2017 State Water Plan

Water -- for --Texas

(Includes amendment #1)



Texas Water Development Board Members

Bech Bruun, Chairman Kathleen Jackson, Board member Peter Lake, Board member

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Our Mission

To provide leadership, information, education, and support for planning, financial assistance, and outreach for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas.



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Dear Fellow Texans:

On behalf of my fellow Board members, Kathleen Jackson and Peter Lake, and the dedicated men and women of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), it is my privilege to present to you the 2017 State Water Plan. This is the 10th plan created since the agency's inception in 1957 and the fourth since the current "bottom up" regional water planning approach began in 1997. Now, decades of water planning experience and a renewed appreciation of the impacts of drought have resulted in the most comprehensive state water plan ever created.

This state water plan was produced on the heels of the worst one-year drought in our recorded history, in 2011. Over the course of one year, Texas transitioned from virtually drought free to exceptional statewide drought. The 2011 drought taught us entirely new lessons about how fast drought can strike and how severe it can be. Simply put, 2011 provided a wake-up call for water providers across our state.

Fortunately, the five-year planning cycle allows our state water plan to adapt to and account for conditions worse than the previous drought of record. In the 2017 plan, six of the 16 regional planning groups indicated potential new droughts of record for their regions, resulting in reduced estimates of existing surface water supplies. These weather assumptions, coupled with the fact that our state's population continues to boom, made this planning cycle the most challenging yet.

Our state's 16 regional water planning groups rose to the challenge. The 2017 State Water Plan includes 5,500 water management strategies—an increase from roughly 3,700 strategies listed in the previous plan—whose diversification speaks to lessons learned from the drought. Conservation and reuse strategies increased from 34 percent to 45 percent of total future water volume. Innovative water technologies such as desalination and aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) will also play a significant role in Texas' water supply future.

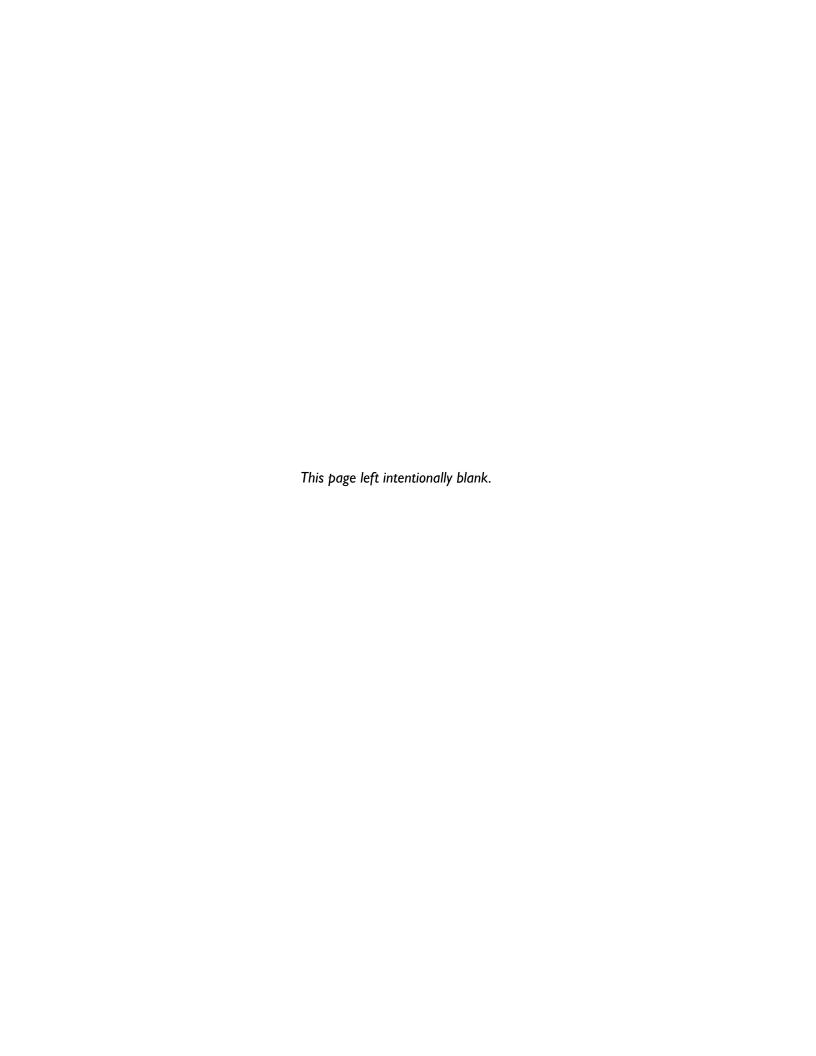
To assist entities with translating their water planning efforts into water projects, the TWDB remains committed to providing low-cost financing options. For state water plan projects in particular, we are proud to offer the recently created State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) program, through which billions of dollars in financial assistance have already been committed.

The true measure of this plan's success, however, is represented by the dedication and hard work of more than 450 regional water planning group members who have volunteered countless hours to ensure Texas will have the water it needs for decades to come. Additionally, the Board would like to extend our sincerest appreciation and thanks to TWDB staff, without whom the state water plan would not be possible. As Board members we are truly privileged to represent an agency full of public servants dedicated to fulfilling the mission of conserving and securing Texas water for future generations.

God Bless Texas,

Bech K. Bruun, Chairman

But K. Bru



Acknowledgments

The 2017 State Water Plan would not have been possible without the time and expertise of numerous people and organizations throughout Texas. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) would like to express its sincere appreciation to all who participated in the development of the 16 regional water plans and this state water plan: the more than 450 regional water planning group voting members (listed below), their consultants, and their administrative agents (listed below); staff of

the TWDB; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and other state and federal agencies; and the individuals and organizations that provided public input throughout the planning process.

Finally, we would like to thank the leadership of the State of Texas for their consistent support and recognition of the importance of water planning.

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- C North Texas Municipal Water District
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- E Rio Grande Council of Governments
- F Colorado River Municipal Water District
- F City of San Angelo
- G Brazos River Authority

H – San Jacinto River Authority

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- I City of Nacogdoches
- J Upper Guadalupe River Authority
- K Lower Colorado River Authority
- L San Antonio River Authority
- M Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
- N Nueces River Authority
- O High Plains UWCD No. 1
- P Lavaca-Navidad River Authority



Table of contents

Water for Texas 2017 State Water Plan Texas Water Development Board

Contents

Exe	ecutiv	e sum	mary	2
1	Intr	Introduction		
	1.1	New i	n the 2017 State Water Plan	. 15
	1.2	Region	nal water planning	. 16
		1.2.1	Legislative requirements	. 16
		1.2.2	Regional water planning groups	. 17
		1.2.3	Development of the regional water plan	. 19
		1.2.4	Development of the state water plan	. 19
	1.3	An int	eractive state water plan	. 19
	1.4	Organ	ization of the plan	. 21
2	Poli	cy reco	ommendations	. 22
3	Dro	ught a	nd drought response in Texas	. 30
	3.1	Measu	ring drought status and severity	. 31
	3.2	Types	of drought	. 31
	3.3	Precip	itation influences	. 32
	3.4	Drought of record and the 2010–2014 drought		. 32
	3.5	The State's response to the 2010–2014 drought		. 32
	3.6	6 Planning and response to drought		. 34
		3.6.1	Statewide drought planning and response	. 35
		3.6.2	Regional drought planning and response	. 35
		3.6.3	Local drought planning and response	. 38
	3.7	Uncer	tainty of drought	. 39
4	Fina	nancing needs4		
	4.1	Costs of implementing the state water plan		. 41
	4.2	Funding assistance required to implement the state water plan		. 42
	4.3	Financ	ing the state water plan and other water-related projects	. 43
		4.3.1	TWDB financial assistance	. 44
		4.3.2	SWIFT as a new path to prioritizing and funding the state water plan	. 45
		4.3.3	Other TWDB state-funded programs	. 46
		4.3.4	TWDB federally funded programs	47

5	Fut	ıre pop	pulation and water demand	48
	5.1	Popula	ation projections	49
		5.1.1	Population methodology	50
	5.2	Water	r demand projections	53
		5.2.1	Projected water demand by region and water use category	53
		5.2.2	Water demand methodology	53
		5.2.3	Municipal water demand	54
		5.2.4	Manufacturing water demand	55
		5.2.5	Mining water demand	57
		5.2.6	Steam-electric water demand	57
		5.2.7	Irrigation water demand	57
		5.2.8	Livestock water demand	57
	5.3	Comp	parison to the 2012 State Water Plan	57
	5.4	Uncer	tainty of population growth and water demands	58
6	Wat	ter sup	plies	60
	6.1	Evalua	ating water resources for planning	61
	6.2	Surfac	te water availability within river basins	62
	6.3	Future	e surface water availability	63
	6.4	Grour	ndwater availability of aquifers	65
	6.5	Future	e groundwater availability	68
	6.6	Availa	bility of other sources	68
	6.7	Existir	ng supplies	68
	6.8	Comp	parison to the 2012 State Water Plan	72
	6.9	Uncer	tainty of our future water supply	75
7	Wat	ter sup	ply needs	76
	7.1	Identif	fication of water needs	77
	7.2	Munic	ipal needs	78
	7.3	Non-r	municipal needs	79
	7.4	Whole	esale water provider needs	BO
	7.5	Impac	ts of not meeting identified water needs	81
	7.6	Uncer	tainty of future water needs	B2

	/./	vvate	er needs not met by the plan	82
	7.8	Com	parison to the 2012 State Water Plan	84
8	Water management strategies			
	8.1	Selec	ting water management strategies	87
	8.2	Sumr	mary of recommended strategies	89
		8.2.1	Water resources for recommended strategies	89
		8.2.2	Strategy types	90
	8.3	Assig	nment of strategy and project supply volumes	98
	8.4 Cost		s of recommended strategies	98
	8.5	Com	parison to the 2012 State Water Plan	9
			rtainty of future strategies	.100
	8.7	Impa	cts of recommended strategies	.100
		8.7.1	Potential impacts on water quality	.100
		8.7.2	Protecting the state's water, agricultural, and natural resources	. 10
	8.8	Need	ds met by recommended strategies	.103
9	Implementation and funding of the 2012 State Water Plan			.104
	9.1	Imple	ementation of the 2012 State Water Plan	.10!
	9.2	Fund	ing of the 2012 State Water Plan	.10
Gl	ossary	y		. 112
Αp	pend	ices		. 110
Ар	pendi	x A.I	Background on Texas' water planning history, institutions, and laws	. 117
		A.I.I	Early Texas water planning history	. 117
		A.1.2	State water planning history, 1957 to 1997	. 117
A.1.3		A.1.3	Regional and state water planning since 1997	. 118
		A.1.4	State and federal water supply institutions	. 118
		A.1.5	Management of water in Texas	. 12
		A.1.6	Key state water planning statutes and rules	.124
Appendix B.I		× B.I	Annual surface water availability by river and coastal basin (acre-feet)	.12!
Appendix B.2		× B.2	Annual groundwater availability by aquifer (acre-feet)	
Appendix B.3		× B.3	Annual surface water existing supplies by river and coastal basin (acre-feet)	.128
Appendix B.4		× B.4	Annual groundwater existing supplies by aquifer (acre-feet)	
Appendix C.I		x C.I	Annual water needs by region and water use category (acre-feet)	. 13

List of Figures

Figure ES.I	Regional water planning areas
Figure ES.2	Projected population in Texas (millions)5
Figure ES.3	Projected annual water demand and existing water supply in Texas (millions of acre-feet)
Figure ES.4	Projected annual water needs in Texas (millions of acre-feet)
Figure ES.5	Annual volume of recommended water management strategies (millions of acre-feet)
Figure ES.6	Share of recommended water management strategies by water resource in 2070
Figure ES.7	Share of recommended water management strategies by strategy type in 20709
Figure ES.8	Annual water supply needs and needs met by the plan by region in 2070 (acre-feet)
Figure ES.9	Annual water supply needs and needs met by the plan by water use category in 2070 (acre-feet)
Figure ES.10	Statewide annual water supply needs that are unmet by the plan (acre-feet)
Figure ES.11	Municipal water needs for statewide population in 2020 and 2070
Figure I.I	Regional water planning areas
Figure 1.2	View of interactive state water plan site
Figure 2.1	Unique stream segments previously designated by the Texas Legislature and additional recommended segments
Figure 2.2	Unique reservoir sites previously designated by the Texas Legislature
Figure 2.3	Reservoir sites recommended for designation as unique
Figure 3.1	Statewide average Palmer Drought Severity Index
Figure 4.1	Total capital costs, by required online decade, of all recommended water management strategy projects (in billions)
Figure 4.2	Total capital costs of all recommended water management strategy projects by wholesale water providers and water user group sponsor type (in billions)43
Figure 4.3	Reported state financial assistance needs (in billions)
Figure 5.1	Projected population in Texas
Figure 5.2	Projected population growth in Texas counties
Figure 5.3	Regional shares of statewide population growth (2020–2070)
Figure 5.4	Projected annual water demand in Texas (acre-feet)
Figure 5.5	Projected annual water demand by water use category (acre-feet)

Figure 5.6	Water use category shares of projected annual water demand in 2020	50
Figure 5.7	Water use category shares of projected annual water demand in 2070	56
Figure 6.1	Major river and coastal basins and major surface water supply reservoir locations	62
Figure 6.2	Texas' annual surface water availability and existing surface water supply (acre-feet)	63
Figure 6.3	Annual surface water availability and existing surface water supplies by river and coastal basin in 2020 (acre-feet)	64
Figure 6.4	Major aquifers of Texas	6!
Figure 6.5	Minor aquifers of Texas	66
Figure 6.6	Locations of groundwater conservation or subsidence districts and 16 groundwater management areas	67
Figure 6.7	Texas' annual groundwater availability and existing groundwater supplies (acre-feet)	. 68
Figure 6.8	Annual groundwater availability and existing groundwater supplies by aquifer in 2020 (acre-feet)	69
Figure 6.9	Shares of existing municipal, steam-electric, manufacturing, and mining supply by water source in 2020.	. 70
Figure 6.10	Shares of existing irrigation and livestock supply by water source in 2020	7
Figure 6.11	Texas' projected annual existing water supply (acre-feet)	72
Figure 6.12	Changes from the 2012 State Water Plan in annual surface water availability in 2020	73
Figure 6.13	Changes from the 2012 State Water Plan in annual groundwater availability in 2020	74
Figure 7.1	Annual water needs by water use category (acre-feet)	78
Figure 7.2	Projected municipal water needs by county in 2070	80
Figure 7.3	Municipal water needs for statewide population in 2020 and 2070	8
Figure 7.4	Statewide annual water supply needs that are unmet by the plan (acre-feet)	84
Figure 8.I	Share of recommended water management strategies by water resource in 2070	90
Figure 8.2	Annual volume of recommended water management strategies by region and water resource in 2070 (thousands of acre-feet)	9
Figure 8.3	Share of recommended water management strategies by strategy type in 2070	9
Figure 8.4	Recommended new major reservoirs	9!
Figure 8.5	Annual water supply needs and needs met by the plan by region in 2070 (acre-feet)	.102

Figure 8.6	Annual water supply needs and needs met by the plan by water use category in 2070 (acre-feet)	. 103
Figure 9.1	Reported implementation of all recommended water management strategies from the 2012 State Water Plan by share of total number of strategies	106
Figure 9.2	Locations of 2012 State Water Plan projects funded by the TWDB, by project sponsor	. 110
Figure A1.1	Locations of river authorities and regional water planning area boundaries	. 120
List of Ta	ables	
Table 5.1	Projected population by region	50
Table 5.2	Projected annual water demand by water use category (acre-feet)	52
Table 5.3	Projected annual water demand by region (acre-feet)	55
Table 6.1	Texas' annual existing water supply (acre-feet)	72
Table 7.1	Annual water needs by water use category (acre-feet)	78
Table 7.2	Annual water needs by region (acre-feet)	79
Table 7.3	Statewide annual socioeconomic impacts from not meeting water needs	82
Table 7.4	Annual unmet water needs by region and water use category (acre-feet)	83
Table 8.1	Annual volume of recommended water management strategies by region (acre-feet)	88
Table 8.2	Capital costs, by required online decade, of all recommended water management strategy projects by region (in millions)	89
Table 8.3	Annual volume of recommended water management strategies by strategy type (acre-feet)	92
Table 8.4	Number of water user groups relying on different types of water management strategies by region	93
Table 8.5	Weight-averaged unit costs (dollars per acre-foot) of strategy water supplies by region and strategy type in 2070	99
Table 9.1	2012 State Water Plan projects funded since November 2011 by project sponsor	107



Water for Texas

