

## Clean Rivers Program Final Work Plan

September 1, 2023 thru August 31, 2025

Contract: 582-24-50119

### 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 FY2024-2025 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 Project Manager and key project personnel will attend meetings and participate in conference calls associated with the CRP. The Performing Party personnel will also develop work plans, procedural methodologies, documentation for desk review or on-site audits, and submit quarterly progress reports and reimbursement requests.

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 similar to Exhibit 1D of the FY2024-2025 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.

**Contractor 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 FY2024-2025 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 FY2024-2025 work plan, in accordance with the FY2024-2025 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 TCEQ prior to incurring costs associated with such events. The Performing Party anticipates sending one person to the SWQM Conference per year using CRP funds. Additional staff may attend the conference, with funds provided by the San Antonio River Authority.

**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 FY2024-2025 CRP Guidance. In the case of an on-site visit, the appropriate Performing Party personnel will be available during the visit.

**FY2026-2027 Work Plan and Supporting Documentation** - The Work Plan and supporting documentation will be prepared and submitted as specified in the FY2026-2027 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 FY2026-2027 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, 2023 through August 31, 2024*

- A. Progress Reports - December 15, 2023; March 15 and June 15, 2024
- B. Annual Self-Evaluation and, if applicable, Subcontractor Evaluations - August 31, 2024
- C. Procurement Procedures Documentation Memo - within 30 days after the subcontract is executed
- D. Additional Supporting Documentation for Desk Review or Site Visit - upon request  
Supporting Documentation for Desk Review or Site Visit - upon request

*September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025*

- A. Progress Reports - September 15 and December 15, 2024; March 15, June 15, and August 15, 2025

- B. Proposed FY2026 - 2027 Work Plan and Supporting Documentation - December 15, 2024
- C. Final FY2026 - 2027 Work Plan and Supporting Documentation - February 1, 2025
- D. Annual Self Evaluation and, if applicable, Subcontractor Evaluations - August 31, 2025
- E. Procurement Procedures Documentation Memo - within 30 days after the subcontract is executed
- F. 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:** The Performing Party personnel will develop a QAPP to describe the project management, data generation and acquisition, assessment and oversight, and data validation and usability related to the Performing Party's CRP. The QAPP will be prepared according to guidance provided by TCEQ and will include the objectives listed above, as appropriate.

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.

The planning agency will complete the following subtasks described below:

**NELAP Accreditation** – Laboratory data will be produced by laboratories (and subcontract laboratories) whose quality assurance program is consistent with the NELAC Institute (TNI) standards.

**Basin-wide QAPP** – The basin-wide 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 TCEQ within 30 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 TCEQ 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 distribution and acknowledgement of receipt will be maintained by the Performing Party and be available for review during a TCEQ monitoring systems audit.

Sections of the basin-wide 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 basin-wide 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 TCEQ 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, Integrated Report 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 basin-wide 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 basin-wide 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 TCEQ through the TCEQ CRP Project Manager. QAPP appendices for Special Studies or Permit Support Monitoring will be submitted to TCEQ 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 Project Manager within 30 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 sub-participants (including contractors and in-kind participants) who conduct field monitoring under their basin-wide QAPP. A readiness review audit will be conducted when a new sub-participant is added and following any major method, equipment, or facility changes. A monitoring systems audit will be conducted once during the contract cycle in the case of on-going projects, or once during a project's lifetime in the case of short-lived special studies, or as otherwise specified in the QAPP.

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 TCEQ using the definitions and corrective action strategy laid out in the FY2024-2025 CRP Guidance. The Performing Party has a system for non-conformance reporting and corrective action reports that meets the requirements of the CRP Guidance and resides on the Performing Party’s intranet site. The Performing Party must address deviations associated with sampling activities, chain-of-custody, analytical method requirements, quality control, and data management.

Deliverables and Due Dates:

*September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024*

- A. Basin-wide QAPP receipt acknowledgement and adherence letters (if applicable) – October 15, 2023
- B. Specified sections of the basin-wide QAPP posted to the webpage – October 31, 2023
- C. Draft QAPP Appendix B Amendment for FY2025 monitoring – June 1, 2024
- D. Final QAPP Appendix B Amendment for FY2025 monitoring – August 1, 2024
- 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
- L. Conduct on-site oversight assessment of sub-participants, once during each project or once during contract cycle (if applicable) – to be scheduled
- 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

*September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025*

- A. Draft FY2026-2027 basin-wide QAPP - June 1, 2025
- B. Final FY2026-2027 QAPP - August 1, 2025
- C. Planning meetings for Special Studies or Permit Support Monitoring (if applicable) - 90 days prior to the planned sampling date
- 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
- J. Conduct on-site oversight assessment of sub-participants, once during each project or once during contract cycle (if applicable) - August 1, 2025
- 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, 2025
- L. Corrective action status report (if applicable) - with progress report



### **Task 3: Water Quality Monitoring**

**Objectives:** 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;

**Task Description:** The Performing Party will conduct a basin water quality monitoring program according to the QAPP approved by TCEQ. All monitoring procedures and methods will follow the guidelines prescribed in the Performing Party's QAPP, which will reference the *TCEQ Surface Water Quality Monitoring (SWQM) Procedures, Volume 1: Physical and Chemical Monitoring Methods* (RG-415) and the *TCEQ SWQM Procedures, Volume 2: Methods for Collecting and Analyzing Biological Assemblage and Habitat Data* (RG-416).

The Performing Party will complete the following subtasks:

**Monitoring Description** – In FY 2024, the Performing Party will monitor a minimum of 50 sites under this Contract. Routine and Systematic Sites will be monitored a minimum of four times per year for field, conventional, bacteria, and flow (if possible) parameter groups. Additionally, a minimum of 15 sites will have habitat, nekton, flow and 24-hour diel monitoring conducted at least once per year. Additional details concerning the monitoring activities conducted by the Performing Party are specifically outlined in the Performing Party's basin-wide QAPP. The actual number of monitoring sites, locations, and frequency of collection is dependent on the outcome of the Coordinated Monitoring Meeting.

In FY 2025, the Performing Party will monitor at a similar level of effort as in FY 2024. The actual number of sites, location, frequency, and parameters collected will be based on priorities identified in the Steering Committee (a component of the Performing Party's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC)), the Coordinated Monitoring Meeting, and will be included in the amended Appendix B monitoring schedule of the QAPP.

All monitoring will be completed in accordance with the Performing Party 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).

**Coordinated Monitoring Meeting** - The Performing Party will hold an annual coordinated monitoring meeting as described in the FY2024-2025 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 CMS (<http://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.

Deliverables and Due Dates:

*September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024*

- A. Conduct water quality monitoring, submit monitoring activities report, summarize activities, and submit with progress report - December 15, 2023; March 15 and June 15, 2024
- B. Coordinated Monitoring Meeting - between March 15 and April 30, 2024
- C. Coordinated Monitoring Meeting Summary of Changes - within 2 weeks of the meeting
- D. Email notification that Coordinated Monitoring Schedule updates are complete - May 31, 2024

*September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025*

- A. Conduct water quality monitoring, submit monitoring activities report, summarize activities, and submit with progress report - September 15 and December 15, 2024; March 15 and June 15 and August 15, 2025
- B. Coordinated Monitoring Meeting - between March 15 and April 30, 2025
- C. Coordinated Monitoring Meeting Summary of Changes - within 2 weeks of the meeting
- D. Email notification that Coordinated Monitoring Schedule updates are complete - May 31, 2025

#### **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 FY 2024-2025 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 FY 2026-2027. Data that was collected under the previous contract established for FY2022-2023 which were not able to be submitted to TCEQ prior to the end of the contract term will be submitted in within the contract established for FY2024-2025.

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 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 basin-wide 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 Texas Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality (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 February 1 (early submission date) and March 1 (final submission date) of odd numbered years. The 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 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 may be provided to the TCEQ Surface Water Quality Web Reporting Tool.

Deliverables and Due Dates:

*September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024*

- A. Surface water quality monitoring data files, SWQMIS Validator Report, Data Review Checklist, and Data Summary - December 1, 2023; March 1 and August 1, 2024
- B. Surface water quality monitoring data updates to webpage or link to TCEQ's water quality data - February 1 and August 1, 2024
- C. BLOB files - submit within timeframe(s) agreed upon with TCEQ Project Manager
- D. Data submittal progress report, submitted with progress reports - December 15, 2023; March 15 and June 15, 2024
- E. Station location requests submitted to SWQMIS - as needed each quarter
- F. Data correction requests, as needed - within timeframe(s) agreed upon with TCEQ Project Manager

*September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025*

- A. Surface water quality monitoring data files SWQMIS Validator Report, Data Review Checklist, and Data Summary - December 1, 2024; February 1, March 1, and August 1, 2025
- B. Surface water quality monitoring data updates to webpage or link to TCEQ's water quality data - February 1 and August 1, 2025
- C. BLOB files - submit within timeframe(s) agreed upon with TCEQ Project Manager
- D. Data submittal progress report, submitted with progress reports - September 15 and December 15, 2024; March 15 and June 15 and August 15, 2025
- E. Station location requests submitted to SWQMIS - as needed each quarter
- F. Data correction requests, as needed - within timeframe(s) agreed upon with TCEQ 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 findings of the Texas Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality;
- 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:** Efforts will be made to identify water quality concerns affecting human health and aquatic and terrestrial life. Potential sources of pollution will be evaluated according to available water quality information. Data collected and analyzed under Task 3 will be examined to identify water quality concerns and attempt to differentiate human factors from naturally occurring characteristics for each sub-watershed. The Performing Party will complete a Program Update in FY 2024 and a Watershed Characterization in FY 2025.

The planning agency will complete the following subtasks described below:

**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 one of the versions described below as detailed in the FY2024-2025 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);

### *Program Update*

- An update on major basin activities, changes, and events;
- An update of basin water quality monitoring activities;
- An update on the top water quality concerns and issues in the basin;
- A summary of findings from special studies;
- Maps showing the location of sampling sites and major water quality issues;
- An update on public outreach and educational activities;
- Links to additional resources;

Electronic copies of the draft report and one electronic copy of the final report will be provided to TCEQ. 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.

Deliverables and Due Dates:

*September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024*

- A. Draft Basin Highlights (Program Update) Report - February 15, 2024
- B. Final Basin Highlights (Program Update) Report - May 15, 2024
- C. Post Report to web page - June 30, 2024

*September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025*

- A. Draft Basin Highlights (Watershed Characterization) Report - February 15, 2025
- B. Final Basin Highlights (Watershed Characterization) Report - May 15, 2025
- C. Post Report to webpage - June 30, 2025

## **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 holistic watershed assessment program, 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 basin and CRP within the basin. A stakeholder, as defined in this Work Plan, is any individual or entity that has a vested interest in the basin's waters, including but not limited to the general public, institutions, governments, industry, and fee payers. Stakeholder involvement will be accomplished through the Steering Committee process and quarterly meetings, other public participation, outreach, and education activities following the FY 2024-25 CRP Guidance.

The planning agency will complete the following subtasks described below:

**Steering Committee and Meetings** – The Performing Party maintains an Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC). The primary function of the EAC is to serve as the comprehensive public participation group that reviews and provides input on the Performing Party's environmental studies and programs. In addition to these duties, the EAC acts as the Clean Rivers Program (CRP) Steering Committee. All EAC and CRP Steering Committee meetings are open to the public. The members of the EAC are nominated by interest groups identified by the Performing Party's Communications Committee.

To sufficiently address the different interests, concerns, and priorities of each watershed, the Performing Party will work to ensure that the Steering Committee includes stakeholder volunteers from across the basin that represent the groups identified in the FY 2024-2025 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.

To meet the goals and coordination requirements of the FY2024-2025 CRP Guidance, the Performing Party will conduct quarterly Steering Committee meetings to promote, maintain, and strengthen partnerships with stakeholders who are committed to the preservation and

protection of the basin. Quarterly Steering Committee meetings will be held in each of the Performing Party's fiscal year quarters: Quarter 1 (July-September); Quarter 2 (October-December); Quarter 3 (January-March); Quarter 4 (April-June). The specific dates and location of the meetings may be adjusted according to the needs of the Steering Committee. All requirements related to meetings will be followed and required public meetings will be conducted in-person or via TCEQ-approved virtual formats.

There are specific FY 2024-2025 CRP Guidance priority items that will be covered during the Performing Party's third quarterly meeting, including, but not limited to:

- Overview of the CRP;
- Coordinated Monitoring Meeting and Schedule;
- Basin Highlight or Summary Reports;
- Work Plans and Allocation of Resources.

The EAC Steering Committee will also have opportunities at all quarterly meetings to request a presentation on any topic that may be of significant interest to stakeholders. Should the need arise, the Performing Party may seek out subject matter experts to present on applicable topics.

For the third quarter meeting only, the Performing Party will send stakeholders an e-mail notice at least 45 days in advance of meeting date. This notice will include:

- A request for confirmation of continued interest/participation in the Steering Committee;
- Tentative date for the meeting;
- Draft agenda of priority items;
- Request for input of additional presentation topics and potential stakeholders.

For the third quarter meeting, an announcement and final agenda will be distributed to the stakeholders at least 15 business 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 materials will also be posted to the Performing Party's website and the posting of information will be documented in the progress report following the meeting.

**Education and Outreach** – The Performing Party conducts public outreach outside of CRP funding. Public outreach participation by the Environmental Sciences Department will be identified in the quarterly progress report. The Performing Party supports many outreach events including the Texas Stream Team. For any public participation, outreach, or volunteer monitoring activities supported by the CRP, a copy of the summary of activities, materials produced or distributed by the Performing Party, 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 FY2024-2025 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.

Deliverables and Due Dates:



*September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024*

- A. Document that webpage meets outlined requirements - December 15, 2023
- B. Summarize webpage updates and submit with quarterly progress report - December 15, 2023; March 15 and June 15, 2024
- 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 business 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 supported by the CRP and number of events included with quarterly progress report - December 15, 2023; March 15 and June 15, 2024

*September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025*

- A. Summarize webpage updates and submit with quarterly progress report - September 15 and December 15, 2024; March 15, June 15, and August 15, 2025
- 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 business days in advance of meeting
- D. Steering Committee meeting - number of meetings held, and dates as negotiated with 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 supported by the CRP and number of events included with quarterly progress report - September 15 and December 15, 2024; March 15, June 15, and August 15, 2025