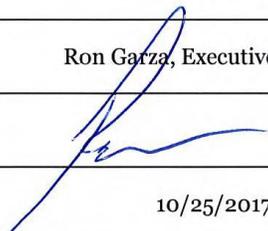




Regional Solid Waste Grant Program

LRGVDC Regional Funding Plan
September 15, 2017

FY – 2018/2019

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	
Regional Solid Waste Grants Program	
Regional Funding Plan Certification	
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT - #21	
FY 18/19	
The Regional Funding Plan was presented to the public at public meeting(s) and had the opportunity to comment. All comments received from the public, both written and oral, have been considered and a summary of those comments are attached to this final Funding Plan.	
Date of Funding Plan Approval by the COG Governing Body:	10/25/2017
Public Meeting Date (s):	10/10/2017
Typed/Printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official:	Ron Garza, Executive Director
Signature of Authorized Certifying Official:	
Date Submitted/Signed:	10/25/2017
Attachments (Required):	
· Regional Funding Plan	Yes
· Public Meeting Summary	Yes
· Copy of Direct Mail Notice	Yes

Project Priorities

A. Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Priorities

GOAL 1: REDUCE WASTE GENERATION/DISPOSAL AND DEVELOP RESPONSIBLE WASTE DISPOSAL PRACTICES

Objective 1: Minimize illegal dumping

Strategy 1.1: Promote public education to reduce illegal dumping and littering

Recommended Actions:

Support youth education and activities through local school districts, charter schools, and public/private organizations.

Support programs to educate residents, construction companies, property owners, and businesses on the proper collection and disposal methods for the region.

Expand public awareness and education through the media by publicizing penalties and recent illegal dumping cases and chronic dumpsites, regularly sending press releases on Stop Illegal Dumping events.

Steps:

School districts should assign a campus coordinator and junior commissioners to work with an environmental agency in their community.

Encourage participation with statewide initiatives of Keep Texas Beautiful, TCEQ, and University Extension Services.

Schools should require that environmental curriculum be taught on every campus.

Existing volunteer environmental organizations should encourage and assist in organizing volunteer community environmental organizations in each community in the Valley. These organizations would work with the schools, cities and the public in solid waste education.

Strategy 1.2: Increase enforcement to prevent illegal dumping

Recommended Actions:

Coordinate development of environmental enforcement programs for each county and city within the LRGV region by funding full-time positions.

Offer regional training opportunities for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and policy makers on public awareness efforts, illegal dumping laws, and prosecution initiatives.

Assess model ordinances and best-known practices regarding illegal dumping and implement changes to strengthen local illegal dumping laws.

Explore opportunities to require cleanup activities for illegal dumping violators.

Strategy 1.3: Conduct cleanup events

Recommended Actions:

Expand clean up events through coordinated efforts by local and regional agencies and provide promotional assistance from all levels of government. Support community cleanup groups and special solid waste programs such as *Valley Proud Environmental Council* and *Keep It Clean – Hidalgo County*.

Objective 2: Educate communities on recycling and reduce waste generation

Strategy 2.1: Increase residential recycling

Recommended Actions:

Develop and expand recycling services to include yard waste and other recyclable materials.

Create and expand multifamily housing recycling programs throughout the LRGV region.

Increase citizen participation in reuse and recycling of residential waste through innovative programs.

Strategy 2.2: Expand recycling programs to multifamily, business and governments

Recommended Actions:

Develop multifamily recycling programs modeled after successful recycling programs.

Develop planning ordinances that would allow for recycling facilities at time of development.

Target specific activity groups, such as hotels, convention centers, airports, etc. to promote ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste.

Strategy 2.3: Public education programs

Recommended Actions:

Develop new or expand existing programs that promote public awareness of the benefits of recycling.

Promote the “buy recycled” campaign, targeting companies, local governments, and builder’s use of recycled materials.

Strategy 2.4: Promote waste reduction and reuse

Recommended Actions:

Create a reduction, reuse, and recycling guide for contractors and a directory of who the contractors are.

Promote sustainable management practices for businesses concerning waste reduction and recommend partnerships with various corporate recycling councils, the Recycling Alliance of Texas, and others.

Promote the reuse construction and demolition materials whenever possible.

Develop composting programs for brush, agricultural wastes, and sludge.

Promote reuse and recycling of white goods, furniture, and other household goods.

Strategy 2.5: Proper management of special household wastes

Recommended Actions:

Develop programs for household hazardous waste collection.

Objective 3: Expand disposal service to rural areas and colonias

Strategy 3.1: Establish rural waste disposal services

Recommended Actions:

Support pilot projects for providing waste collection service to rural areas.

Develop funding mechanisms and fee structures to support full implementation of rural disposal services.

Steps:

Implement colonia waste collection serving individual households that utilizes large centralized containers.

Provide citizen collection stations serving sub regional areas.

Provide rural collection service administered by districts or water supply corporations.

Implement “Pay-by-bag” program.

Strategy 3.2: Support a Colonia Solid Waste Coalition composed of residents, governmental representatives, and volunteer groups to oversee the quality and equity of solid waste collection and disposal practices within colonias.

GOAL 2: PLAN FOR AND PROVIDE ADEQUATE REGIONAL WASTE DISPOSAL CAPACITY

Objective 1: Maintain at least 10 years of landfill capacity throughout the LRGV region

Strategy 1.1: Maximize capacity of existing landfills

Recommended Actions:

Promote efficient and environmentally protective landfill operations

Strategy 1.2: Provide additional landfill capacity

Recommended Actions:

Consider horizontal and vertical expansion of existing landfill sites.

Evaluate proposed landfill sites for compliance with regional solid waste management plan and the needs of the region.

Objective 2: Coordinate provisions for disposal of special wastes

Strategy 2.1: Plan to accommodate large volumes of waste and storm debris produced by hurricanes and severe storms

Recommended Actions:

Designate large areas where fallen trees and brush can be transported and mulched.

Designate alternate resources to be used to handle the trees and brush debris to prevent disruption of regular waste collection and disposal services to commercial and residential areas.

Establish and maintain emergency funding system to cover the additional costs for collection and disposal of disaster waste.

Develop plans for the use/dispersion of large amounts of mulched debris.

Research possibility of selling the mulched material to offset cost to the LRGV region.

Research possibility of dispersing mulch to area farmers to till into large crop areas.

Strategy 2.2: Properly handle Maquiladora and Customs waste

Recommended Actions:

Research data projections for future volumes and types of waste generated by the maquiladora plants.

Reinforce security measures for inspection of materials received from Mexico with emphasis on terrorist threats.

Strategy 2.3: Promote reduction of ocean dumped waste

Recommended Actions:

Increase enforcement of existing laws and regulations governing ocean dumping.

Promote educational programs such as: Commercial Fishermen Marine Debris Education Program

Promote the use of plastic compactors on all large commercial ocean vessels.

Objective 3: Maintain solid waste data and promote sub-regional studies to respond to solid waste needs

Strategy 3.1: Maintain the Closed Landfill Inventory

Strategy 3.2: Promote Integrated Solid Waste Management Programs

Strategy 3.3: Maintain databases on solid waste behavior and trends (e.g., waste generation, recycling participation, provision of waste services to rural residents)

Recommended Actions:

Create “Living Document” of all private waste collection and privately-operated citizen drop-off stations.

Consider posting the information on local and regional government web sites.

Advertise sites through local media.

Request quarterly input from all privately-operated waste collection or drop-off stations regarding waste generation and recycling participation.

Consider quarterly awards similar to “Yard of the Month” as incentives for entities that receive and recycle waste.

B. Project Priorities

Source Reduction & Recycling Programs:

Goal 1 Objective 2 Strategy 2.1, 2.2 & 2.4: - Goal 2 Objective 2 Strategy 2.1 & 2.3

Brush and yard waste comprise a significant portion of the Valley's municipal solid waste and thus require large volumes of landfill capacity. Many residents in the LRGV do not regularly participate in recycling programs due to lack of an established collection point and/or curbside recycling service.

Recommended Action: Establish a major composting and chipping facility within each of the four sub-regions. Smaller communities within sub-regions should develop inter-local agreements with other small communities or preferably a larger city, for the composting and chipping of yard waste, brush, and agricultural wastes. Counties, cities, businesses and volunteer organizations should work together to establish recycling collection centers in major population and commercial centers in the region, making them as convenient as is feasible. For sparsely populated areas, the appropriate recycling center location may be in close proximity to a shopping area in a nearby city such as Harlingen or McAllen so that residents could drop off recyclables in conjunction with a shopping trip. Valley-wide recycling efforts such as phone book recycling and Christmas tree re-use should be continued.

Source Reduction and Recycling – SWAC Priority

Funds can be used for projects which provide a direct and measurable effect on reducing the amount of municipal solid waste going into landfills, by diverting various materials from the municipal solid waste stream for reuse or recycling, or by reducing waste generation at the source. Funded activities may include: diversion from the waste stream and/or collection, processing for transport, and transportation of materials for reuse and/or recycling; implementation of efficiency improvements in order to increase source reduction and recycling, to include full-cost accounting systems and cost-based rate structures, establishment of a solid waste services enterprise fund, and mechanisms to track and assess the level of recycling activity in the community on a regular basis; and educational and promotional activities to increase source reduction and recycling.

Any program or project funded under this Agreement with the intent of demonstrating the use of products made from recycled and/or reused materials shall have as its primary purpose the education and training of residents, governmental officials, private entities, and others to encourage a market for using these materials.

Any revenues realized from recycling efforts funded through this program by a sub-grant recipient must be placed back into the respective solid waste management program and may not be placed into a funded entities general revenue fund. Any monies realized must be used to promote sustainability of the funded program.

Education & Training:

Goal 1 Objective 2 Strategy 2.3 & 2.4

Most aspects of waste reduction programs ultimately require a change in the behavior of people in their various roles as consumers, residents and employees or employers. Establishing programs is of little use unless citizens participate.

Recommended Action: Refine Public Education Programs and broaden implementation. Coordinate with TCEQ to expand public education programs related to solid waste minimization and disposal issues.

Educational and Training Projects – SWAC Priority

Educational components are encouraged under the other categories in order to better ensure public participation in projects; those educational components should be funded as part of those projects and not separately under this category. Funds can also be used for “stand-alone” educational projects dealing with a variety of solid waste management topics. Projects can include funding for information-exchange activities.

Educational and training programs and projects funded under this Agreement must be primarily related to the management of municipal solid waste, and funds applied to a broader education program may only be used for those portions of the program pertaining to municipal solid waste.

Local Enforcement

Funds can be used for projects which contribute to the prevention of illegal dumping of municipal solid waste, including liquid wastes. Funding recipients may investigate illegal dumping problems; enforce laws and regulations pertaining to the illegal dumping of municipal solid waste, including liquid waste; establish a program to monitor the collection and transport of municipal liquid wastes, through administration of a manifesting system; and educate the public on illegal dumping laws and regulations.

Funds may not be expended to any law enforcement agency regulated by Texas Occupations Code, Title 10, Chapter 1701, unless: (a) the law enforcement agency is in compliance with all rules on Law Enforcement Standards and Education; or (b) the Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education certifies that the requesting agency is in the process of achieving compliance with such rules.

When funding is to be provided for salaries of local enforcement officers, the funds recipient must certify that at least one of the officers has attended or will attend within the term of the funding agreement the TCEQ’s Criminal Environmental Law Enforcement Training or equivalent training.

Local enforcement vehicles and related enforcement equipment purchased entirely with funds provided under this Agreement may only be used for activities to enforce laws and regulations pertaining to littering and illegal dumping, and may not, to the extent practicable, be used for other code enforcement or law enforcement activities. Vehicles and equipment that are only partially funded must be dedicated

for use in local enforcement activities for a percentage of time equal to the proportion of the purchase expense funded.

Entities receiving funds for a local enforcement officer, enforcement vehicles, and/or related equipment for use by an enforcement officer, must investigate major illegal dumping problems, on both public and private property, in addition to investigating general litter problems on public property.

Entities receiving funds to conduct a local enforcement program must cooperate with the TCEQ's regional investigative staff in identifying and investigating illegal dumping problems. Lack of cooperation with the TCEQ staff may constitute a reason to withhold future funding to that entity for local enforcement activities.

Funds may not be used for investigation and enforcement activities related to the illegal dumping of industrial and/or hazardous waste. Instances where industrial or hazardous waste is discovered at a site do not preclude the investigation of that site, so long as the intent and focus of the investigation and enforcement activities are on the illegal dumping of municipal solid waste.

Funds may not be used to purchase ammunition, firearms, or HazMat gear.

Litter and Illegal Dumping Cleanup and Community Collection Events

Funds can be used for ongoing and periodic activities to clean up litter and illegal dumping of municipal solid waste, excluding cleanup of scrap tire dumping sites.

Funded activities may include: waste removal; disposal or recycling of removed materials; fencing and barriers; and signage. Placement of trash collection receptacles in public areas with chronic littering problems may also be funded. To the extent feasible, reuse or recycling options should be considered for managing the materials cleaned up under this program. Funds may also be used for periodic community collection events, held not more frequently than four times per year, to provide for collection of residential waste materials for which there is not a readily-available collection alternative, such as large and bulky items that are not picked up under the regular collection system.

Projects funded to clean up litter or illegal dumping on private property must be conducted through a local government sponsor or the COG. Funds may not be provided directly to a private landowner or other private responsible party for cleanup expenses. The local government sponsor or the COG must either contract for and oversee the cleanup work, or conduct the work with its own employees and equipment.

The costs for cleanup of hazardous waste and/or Class 1 nonhazardous industrial waste that may be found at a municipal solid waste site must be funded from other sources, unless a waiver from this restriction is granted by the TCEQ's Waste Permits Division to deal with immediate threats to human health or the environment.

The cleanup of Class 2 and 3 nonhazardous industrial wastes that may be found at a municipal solid waste site may be funded in conjunction with the cleanup of the municipal solid waste found at a site.

All notification, assessment, and cleanup requirements pertaining to the release of wastes or other chemicals of concern, as required under federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including 30 TAC Chapter 330, TCEQ's MSW Rules, and 30 TAC Chapter 350, TCEQ's Risk Reduction Rules, must be complied with as part of any activities funded under this Agreement.

All materials cleaned up using funds provided under this Agreement must be properly disposed of or otherwise properly managed in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. To the extent feasible, it is recommended that as much material as possible be diverted from area landfills and targeted for reuse or recycling. For projects to clean up large amounts of materials, the COG should consider withholding at least ten (10%) percent of the reimbursements under a sub-grant or subcontract, until documentation is provided that the cleanup work has been completed and the materials properly managed.

Local Solid Waste Management Plans

Funds can be used for projects to develop a local solid waste management plan. In addition, in accordance with §363, Texas Health and Safety Code, and 30 TAC §330, TCEQ Rules, funds can be used for the TCEQ adoption by of a local solid waste management plan. Funds may be used to amend an existing local solid waste management plan that has been adopted by the TCEQ. Local solid waste management plans must be consistent with the goals and objectives of the RSWMP.

All local solid waste management plans funded under this Agreement must be consistent with the COG's RSWMP, and prepared in accordance with 30 TAC §330, Subchapter O, TCEQ Rules, and the Content and Format Guidelines provided by the TCEQ.

In selecting a local solid waste management plan as an implementation project for funding, the COG shall ensure that at least one year is available for the completion and adoption of the local plan.

Municipal Solid Waste Facilities Eligible for Funding

The design and construction of the facilities identified below may be funded. Other registered or permitted facilities may receive funding upon prior authorization from the TCEQ on a case by case basis. The costs associated with operating these once completed may not be funded. However, eligible facilities which do not charge customers for services rendered qualifies to pursue implementation project funding under this agreement to cover facility upgrades and periodic maintenance costs associated with the free services provided. Projects funded under this project category shall include consideration of an integrated approach to solid waste management, to include providing recycling services at the site, if appropriate to the management system in place. Any revenues realized by entities funded through this program should be used in support of the entities solid waste program and may not be redirected to an entities general revenue fund. The following municipal solid waste facilities qualify to pursue funding:

- ❖ Notification tier municipal solid waste transfer stations that qualify under 30 TAC 330.11(g).
- ❖ Registered municipal solid waste transfer stations that qualify under 30 TAC 330.9(b)(1) through (3), or (f).
- ❖ Notification tier citizens' collection stations that qualify under 30 TAC 330.11(e)(1).
- ❖ Exempt local government recycling facilities as provided for under 30 TAC 328(a)(1).
- ❖ Notification tier recycling facilities that qualify under 30 TAC 330.11(e)(2).
- ❖ Notification tier composting facilities which qualify under 30 TAC 332.21 – 332.23.
- ❖ Notification tier liquid waste temporary storage facilities which qualify under 30 TAC 330.11(e)(5).
- ❖ Liquid waste transfer stations which qualify for registration in 30 TAC 330.9(g) and (o).
- ❖ Notification tier used oil collection facilities which qualify under 30 TAC 324.71(1) or (3).

Household Hazardous Waste Management

Funds can be used for projects that provide a means for the collection, recycling or reuse, or proper disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW), including household chemicals, used oil and oil filters, antifreeze, lead-acid batteries, household electronic waste, and other materials. Funded activities can include: collection events; consolidation and transportation costs associated with collection activities; recycling or reuse of materials; proper disposal of materials; permanent collection facilities; education and public awareness programs.

All HHW events must meet the requirements of 30 TAC 335, Subchapter N, and must be coordinated through the TCEQ/Environmental Assistance Program. Additionally, the TCEQ Used Oil Program regulates the handling – including transportation – of used oil and oil filters. HHW collections should be aware of registration requirements when selecting vendors or running a collection programs themselves.

All HHW collection event activities must be conducted under an operational plan which meets the requirements of 30 TAC 335.405(a), to be maintained onsite, which addresses collection, ingress and egress, storage, training, transportation, recycling, and disposal.

Designated HHW “operator” must submit to the TCEQ HHW Program a 45 Day Notice which meets the requirements of 30 TAC 335.403(b). The operator must also report to the HHW program by April 1st of the following year on the amount of material received under the collection. This notice must be submitted in one of the following formats through one of the following avenues:

Mailed to:

TCEQ/Environmental Assistance Division (MC-113)
 HHW Program
 P.O. Box 13087
 Austin TX 78711-3087

E-mailed to:

Recycle@tceq.texas.gov

Faxed to:

(512) 239-1065, Attn. HHW Program

Technical Studies

Funds can be used for projects that include the collection of pertinent data, analysis of issues and needs, evaluation of alternative solutions, public input, and recommended actions to assist in making solid waste management decisions at the local level. Projects can also include research and investigations to determine the location, boundaries, and contents of closed municipal solid waste landfills and sites, and to assess possible risks to human health or the environment associated with those landfills and sites.

All technical studies funded under this Contract must be consistent with the COG's RSWMP, and prepared in accordance with Guidelines provided by the TCEQ.

Other Types of Projects

Other types of projects, not specifically prohibited from funding under the more detailed project screening criteria, may be proposed by the COG and considered for authorization by the TCEQ on a case-by-case basis. Projects funded under this category must support the goals and objectives of the RWSMP. Illegally dumped scrap tire specific projects should be funded under this project category.

C. Allocation and Priorities

Category funding top two priorities are:

1. Education & Training
2. Source Reduction & Recycling

Total 100% - \$138,782.00 for bi-annual

FY-18/19 Grant Award Funding Caps per application:

Education & Training - \$20,000.00

Source Reduction & Recycling - \$30,000.00

Regional Collaboration Project - \$60,000.00

Funding Caps per Entity:

Only one project may be funded but may be included in a Regional Project.

Regional Allocation

Update Volume II Regional Solid Waste Management Plan – The LRGVDC Regional Solid Waste Management Plan will be updated to include specific needs for the Region. A total of \$30,000.00 will be allocated for this project with the stipulation that if additional funds are needed, implementation project funds will be allocated for this project. If not all \$30,000.00 are expended for the project any leftover funds will be allocated for education and outreach material and other implementation projects.

“Road to Recycling Tire Project” – LRGVDC will effectively administer this project. The long-term plan is to reduce the illegal dumping of tires. Illegally dumped tires are and have been of primary concern to all entities within the LRGVDC region. Tire piles across the region have become a severe epidemic causing hazardous in waterways, threatening economic development, impacting tourism areas and serving as breeding grounds for rodents and mosquitoes that carry harmful viruses. The project would encompass a region-wide collaboration of community awareness and training campaign featuring designated periods for community clean-up and amnesty drop-off sites, located in areas across the Valley. A total of \$50,000.00 will be allocated for this project and any left-over funds from implementation funds.

III. Project Selection Process

HOW PROPOSALS WILL BE CONSIDERED

Proposals will be reviewed by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee of the LRGVDC, using screening and selection criteria developed in cooperation with the TCEQ. The committee consists of representatives of various interests involved in solid waste management in the region, according to TCEQ guidelines.

Subcommittee

A subcommittee shall be appointed by the full committee to review and pre-screen all implementation project applications for administrative completeness and the subcommittee shall have the authority to remove ineligible applications from further consideration. Members will serve a maximum of two years and will be replaced on alternate years. Subcommittee recommendations shall be approved by the full committee at a Regular Meeting.

1. LRGVDC Staff will Request for Applications (RFA) by sending all eligible recipients and private sector entities a notice of RFA at least thirty (30) days before deadline. A Public notice in the local newspapers describing the same shall be published at least 30 days in advance of the scoring meeting.

Screening Criteria. In order for any proposed project to be considered, the following screening criteria must be met. If these screening criteria are not met, the proposed project will receive no further consideration for grant funding.

- 1) The application must be complete and all application requirements and procedures followed, including requirements to notify private service providers of the proposed project, when applicable.
- 2) The proposed project must conform to eligible category standards, eligible recipient standards, and allowable expense and funding standards, as established by the TCEQ and the LRGVDC and under all applicable laws and regulations.

- 3) The applicant must agree to document the results of the project as required by the LRGVDC.
- 4) The proposed project must be technically feasible, and there must be a reasonable expectation that the project can be satisfactorily completed within the required time frames.
- 5) The proposed project activities and expenses must be reasonable and necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives of the project. One factor in determining reasonableness of expenses shall be whether comparable costs are proposed for comparable goods and services.
- 6) The proposed project must be consistent with applicable goals, objectives, and recommendations of the adopted regional solid waste management plan.

Selection Criteria. If a proposed project meets all of the applicable screening criteria, it will be evaluated by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee of the LRGVDC, using the following selection criteria. There are four sets of selection criteria, for a possible total score of 100 points.

Attendance at Training provided by LRGVDC Staff (10 points)

If the applicant attends the training provided by LRGVDC Staff on the Application Process the applicant will automatically receive 10 points.

Project Merits and Needs (0-45 points)

The SWAC gives the most points for “Project Merits and Needs.” Limit your narrative to no more than one (1) page addressing the following items.

- **Project Title:** Provide a title that clearly summaries your project.
- **Program Objective & Summary:** Describe the proposed project and justify its needs consistent with the applicable grant category (i.e. local enforcement and illegal dumping, source reduction and recycling, etc.)
- **Project Service Area:** Indicate the area/geography (city, county, or other jurisdictions) covered by the project. If the proposed project will affect only a portion of your area, please indicate which portion will be affected. Attach map if applicable. Map(s) are to be provided in the Attachments and are not included in the page limit.
- **Public Information:** Explain what steps you will take to promote the program to the public, local officials, etc. Are there adequate levels of customer incentives, public education or public input, as appropriate to the proposed project?
- **Project Status/Feasibility:**
 1. Indicate if this is a startup or pilot project where no such program exists; how does it benefit the local government or region? Or,
 2. Indicate if this is an enhancement of an existing program; give a brief description of your existing program and indicate how the proposed project would significantly improve the program or,
 3. Indicate if this project has received solid waste grant funding in the past years.
 4. Describe progress or agreements made regarding this project so far,

5. Describe how effectiveness will be measured, and
6. Describe staff qualifications.

Local Match and Commitment (0-30 Points)

In this section, describe the ways your organization intends to provide resources to make the project succeed during the grant period and beyond. Limit your narrative to no more than one (1) page addressing the following items.

- **Intention to Sustain the Project:** If the proposed project could become an ongoing service, describe how this project may be sustained beyond the grant period.
- **Cash Match or In-Kind Services:** Local match through cash will be priority and in-kind services will also be considered, but at lesser value. If the applicant is providing significant contributions (at least 10% of grant request) to the project either through cash matching funds or in-kind services, please identify the match on your application in this section. In-kind services should relate only to staff or services directly involved with the proposed project. Your narrative should show the relative importance or effort of the local contribution in relationship to the entire project.
- **Supporting Documentation:** Please place copies of letters, resolutions, etc. in Attachments. These documents are not included in the one (1) page limit. Please include no more than one page of photographs.

Regional Collaboration Project (0-15 Points)

Any Project that is regional in nature and must be specific as to who they will be collaborating with and submit commitment letters or resolutions to support the project with either matching funds or in-kind services. Application will receive points according to entities involved with the project and matching funds towards the project.

Poor Performance Deduction (10 Points)

In this section, the applicant must provide evidence of the following items. LRGVDC reports will also be used.

- Submitting of Reports (subtract 5 points)
- Expenditure of Funds (subtract 5 points)

IV. Private Industry Considerations

A. Private Industry notification to participate on Funding Plan Process.

All of these entities will be invited to participate in the upcoming public meetings to discuss the proposed funding plan.

B. Mailing list of Private Industry.

All private entities will be mailed information concerning the availability of funding and the process for project review.

C. Accept written comments from Private Industry on proposed projects and advise that the proposed project may be appealed at the LRGVDC Board of Directors meeting or directly to TCEQ.

All applicants will be required to contact known private providers of similar services within the proposed service areas, and to inform the service providers of the proposed application. Written and oral comments from private service providers in the region concerning proposed projects for funding will be accepted and considered by the SWAC and the LRGVDC Board of Directors when evaluating projects for funding. Before the Board of Directors approves the funded project selections, a specific determination will be made as to whether the projects comply with statutory requirements pertaining to non-competition with private industry. If the Board of Directors recommends a project for funding over the objection of private industry, any private provider that submitted comments opposing the project will be notified in writing of their right to appeal a funding decision directly to the TCEQ and of the procedures for that appeal.

V. Private Industry Justification

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) has a total of twenty-nine (29) Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) members, which includes twenty-five (25) voting members and four (4) non-voting members. Representation for the voting members includes members from the tri-county region (Cameron, Hidalgo & Willacy Counties) and is composed of 8% county representatives, 12% large city representatives, 16% medium city representatives, 12% small city representatives, 16% private sector group, 12% educational group, 12% environmental group and 12% private citizen group. Private sector representation on the SWAC includes representatives from the following companies: Republic Waste Services, Waste Management, Waste Connections of Texas - RGV, LLC & Public Works Supplies and Services LLC.

Within the LRGVDC region many local governments coordinate services and work with the private sector. Over the past 10 years the LRGVDC has not received any appeals on proposed projects or requests to increase the level of representation on the SWAC.