

## ENVIRONMENT IN THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT

Below is a breakdown of federal funding appropriated under the Economic Recovery Act specific to the environment. Funding going to the States will either be allocated according to pre-existing formulas for federal funding, or in the form of competitive grants and loans. The Department of the Interior, Department of Energy, Department of the Army, and Department of Agriculture are currently assessing the funds they will be receiving to quickly draw up application, eligibility requirements and protocols for processing and delivering the funds.

I am currently working on gathering the actual figures for Texas specific funding through the pre-established formulas. Additionally, as the details are being worked out and provided by each agency, I am working to draw up a step by step process by which eligible applicants (States, municipalities, private institutions, public schools, individuals etc) may go about applying for the grants and loans.

I am also creating a document similar to this for funds related to Energy, Electricity and Agriculture.

*Please let me know if you have any specific questions, notice funding or issue areas missing on this document, or need further assistance.*

*I will be working over the weekend and holiday, feel free to contact me at any time – [kmwalker@osfr.state.tx.us](mailto:kmwalker@osfr.state.tx.us) 202.434.0207 (office) 979-571-8094 (cell- weekend number)*

### **Department of the Interior**

*The Secretary of the Interior has unlimited reprogramming authority for these funds*

#### **State Assistance Grants**

- \$6.4 Billion for Grants
  - \$4 Billion for capitalization grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds program (pre-existing formula)
  - \$2 Billion for capitalization grants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds program (pre-existing formula)
  - \$100 Million for Brownfields projects
  - \$300 Million for Diesel Emission Reduction Act Grants

*Stipulation(s): Projects must be under contract or construction within 12 months or funds will be reallocated. Priority of funds shall be given to projects on a State priority list that are ready to proceed to construction within 12months. Funds are not regulated under any previously established matching or cost share requirements. Not less than 50% of grants received by a State must be provided for additional subsidization to eligible recipients in the form of forgiveness of principal, negative interest loans or grants or any combination thereof. Not less than 20% of the funds appropriated should be used for projects to address green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements. No funds are available for the purchase of land or easements. Funds may be used to buy,*

*refinance or restructure the debt obligations of eligible recipients only where such debt was incurred on or after October 1, 2008.*

### **Bureau of Reclamation- Water and Related Resources**

There is little to no direction or regulation for where these funds will go, how they will be dispersed/awarded. It will essentially be at the discretion of the Secretary, more details to follow as they are unveiled

- \$1 Billion for “Water and Related Resources”
  - \$126 Million specifically for water reclamation and reuse projects
  - \$60 Million for rural water projects, expended primarily on water intake and treatment facilities
  
  - \$50 Million for the Central Utah Project Completion
  - \$50 Million for the California Bay-Delta Restoration
  - \$10 Million for bureau wide inspection of canals program in urbanized area

*Stipulation(s): The costs of extraordinary maintenance and replacement activities must be repaid ... the repayment will include interest at a rate determined by the Secretary of the Treasury.*

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The following funds are for federal lands, important to be aware of this funding so communities can anticipate or begin lobbying for projects on federal lands in their communities

### **Bureau of Land Management**

- \$125 Million Management of Lands and Resources for maintenance, rehabilitation, and restoration of facilities, property, trails and lands
  
- \$180 Million for Bureau of Land Management lands for construction, reconstruction, decommissioning and repair of roads, bridges, trails, property, and facilities and for energy efficient retrofits of existing facilities
  
- \$15 Million for hazardous fuels reduction given to Wildland Fire Management

### **United States Fish and Wildlife Service**

- \$165 Million for capital improvement projects on national wildlife refuges, national fish hatcheries and for high priority habitat restoration projects
  
- \$115 Million for general construction for repair of roads, bridges, property and facilities and energy efficient retrofits of existing facilities

### **National Park Service**

- \$146 Million for maintenance of facilities and trails and for other critical repair and rehabilitation projects
- \$15 Million for historic preservation projects at historically black colleges and universities. *Any matching requirements waived for these funds*
- \$589 Million for construction for repair and restoration of roads, facilities, equipment replacement, cleanup of abandoned mine sites on park lands and any other critical infrastructure projects within the National Park System

### **United States Geological Survey**

- \$140 Million for repair construction and restoration of facilities, equipment replacement and upgrades and other critical deferred maintenance and improvement projects

### **Environmental Protection Agency**

- \$600 Million for the Superfund Remedial program (hazardous substances)
- \$200 Million for cleanup activities carried out by the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund

### **Department of the Army**

*The Secretary of the Army has unlimited reprogramming authority for these funds*

There is little to no direction or regulation for where these funds will go, how they will be dispersed/awarded. It will essentially be at the discretion of the Secretary, more details to follow as they are unveiled

- \$2 Billion for Construction for Energy & Water Development
  - \$200 Million for "Water Related Environment Infrastructure Assistance"
- \$2.075 Billion for Operation and Maintenance for Energy & Water Development

### **Department of Energy**

There is little to no direction or regulation for where these funds will go, how they will be dispersed/awarded. It is expected to be added to current budget levels for cleanup however ultimately at the discretion of the Secretary, more details to follow as they are unveiled

- \$5.127 Billion for Defense Environmental Cleanup
- \$483 Million for Non-Defense Environmental Cleanup
- \$70 Million for the Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund

## Department of Agriculture

There is little to no direction or regulation for where these funds will go, how they will be dispersed/awarded. It will essentially be at the discretion of the Secretary, more details to follow as they are unveiled

- \$650 Million for Capital Improvement and Maintenance for priority road, bridge and trail maintenance and decommissioning, including related watershed restoration and ecosystem enhancement projects; facilities improvement, maintenance and renovation
- \$250 Million for State and private forestry activities including hazardous fuels reduction, forest health and ecosystem improvement activities on State and private lands using all authorities available to the Forest Service
- \$250 Million for hazardous fuels reduction, forest health protection, rehabilitation and hazard mitigation activities on Federal lands

*Stipulation(s):* Up to \$50 Million of the above \$250 Million allotments may be used to make wood-to-energy grants to promote increased utilization of biomass from Federal, State and private lands

- \$290 Million for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations
  - \$145 Million for necessary expenses to purchase and restore floodplain easements
- \$50 Million for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program

*Stipulation:* No more than \$30 Million may be obligated for projects in any one State. Priority for funds should be given to projects that can be fully funded and completed with the funds authorized and whom can begin promptly after passage.