

Texas Water Development Board
Request for Applications for Grants under
the FEMA Severe Repetitive Loss Program- Reopening of the Federal Fiscal Year 2009

The Texas Water Development Board (Board), as administrator of the Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) Program on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), requests the submission of applications leading to the possible award of SRL Program Grants from communities within the State with the legal authority to mitigate the impacts of flooding, and which participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), in accordance with FEMA policy and regulations set forth in Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 79 (44 CFR 79). A community is defined as (a) a political subdivision, including any Indian tribe or authorized native organization, that has zoning and building code jurisdiction over a particular area having special flood hazards, and which is participating in the NFIP, or (b) a political subdivision or other authority that is designated to develop and administer a mitigation plan by political subdivisions, all of which meet the requirements of (a). Eligible applicants from any area of the state may submit applications for SRL Program Grants. Eligible applicants for SRL Program Grants must have a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Action Plan.

Description of SRL Program Purpose and Objectives. The purpose of the SRL Program is to reduce or eliminate the risk of flood damage to severe repetitive loss residential structures insured under the NFIP. An SRL property is defined by FEMA as a residential property that is covered under an NFIP flood insurance policy and: a) has at least four NFIP claim payments (including building and contents) of over \$5,000 each, and the cumulative amount of such claims exceeding \$20,000; or b) at least two separate claims (building payments only, excluding claims for contents losses) with cumulative claims exceeding the market value of the structure. For both a) and b), at least two of the referenced claims must have occurred within any ten-year period, and must be greater than ten days apart. The long-term goal of the SRL Program is to reduce or eliminate claims under the NFIP. The SRL Program will provide funding assistance for eligible flood mitigation projects which will result in the greatest savings to the National Flood Insurance Fund in the shortest period of time, based on a Benefit-Cost Ratio using FEMA approved methodology to conduct the Benefit-Cost Analysis. Examples of projects that could be funded under the SRL grant program are acquisitions/demolition or relocation; elevation of existing structures; dry flood proofing; and minor localized flood reduction projects.

Description of Funding Considerations. FEMA has recently notified the TWDB of the re-opening of the SRL grant program for Federal Fiscal Year 2009 (FY 09) starting June 1, 2009. There is a substantial amount of funds remaining in the FY 09 SRL programs and the objective is to leave the application period open until all funds are awarded. Applications will be reviewed and forwarded to FEMA as they are submitted in order to take advantage of these funds. Once the funds have been fully appropriated, FEMA will close the application period. This grant requires a 10 percent local match, of which not more than one-half may be in the form of in-kind services. There are no award limits associated with grant requests for the SRL Program.

Consultation with the Property Owner. The consultation process is a required notification and information gathering process which is conducted by the applicant prior to the submittal of the application. The applicant will consult with the property owner on project activity types, estimated

costs, and insurance implications, as well as, the property owner's right to appeal. The applicant should be clear to the property owner that the consultation does not represent a formal offer of mitigation assistance. In addition, as part of the consultation process, each interested property owner should sign documentation of Notice of Voluntary Participation which will be provided by the applicant as part of the application submittal.

Deadline, Review Criteria and Contact Person for Additional Information. Following the consultation process, the applicant is required to submit applications electronically through FEMA's web-based Electronic Grants Management System (*e-Grants*). Applicants must request access into the *e-Grants* system. Access requests should be directed to Ms. Kathy C. Hopkins at (512) 463-6198, or by e-mail to kathy.hopkins@twdb.state.tx.us. The application should be submitted as soon as possible as the funds will only be available until the funds are fully appropriated. Deadline for submitting applications to the Board for FMA Planning and/or Project Grant funds is 5:00 P.M., October 15, 2009. Applications will be evaluated according to federal rules and guidance. For additional information concerning the SRL Program, current program guidance, and links to federal rules, go to www.fema.gov/government/grant/srl/index. For additional information on FEMA's *e-grant* system, go to www.fema.gov/government/grant/egrants. Final awards for grant funding will be as approved by FEMA.

Issued in Austin, Texas
Ken Petersen
General Counsel
Texas Water Development Board