This study will use survey research directed at Economic Development Corporations (EDCs) in Texas. Each survey question will address a particular allowable project from the descriptive categories component. For example, the statement “*The EDC has funded projects for the creation or retention of primary jobs with 4A revenue”* is designed to assess whether 4A EDCs in Texas are spending the tax revenue in compliance with the DCA. The operational relationship between the survey questions and each descriptive category is depicted in Table 2. When taken together, the survey questions will provide an overview of what types of projects are being funded by 4A and 4B sales tax revenue and if 4A and 4B EDCs are in compliance with the DCA of 1979.

**Research Technique**

This study will use survey research to determine whether 4A and 4B EDCs are in compliance with the Development Corporation Act (DCA). According to Babbie (2004) survey research is probably the best method available in collecting original data for describing a population too large to observe directly. There are various strengths to using survey research. First, survey research is useful in describing the characteristics of a larger population (Babbie 2004). Secondly, survey research can provide insight into individual perceptions and attitudes as well as organizational policies and practices (Baruch and Holton 2008). Thirdly, survey research makes large samples feasible (Babbie 2004). Lastly, survey research is considered to have a high reliability which allows the development of operational definitions from actual observations (Babbie 2004). The ease and use of survey research has grown due to the availability of the World Wide Web and electronic mail, and is a more rapid form measuring a large population (Fricker & Schonlau 2002).

On the other hand, there are also weaknesses to using survey research. A survey will rarely have a 100 percent response rate unless coercively administered to the target population (Baruch and Holton 2008). The use of close ended questions that are not relatively clear can cause the researcher to overlook key responses (Babbie 2004). Lastly, survey research especially an online survey may not be representative of the meaningful population (Babbie 2004).

To address the weaknesses inherent in survey research, two methods will be used. First, a reminder survey will be sent to those that haven’t responded by the due date. This will assist in attaining a larger sample. Second, the survey instrument will be pretested to address unclear closed-ended questions. The survey will be pretested on individuals in the economic development field as well as some individuals in the general public administration field for objectiveness. The survey instrument was carefully constructed using the conceptual framework as a guide for questionnaire development.

The questionnaire will use a dichotomous type scale which asks respondents to acknowledge participation in certain economic development projects. The responses will either be “Yes” for participation, “No” for non-participation and used funds for a non allowable project, or “N/A” not applicable because the EDC hasn’t participated in the given area. Once the questionnaire is complete the responses will be analyzed and used to assess compliance by the EDCs with the DCA. A copy of the survey instrument can be viewed in attachment A. The survey instrument will be administered using a web based survey tool (Survey Monkey). An e-mail will be sent that contains the survey monkey link. If an email address cannot be located, the survey will be sent by conventional mail.