

***Texas Association of Watershed Sponsors  
FY 2028-29 Legislative Priorities***

*The Texas Association of Watershed Sponsors has prioritized the following items for consideration by the Texas Legislature during its 2027 session*

**1. Exemption from Water Rights Permitting**

Bill to be proposed by Senator Zaffarini creating an exemption from the requirement to obtain a permit from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for certain dams or reservoirs operated and maintained for the purposes of erosion, floodwater, and sediment control. A prior version of this bill was approved by the Legislature in the second special session last year but was vetoed by the Governor.

**2. TSSWCB Exceptional Item 2 – Emergency Action Plans for High & Significant Hazard Flood Control Dams**

\$5,000,000 to allow TSSWCB to assist local governments and dam sponsors with developing and implementing required Emergency Action Plans.

**3. TSSWCB Exceptional Item 3 Continued Elimination of High-Hazard dam Rehabilitation, Upgrade & Repair Backlog**

\$150,000,000 to accelerate TSSWCB's efforts to reduce the \$4 billion backlog of flood control rehabilitation needs. Many dams have been redesignated as high hazard because of downstream development and must be brought up to current design and construction standards. When 65% federal rehabilitation funding is available, provide the 35% state.

**4. TSSWCB Exceptional item 4 Enhanced Technical Assistance for Flood Control Dam Operation and Maintenance in Targeted Areas**

\$1,000,000 to administer a Technical Assistance Program that provides local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) with the resources necessary to assist with the operation and maintenance, repairs, rehabilitation and upgrades; facilitate acquisition of available TSSWCB grant funding; develop and implement EAPs; perform annual inspections; and carry out other flood control program responsibilities.