled; reported in progress reports
- M. On-site project oversight report and response (if applicable)—with the progress report no later than the quarter following the one in which the audit was conducted
- N. Corrective action status report (if applicable)—with progress report

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- A. Draft FY2028-2029 multi-basin QAPP—June 1, 2027
- B. Final FY2028-2029 multi-basin QAPP—August 1, 2027
- C. Planning meetings for special studies or permit support monitoring (if applicable)—90 days prior to the planned sampling date

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- D. Planning meeting summary notes for special studies or permit support monitoring (if applicable)—no later than two weeks after the planning meeting
- E. Draft QAPP Appendices for special studies or permit support monitoring (if applicable)—no later than 30 days after the planning meeting
- F. Final QAPP Appendices for special studies or permit support monitoring (if applicable)—no later than 30 days after the receipt of TCEQ comments
- G. QAPP Amendments and Revisions to Appendices (if applicable)—as needed
- H. QAPP Appendix and Amendment Receipt Acknowledgement and Adherence Letters (if applicable)—no later than 45 days after TCEQ approval of the QAPP, but prior to the monitoring event
- I. Participate in TCEQ monitoring systems audit(s) and response to comments (if applicable)—date planned in consultation with TCEQ; participation reported in progress reports
- J. Conduct on-site oversight assessment of subparticipants, once during each project or once during contract cycle (if applicable)—August 1, 2027; reported in progress reports
- K. On-site project oversight report and response (if applicable)—with the progress report no later than the quarter following the one in which the audit was conducted; if audit was conducted in the last quarter, submit August 15, 2027
- L. Corrective action status report (if applicable)—with progress report

Task 3: Water Quality Monitoring

Objective: Water quality monitoring will focus on the characterization of a variety of locations and conditions. This will include a combination of the following:

- Planning and coordinating basin-wide monitoring.
- Routine, regularly scheduled monitoring to collect long-term information and support statewide assessment of water quality.
- Systematic, regularly scheduled short-term monitoring to screen water bodies for issues.
- Permit support monitoring to provide information for setting permit effluent limits; and
- Special study, intensive monitoring targeted to:
 - identify sources and causes of pollution;
 - assess priority water quality issues;
 - obtain background water quality information;
 - provide information for setting site-specific permit effluent limits; and
 - evaluate statewide, regional, and site-specific water quality standards.

Task Description: The Performing Party will coordinate and develop water quality monitoring strategies through the RMW and present strategies to the CRP Steering Committee for review and concurrence. To avoid duplication of monitoring efforts, the Performing Party will continue to coordinate monitoring efforts with other area data providers. The Performing Party also will continue to arrange regional training opportunities and workshops which support cooperative monitoring efforts (e.g., field methods, biological data collection, and habitat assessment).

The Performing Party will complete the following subtasks:

Routine Monitoring— In FY2026, the Performing Party will collect quarterly samples at an estimated twenty-one (21) water quality monitoring sites throughout the Performing Party's service area. Sampling efforts will include basic field parameters, flow, conventional chemical parameters, and bacteria. Most sites are located in the upper portions of watersheds or watersheds that fall outside the jurisdiction of local partner agencies.

In addition to the Performing Party's ambient monitoring program, six (6) local agencies are involved in this multi-basin monitoring effort. The Performing Party subcontracts with several entities to conduct monitoring and coordinates with others as in-kind contributors to conduct monitoring. The six participating agencies typically monitor a combined total of around 290 monitoring sites in the region (this number is subject to change based upon accessibility). Each agency's monitoring activities will be coordinated through the RMW and coordinated monitoring process. The coordination reduces monitoring duplication and allows all local agencies to see the data collection efforts of and data availability from other local agencies. Routine monitoring is scheduled at varying frequencies, which are determined by the parameters of concern

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for individual streams and/or proximity to a monitoring agency's field office and lab. Frequencies vary from quarterly for some parameters to monthly in highly impacted urban areas. Baseline monitoring will include the collection of field parameters at all sites and the collection of bacteria, flow, and conventional chemical parameters at sites where indicated. Additional details concerning the monitoring activities conducted by partner agencies are outlined in the Performing Party's Multi-Basin QAPP.

In FY2027, the Performing Party and area partners are expected to monitor at a similar level of effort as in FY2026. The actual number of sites, location, frequency, and parameters collected for FY2027 will be based on priorities identified at the CRP Steering Committee and Coordinated Monitoring meetings and included in the amended Appendix B schedule of the Performing Party's Multi-Basin QAPP.

All monitoring will be completed in accordance with the H-GAC Multi-Basin QAPP, the *TCEQ Surface Water Quality Monitoring Procedures, Volume 1: Physical and Chemical Monitoring Methods (RG-415)* and the *TCEQ Surface Water Quality Monitoring Procedures, Volume 2: Methods for Collecting and Analyzing Biological Assemblage and Habitat Data (RG-416)*.

24-Hour Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring—There are priority assessment units with dissolved oxygen impairments or concerns in the Performing Party's monitoring area. More data collection is needed to determine or verify the impairments. The Performing Party and/or subparticipants will conduct 24-hour dissolved oxygen monitoring at an estimated seven (7) stations, four times per year, throughout the two-year Contract period. The sites will be determined once the budget is approved and site locations are coordinated and prioritized with TCEQ.

Permit Support Monitoring—During FY2026 and/or FY2027, the Performing Party may conduct monitoring activities to support TCEQ's Water Quality Division by collecting field parameters and discharge measurements at selected waterbodies identified by TCEQ. The sites will be determined once the budget is approved and site locations are coordinated and prioritized with TCEQ.

Regional Monitoring Workgroup (RMW)—The RMW will meet during three of four quarters each year to discuss monitoring needs, problems, successes and changes. The third quarter meeting is conducted as the coordinated monitoring meeting (see below). The RMW is composed of Performing Party staff and representatives from local participating agencies, currently including Harris County Pollution Control Services, Environmental Institute of Houston, City of Houston-Health Department, City of Houston-Drinking Water Operations, Texas Research Institute for Environmental Studies, and the San Jacinto River Authority, as well as H-GAC's contract lab and TCEQ Region 12. Meeting notices will be sent to TCEQ, United States Geological Survey (USGS), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Department of Health, GBEP, and other interested parties to invite input on monitoring discussions and strategies. Each agency/organization will be asked to send representatives from their field investigation staff and laboratory staff. The RMW will discuss CRP monitoring tasks and deliverables, basin monitoring priorities, training, and upcoming projects. This workgroup is designed to function as the mechanism through which data management needs and priorities are discussed. The Performing Party will include meeting summaries in the corresponding quarterly Progress Report.

RMW meeting results will be incorporated in presentations to the CRP Steering Committee for review and concurrence with various basin interests. This review process will be used to assess the current monitoring plan and adjust regional monitoring strategies as needed.

Coordinated Monitoring Meeting—The Performing Party will hold an annual coordinated monitoring meeting as described in the FY2026-2027 CRP Guidance. Qualified monitoring organizations will be invited to attend the working meeting in which monitoring needs and purposes will be discussed segment by segment and station by station. Information from participants and stakeholders will be used to select stations and parameters that will enhance overall water quality monitoring coverage, eliminate duplication of effort, and address basin priorities. A summary of the changes to the monitoring schedule will be provided to the participants within two weeks of the meeting. Changes to the monitoring schedule will be entered into the statewide Coordinated Monitoring Schedule (CMS; cms.lcra.org) and communicated to meeting attendees. Changes to monitoring schedules that occur during the year will be entered into the CMS and communicated to meeting attendees. All requirements related to meetings will be followed and required meetings will be conducted in-person or via TCEQ approved virtual format.

Monitoring Activities—Each progress report will include a description of activities including all types of monitoring performed, number of sampling events, and the types of monitoring conducted in the quarter. The Performing Party will complete and submit a monitoring activities report as an attachment to the progress report.

Special Studies—Special studies are developed, as needed, based on local stakeholder input and the results of TCEQ or the Performing Party assessments. Status reports of each special study conducted will describe activities completed during the quarter. The status reports will be submitted along with the progress report. To help keep the public and basin stakeholders informed, the Performing Party's website will be updated in a timely manner to include key elements of special studies' reports or summaries (e.g., status reports, executive summary, maps, data analysis, final reports). Special studies will be coordinated with and approved by the TCEQ project manager prior to implementation.

Site Characterizations—Review of local monitoring data indicates there are many sites throughout the region where elevated levels of bacteria or low levels of dissolved oxygen are chronic conditions. Additionally increased development and modifications to waterways can impact hydrology of rivers and streams in the region. Local entities have expressed interest in investigating the causes and impacts of these issues. Beginning with some of the most problematic sites, the Performing Party and other CRP partners may conduct "site specific" characterizations at locations if determined necessary by data analysis. Habitat information, field verification of land cover, hydrology alterations, and identification of potential sources of pollution may be evaluated. Additional monitoring data may be collected from these small sub-watersheds as needed to supply data to support TCEQ's assessment process. Data collected during these intensive surveys may be submitted at TCEQ's request. The Performing Party will also include summaries of any activities in the corresponding quarterly progress report.

A short report of approximately one to five pages in length along with photographs will be submitted following completion of each characterization assessment. The

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reports will be submitted to TCEQ to assist with determining the appropriate water quality strategies to be pursued. An appendix to the multi-basin QAPP will be developed to provide the details of these characterizations as needed.

Deliverables and Due Dates:

September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026

- A. Conduct water quality monitoring, submit monitoring activities report, summarize activities, and submit with progress report—December 15, 2025; March 15 and June 15, 2026
- B. RMW meeting notice—two weeks in advance of RMW meetings
- C. Coordinated Monitoring Meeting—between March 15 and April 30, 2026
- D. Coordinated Monitoring Meeting Summary of Changes—within 2 weeks following the meeting
- E. Email notification that Coordinated Monitoring Schedule updates are complete—May 31, 2026
- F. Special study status reports (if applicable)—December 15, 2025; March 15 and June 15, 2026
- G. Site characterization reports (if applicable)—coordinate due date(s) with TCEQ project manager

September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027

- A. Conduct water quality monitoring, submit monitoring activities report, summarize activities, and submit with progress report—September 15 and December 15, 2026; March 15, June 15, and August 15, 2027
- B. RMW meeting notice—two weeks in advance of RMW meetings
- C. Coordinated Monitoring Meeting—between March 15 and April 30, 2027
- D. Coordinated Monitoring Meeting Summary of Changes—within 2 weeks following the meeting
- E. Email notification that Coordinated Monitoring Schedule updates are complete—May 31, 2027
- F. Special study status reports (if applicable)—September 15 and December 15, 2026; March 15, June 15, and August 15, 2027
- G. Site characterization reports (if applicable)—coordinate due date(s) with TCEQ project manager

Task 4: Data Management

Objectives: To manage a quality-assured water quality monitoring database and submit data to TCEQ in the required format for inclusion in the Surface Water Quality Monitoring Information System (SWQMIS) database.

Task Description: Surface water quality monitoring data files, including biological, special studies, and targeted monitoring data, as applicable, will be transferred to TCEQ in the correct format using the TCEQ file structure. Binary large object (BLOB) files will be provided with biological data as outlined in the FY2026-2027 CRP Guidance. Data collected under this contract which are not able to be submitted to TCEQ prior to the end of the contract term will be submitted within the contract established for FY2028-2029. Data that was collected under the previous contract established for FY2024-2025 which were not able to be submitted to TCEQ prior to the end of the contract term will be submitted within the contract established for FY2026-2027.

The Performing Party will complete the following subtasks:

The Performing Party will review each data set using the Data Review Checklist and the SWQMIS Data Loader. A Data Summary (including information on data completeness), Data Review Checklist, and the SWQMIS Validator Report will be submitted with each data set. The Data Summary will contain basic identifying information about the data set, information regarding inconsistencies and errors identified during data verification and validation steps, or problems with data collection efforts.

The Performing Party will submit surface water quality monitoring data and BLOB files to TCEQ as specified in the Deliverables and Due Dates subsection of this task. The Performing Party will complete and submit a data submittal progress report as an attachment to the Task 1 progress report. The data submittal progress report will document the extent to which data collected has been submitted to TCEQ. The report should summarize the status of data submittals for all data providers described in the Performing Party's multi-basin QAPP. The report will track and document that all data and BLOB file submittals are completed and submitted to TCEQ. The report will also track and document that data intended for inclusion in the IR is submitted to TCEQ. For data to be considered in the IR, the Performing Party and subcontractor data (if applicable) must be submitted to TCEQ as specified in the Deliverables and Due Dates subsection of this task. TCEQ's call for data for inclusion in the IR is November 1 (early submission date) and December 1 (final submission date) of even numbered years. The Task 1 progress report can be utilized to provide any additional information regarding data submittals not captured in the data submittal progress report.

Station location requests will be submitted via SWQMIS, and data correction requests will be submitted to the TCEQ CRP project manager within an agreed upon timeframe.

Water quality data approved by TCEQ will be posted on the Performing Party's webpage at least two times per year, or a link will be provided to the [TCEQ Surface Water Quality Web Reporting Tool](#).¹

1. www80.tceq.texas.gov/SwqmisPublic/index.htm

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The Performing Party will continue to upgrade Geographic Information System (GIS) data management and analysis capabilities, specifically the incorporation of analysis of water quality information, land cover characteristics, site characterization information, and other factors that affect water quality for each watershed into digital form for use with existing spatial data. This information will be available for use in the Water Resources Information Map (WRIM) tool, which will be updated on a regular basis.

Deliverables and Due Dates:

September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026

- A. Surface water quality monitoring data files, SWQMIS Validator Report, Data Review Checklist, and Data Summary—December 1, 2025; March 1 and August 1, 2026
- B. Surface water quality monitoring data updates to webpage or link to TCEQ's water quality data—February 1 and August 1, 2026
- C. BLOB files—submit within timeframe(s) agreed upon with TCEQ CRP project manager
- D. Data submittal progress report, submitted with progress reports—December 15, 2025; March 15 and June 15, 2026
- E. Summarize upgrades to GIS data management and analysis capabilities, submitted with progress reports—December 15, 2025; March 15 and June 15, 2026
- F. Station location requests submitted to SWQMIS—as needed each quarter
- G. Data correction requests, as needed—within timeframe(s) agreed upon with TCEQ CRP project manager

September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027

- A. Surface water quality monitoring data files SWQMIS Validator Report, Data Review Checklist, and Data Summary—November 1 and December 1, 2026; March 1 and August 1, 2027
- B. Surface water quality monitoring data updates posted to webpage, or link to TCEQ's water quality data—February 1 and August 1, 2027
- C. BLOB files—submit within timeframe(s) agreed upon with TCEQ CRP project manager
- D. Data submittal progress report, submitted with progress reports—September 15 and December 15, 2026; March 15, June 15, and August 15, 2027
- E. Summarize upgrades to GIS data management and analysis capabilities, submitted with progress reports—September 15 and December 15, 2026; March 15, June 15, and August 15, 2027
- F. Station location requests submitted to SWQMIS—as needed each quarter
- G. Data correction requests, as needed—within timeframe(s) agreed upon with TCEQ CRP project manager

Task 5: Data Analysis and Reporting

Objectives: Conduct data analysis and develop reports that provide information to describe water quality and identify priority water quality issues for further investigation or action.

This work will:

- Correlate watershed characteristics with water quality conditions.
- Highlight areas where water quality appears to be improving or declining.
- Support or validate the IR findings.
- Support planning of monitoring efforts.
- Identify areas where nonpoint source management efforts may be applied.
- Provide information for stakeholders to discuss at Steering Committee meetings.

Task Description: The Performing Party will complete a Basin Highlights Report (Watershed Characterization) in FY2026 and Basin Summary Report in FY2027.

The Performing Party will complete the following subtasks:

Basin Highlights Report—The Performing Party may vary the content of the Basin Highlights Report to reduce repetition of information that does not change on an annual basis. The Basin Highlights Report will follow the version described below as detailed in the FY2026-2027 CRP Guidance.

Watershed Characterization

- Descriptions of segments with the areas of impairment or interest described.
- Stream or reservoir hydrology.
- Impairment and area of interest description.
- Land use and natural characteristics.
- Potential causes of each impairment.
- Potential stakeholders.
- Recommendations for improving water quality.
- Maps including water bodies and relevant spatial conditions.
- Ongoing projects.
- Images of water bodies and watershed areas being characterized.
- Major watershed events (present and future).

Electronic copies of the draft report and one electronic copy of the final report will be provided to the TCEQ CRP project manager. TCEQ will provide comments on the draft report and the Performing Party will address TCEQ comments. Final approval of the report will rest with TCEQ. The reports will be made available to Steering Committee members and all basin stakeholders and will be posted on the Performing Party's webpage.

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Basin Summary Report—The Basin Summary Report will follow the outline described in the FY2026-2027 CRP Guidance. The report will include a comprehensive review of water quality for the entire basin, including:

- A description of the water quality conditions and issues.
- Trend analysis of water quality by station and parameter.
- Maps showing watershed characteristics, sampling stations, and water quality issues.
- A discussion of the watershed characteristics and their potential influence on water quality.
- Recommendations for water quality management strategies to correct identified water quality problems and pollution sources.

A meeting between the Performing Party and TCEQ CRP staff will be arranged prior to the commencement of substantial work on the report. The Performing Party will be prepared to discuss site selection for trend analysis, report content and layout, methodology for data review, and address other questions or suggestions for the report.

A pre-draft or watershed summary will be provided to the TCEQ CRP project manager and must be approved prior to completing the first draft. The Basin Summary Report will be presented to the Steering Committee for review and comment. Resolution of comments will be coordinated with the public and TCEQ, if necessary. The Performing Party will provide an electronic copy of the draft report to the TCEQ CRP project manager, then TCEQ will provide comments, and the Performing Party will address the comments; final approval of the report will rest with TCEQ. One electronic copy of the final report will be provided to the TCEQ CRP project manager. The reports will be made available to Steering Committee members and all basin stakeholders and will be posted on the Performing Party's webpage. The planning agency will submit a final Basin Summary Report to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the House of Representatives not later than the 90th day after the date the report is submitted to TCEQ.

Deliverables and Due Dates:

September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026

- A. Draft Basin Highlights Report—February 15, 2026
- B. Final Basin Highlights Report—May 15, 2026
- C. Post Report to webpage—June 30, 2026

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- A. Preparation meeting for Basin Summary Report—by November 15, 2026
- B. Pre-Draft Watershed Summary—December 15, 2026
- C. Draft Basin Summary Report—March 15, 2027

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- D. Final Basin Summary Report—May 31, 2027
- E. Post Report to webpage—June 30, 2027
- F. Email documentation of final Basin Summary Report distribution—August 31, 2027

Task 6: Stakeholder Participation and Public Outreach

Objectives: Enhance and support participation of stakeholders in the development of water quality objectives and priorities for the basin, and CRP as a whole. Engage in education and outreach activities to enhance stakeholder knowledge and involvement.

The Steering Committee serves as the focus of public input and assists with:

- Creation of specific, achievable water quality objectives and basin priorities.
- Review and development of work plans and allocation of resources.
- Review, development, and approval of major reports.
- Establishment of monitoring priorities and development of monitoring plans.
- Identification of priority problem areas and possible actions to address these problems and pollutant sources.

Stakeholders should be engaged through outreach and education activities that support the CRP goals. This can be accomplished by:

- Providing several forums for citizens to contribute their ideas and concerns.
- Participating in outreach and education activities to increase public awareness about water quality issues in the basin.
- Communicating information on water quality issues so that priorities may be set considering local, regional, state, and federal needs.
- Providing opportunities for volunteer citizen monitoring of basin water bodies.

Task Description: To ensure a comprehensive watershed evaluation, the Performing Party will provide opportunities for the participation of stakeholders and other interested parties in development of water quality objectives and priorities for the area and the CRP program. Stakeholder involvement will be accomplished through both the CRP Steering Committee process and other public participation, outreach, and education activities per the FY2026-2027 CRP Guidance.

The Performing Party will complete the following subtasks:

Steering Committee and Meetings—To sufficiently address the different interests, concerns and priorities of each watershed, the Performing Party will work to ensure that its Steering Committee includes stakeholder volunteers from across the basin that represent the groups identified in the FY2026-2027 CRP Guidance. If specified groups are not represented, efforts will be made to recruit representatives before the next scheduled meeting. To engage new members and increase participation, the Performing Party will take every opportunity to promote the CRP and involvement in the Steering Committee.

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To meet the goals and coordination requirements of the FY2026-2027 CRP Guidance, the Performing Party will conduct a minimum of one Steering Committee meeting during the month(s) of February to May during the first Contract year and a minimum of two meetings during the second Contract year between January and June. Additional sub-committees or other public meetings may also be convened to help complete the requirements. All requirements related to meetings will be followed and required public meetings will be conducted in-person or via TCEQ-approved virtual formats.

The Performing Party will contact stakeholders at least 45 days in advance of meeting date(s) to encourage participation. A questionnaire will be sent to all interested stakeholders that will provide a list of proposed agenda topics, request confirmation of continued interest and participation in the Steering Committee, and request input on additional topics and potential stakeholders. Along with the priority agenda topics identified in the CRP Guidance, Steering Committee meetings will include additional topics of significant interest to stakeholders. A final meeting announcement and agenda will be made available at least 15 days prior to the meeting.

After each Steering Committee meeting, the Performing Party will ensure all stakeholder input, comments, decisions, and any other meeting decisions are addressed, where applicable. For all Steering Committee meetings, copies of meeting materials will be provided with the next progress report, and include: a copy of the meeting agenda, presentations, meeting minutes, and a list of attendees. Steering Committee meeting minutes will also be posted to the Performing Party's website and the posting of the meeting minutes will be documented in the progress report following the meeting.

Education and Outreach—The Performing Party will conduct a minimum of 10 public participation, outreach, or volunteer monitoring activities. For any public participation, outreach, or volunteer monitoring activities, a copy of the summary of activities, materials produced or distributed by the Performing Party, representative photograph(s) of the event (if taken), and a list of participants will be included in the subsequent progress report.

The Performing Party will develop, maintain, update, and report on their webpage as specified in the FY2026-2027 CRP Guidance. The webpage will be reviewed on a quarterly basis to ensure that information and announcements remain current and relevant. The Performing Party will also include summaries of revisions to the webpage in the corresponding quarterly progress report.

To maximize outreach efforts with available funding, the Performing Party will coordinate with related programs to connect with new audiences and engage them to affect positive change on water quality. The Performing Party may support the development of maps and materials (e.g., "What Watershed Do You Live In?" posters, "How Can I Get Involved" poster, flyers on how to access the CRP Basin Summary Reports and the CRP Basin Highlights Reports) for distribution at public outreach events. Materials proposed for development under this Contract will be require approval of the TCEQ project manager. Printed materials will include a clause acknowledging the funds were provided by CRP. Following approval by the TCEQ project manager, the Performing Party may also fund staff time and travel for the public outreach event and the cost of the booth space, if applicable, and the activities will be summarized in the progress report.

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As a component of public outreach, the Performing Party will promote the Texas Stream Team monitoring program to increase stakeholder involvement. The Performing Party will maintain the Texas Stream Team Volunteer Coordinator function to support all Texas Stream Team activities in the Performing Party's CRP basins. Produce and distribute a quarterly volunteer newsletter for volunteers and other interested parties. Continue to fulfill responsibilities and objectives as a Texas Stream Team Partner by working with local groups and industries to build partnerships. The Performing Party will continue to work with these partners to set annual priorities and develop a coordinated activities schedule. Distribute water quality monitoring kits and monitoring supplies in FY2026–2027 in support of local Texas Stream Team volunteers as needed. If applicable, participate in the Texas Stream Team Meeting of the Monitors, State-wide Partners Meeting and assist in conducting a regional symposium to encourage networking among area volunteers and interaction between volunteer and professional monitors.

The WRIM (located on the Performing Party's CRP website) will be updated quarterly to reflect the most recent Texas Stream Team water quality data available. As changes and upgrades are made to the software that supports the WRIM, changes and upgrades to the WRIM itself will be required. The Performing Party will strive to make the WRIM and all associated applications as user friendly and relevant as possible to reach the broadest audience possible.

Deliverables and Due Dates:

September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026

- A. Document in progress report that webpage meets outlined requirements—December 15, 2025
- B. Summarize webpage updates and submit with quarterly progress report—December 15, 2025; March 15 and June 15, 2026
- C. Contact Steering Committee members with questionnaire, draft agenda topics and confirm participation—a minimum of 45 days prior to Steering Committee meeting date
- D. Final announcements and agenda for Steering Committee meetings—a minimum of 15 days in advance of meeting
- E. Steering Committee meeting—number of meetings held, and dates as negotiated with TCEQ project manager
- F. Steering Committee meeting materials—with progress report following meeting
- G. Steering Committee meeting minutes posted to the webpage—indicate in progress report following meeting
- H. Materials from education and outreach activities and number of events included with quarterly progress report—December 15, 2025; March 15 and June 15, 2026
- I. Update WRIM with Texas Stream Team activities and include documentation of update in quarterly progress report—December 15, 2025; March 15 and June 15, 2026

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September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027

- A. Summarize webpage updates and submit with quarterly progress report—September 15 and December 15, 2026; March 15, June 15, and August 15, 2027
- B. Contact Steering Committee members with questionnaire, draft agenda topics and confirm participation—a minimum of 45 days prior to Steering Committee meeting date
- C. Final announcements and agenda for Steering Committee meetings—a minimum of 15 days in advance of meeting
- D. Steering Committee meeting—number of meetings held, and dates as negotiated with the TCEQ CRP project manager
- E. Steering Committee meeting materials—with progress report following meeting
- F. Steering Committee meeting minutes posted to the webpage—indicate in progress report following meeting
- G. Materials from education and outreach activities and number of events included with quarterly progress report—September 15 and December 15, 2026; March 15, June 15, and August 15, 2027
- H. Update WRIM with Texas Stream Team activities and include documentation of update in quarterly progress report—September 15 and December 15, 2026; March 15, June 15, and August 15, 2027