

Wetlands Monitoring Program

2006 Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List (June 27, 2007)

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has initiated planning for monitoring the state's wetlands. In February 2007, staff formed an internal workgroup to discuss projects to initiate the monitoring and assessment of wetlands in Texas. The workgroup will meet again in 2007 following a national wetlands meeting. TCEQ will develop a strategy, identify indicators, and develop methods appropriate for assessing conditions in wetlands to implement in 2008.

Development of a Regional Guidebook for Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) Functional Assessment of Forested Riverine Wetlands in Texas

TCEQ has initiated a project to develop a *Regional Guidebook for Hydrogeomorphic Functional Assessment for Forested Riverine Wetlands in Texas* which will be accomplished through a collaborative process involving several federal and state agencies. The Engineer Research and Development Center of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) will be the contractor. Separately, Stephen F. Austin State University will fund and implement the data collection effort. Other agencies, such as TPWD, may also contribute to data collection efforts. Development of the final product, the regional guidebook, is contingent on separately funded data collection efforts.

The objective of the project is to develop a regional guidebook for applying the hydrogeomorphic (HGM) approach to assessing wetland functions of forested riverine wetlands in East Texas based on the following existing regional HGM guidebooks; 1) Wetland Functions of Forested Wetlands in the Delta Region of Arkansas, Lower Mississippi River Alluvial Valley, and 2) Low Gradient Riverine Wetlands of Western Kentucky.

The TCEQ will provide significant technical input to the project, but under the USEPA-USACE contract, is responsible only for the administrative oversight described. TCEQ will draft the initial scope of work, to be finalized with concurrence of the contractor.

This project is an important first step in the longer-term commitment to the broader development of a wetlands monitoring and assessment program, consistent with the *Texas Surface Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Strategy*. The TCEQ SWQM Program is responsible for coordinating the development of a statewide wetlands monitoring and assessment program.