

Reclamation Manual

Directives and Standards

- Subject:** Technical Assistance to States (TATS)
- Purpose:** Sets forth responsibilities and basic requirements for providing technical assistance to States and Indian Tribes in water resource activities.
- Authority:** Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902, (32 Stat. 388, 43 U.S.C. 391) and acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto.
- Contact:** Environmental and Planning Coordination Office, D-5100
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1. **Scope.** The TATS Program is designed to enable Reclamation to assist states, statutory or state-chartered entities, legislatively authorized political subdivisions of the state, and Indian Tribes in addressing water and related resource issues. Technical assistance will be provided only by Reclamation personnel and only when officially requested by the state or Indian Tribe. Work will not be contracted out and funds will not be transferred through grants or agreements to states and Indian Tribes, including Public Law 93-638 agreements.
2. **Technical Assistance Activities.** Activities will involve providing data, technical knowledge, and expertise to aid in conservation and allocation of natural resources. Assistance may also be provided in the technical, evaluation, and management phases of water resource program efforts and projects. Areas of technical assistance typically include, but are not limited to, environmental, economics, engineering, sedimentation, planning, recreation and public land use, and social analysis. Requested assistance and analysis will generally be completed within 12 months and not exceed \$75,000 in costs. Uncertainties concerning the appropriateness of providing requested technical assistance activities will be resolved by agreement of the Area Manager and the Regional Director.

Activities conducted in this Reclamation-wide program are consistent with the criteria presented in the Directives and Standards for Reclamation-Wide Program Funding Criteria (see Reclamation Manual BGT 04-02) and are not considered reimbursable. Activities that can be identified to a funded Project are to be charged to that Project and not conducted under the TATS program.

3. **Excluded Activities.** The intent of requested assistance or analysis must typically be to provide input into a larger state or Indian Tribe study or activity. In addition, technical assistance will not be provided for final design (unless Federal liability concerns are relieved), construction, or for purchase of capitalized equipment. Technical assistance within one state may not be extended to areas of another state unless all involved states agree. Technical assistance within an Indian Reservation may not be extended to other areas of the state(s) unless the involved state(s) and Indian Tribe(s) agree. Due to cost sharing and reimbursability considerations, the TATS Program will not be used to supplement efforts under other ongoing or pending Reclamation programs, will not be

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used for investigation of authorized projects, nor for any other program where a report from Reclamation to Congress is being prepared.

4. **Cost Sharing.** Cost sharing is not required for requested technical assistance activities.
5. **Accountability and Documentation.**
 - A. **Activity Documentation.** Documentation of all technical assistance activities will be provided to the requesting partner(s) and other involved or interested entities at the conclusion of the technical assistance activity. Documentation and deliverable products are typically in the form of reports, letters, models, and data summations, as appropriate.
 - B. **Performance Documentation.** The regional office fund manager of the technical assistance activity shall prepare and maintain an annual performance document of accomplishments. The performance documents will be prepared within 90 days following the end of each fiscal year. The document will include a summary of the ongoing and completed technical assistance activities performed, document the amount of funds expended for those activities, and document any cost-shared activities. Products completed during the fiscal year will be identified in the document. Performance documents will be kept on file by the regional office fund manager of the technical assistance activity and made available upon request.