Texas Water Development Board Update

to the

Water Nexus Conference

Houston, Texas

Director Ashley Morgan
TWDB
September 17, 2026

Water Weekly

For the week of **09/14/26**

TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Water conditions

The latest drought map for conditions as of September 8 shows one or two classes of improvement for parts of East Texas impacted by Tropical Storm Edouard—but more of the state experienced one class of degradation, leading to the seventh consecutive week of drought expansion within the state.

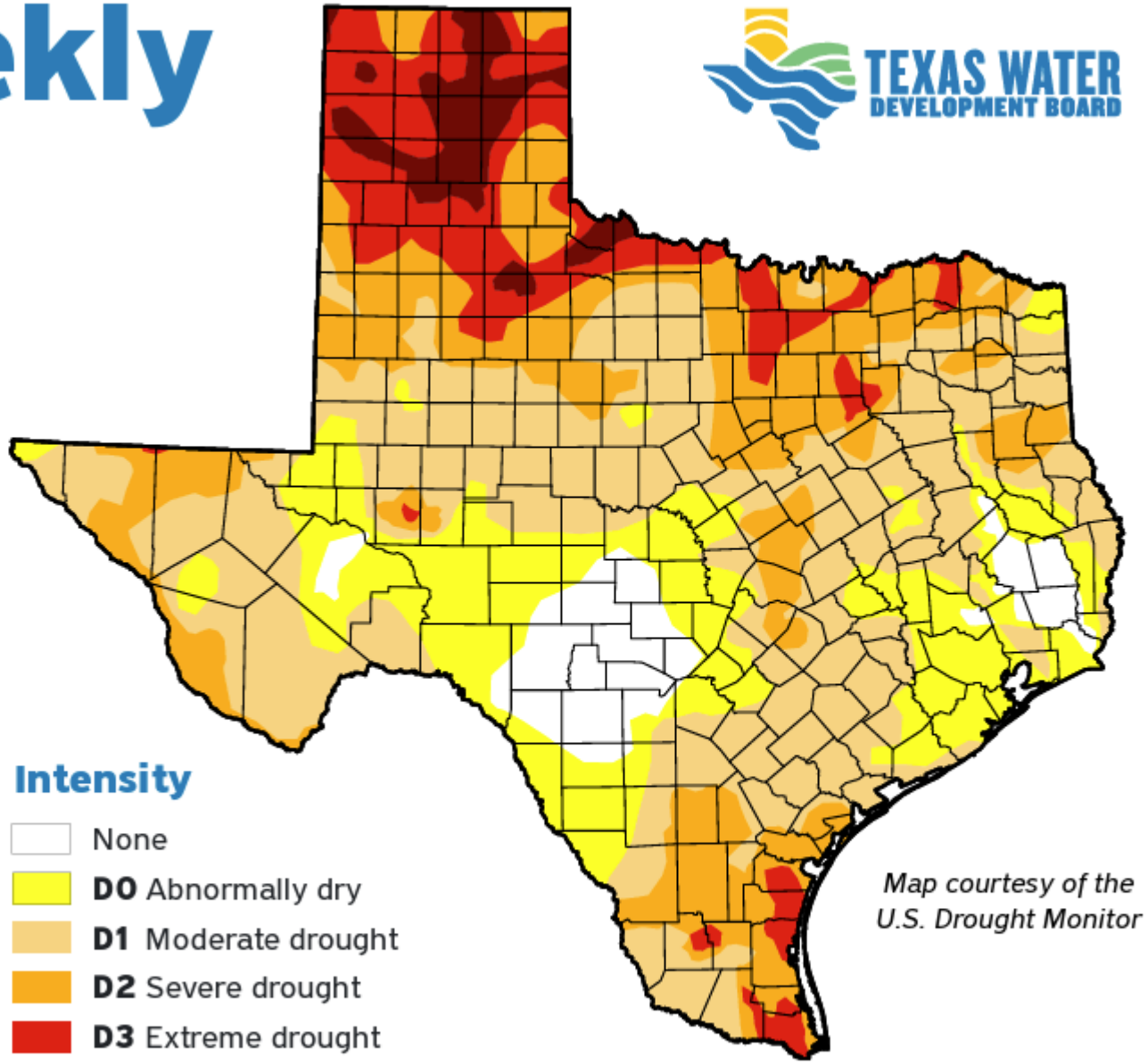
Drought conditions

74% now

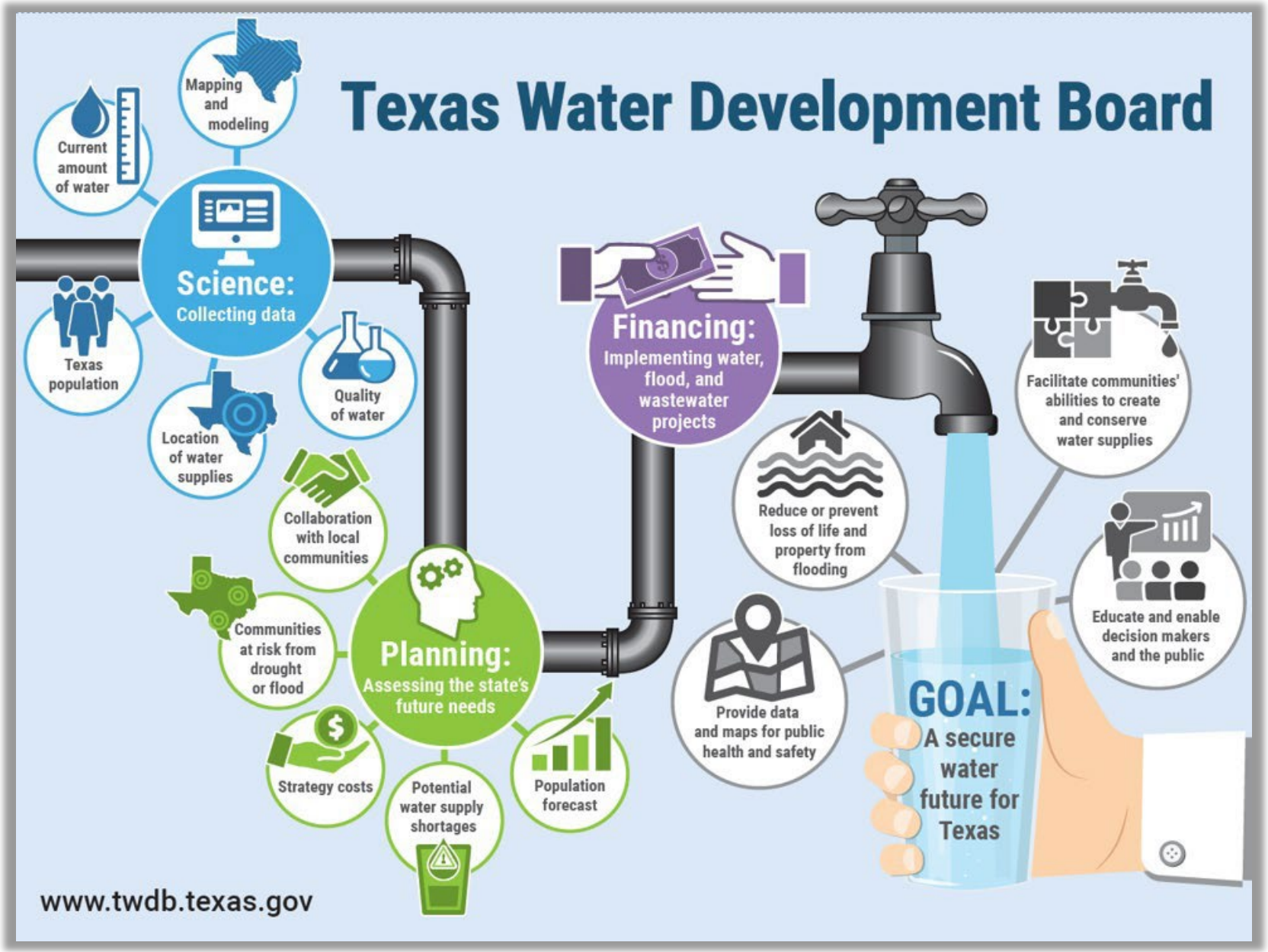
69% a week ago

41% three months ago

19% a year ago



Map courtesy of the U.S. Drought Monitor

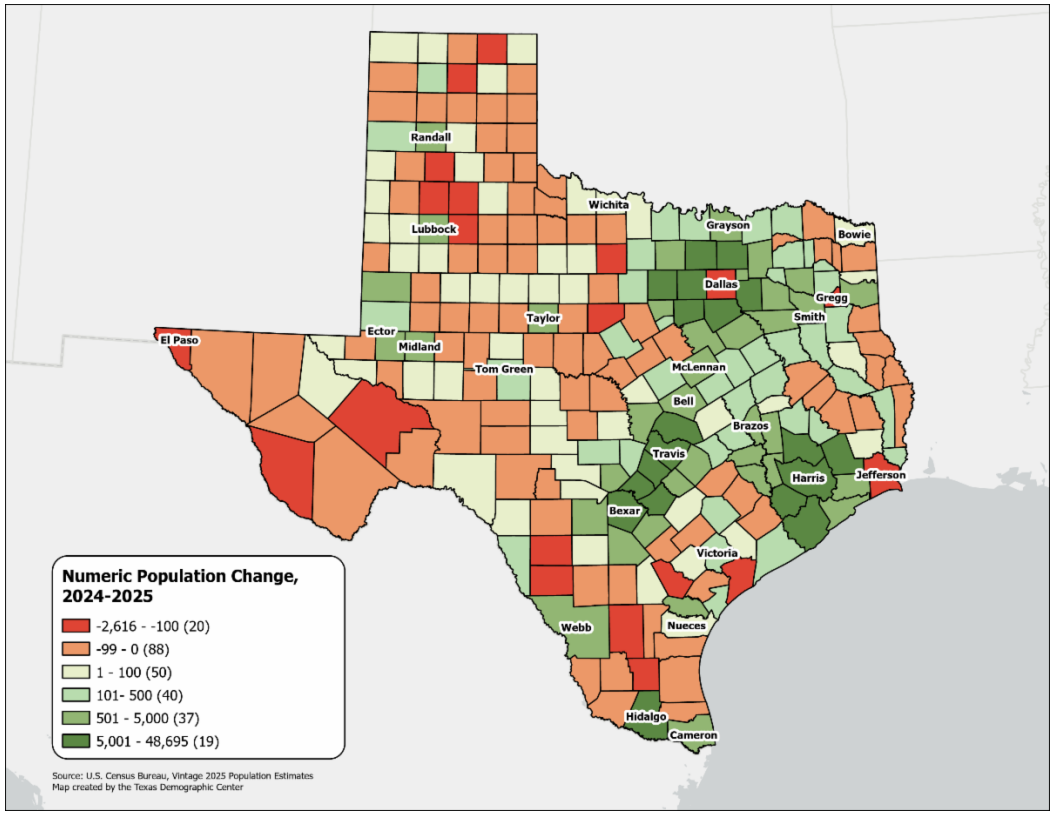

Texas Water Development Board
Mapping and modeling
Current amount of water
Science:
Collecting data
Texas population
Location of water supplies
Quality of water
Financing:
Implementing water, flood, and wastewater projects
Facilitate communities' abilities to create and conserve water supplies
Reduce or prevent loss of life and property from flooding
Collaboration with local communities
Communities at risk from drought or flood
Planning:
Assessing the state's future needs
Strategy costs
Potential water supply shortages
Population forecast
Provide data and maps for public health and safety
Educate and enable decision makers and the public
GOAL:
A secure water future for Texas
www.twdb.texas.gov

State Water Plan & State Flood Plan

Serving a Growing Population

- Texas' population is anticipated to increase 53% between 2030 and 2080—from 34.2 million to 52.3 million—with more than 80% of this growth occurring within the DFW-Houston-Austin/San Antonio triangle

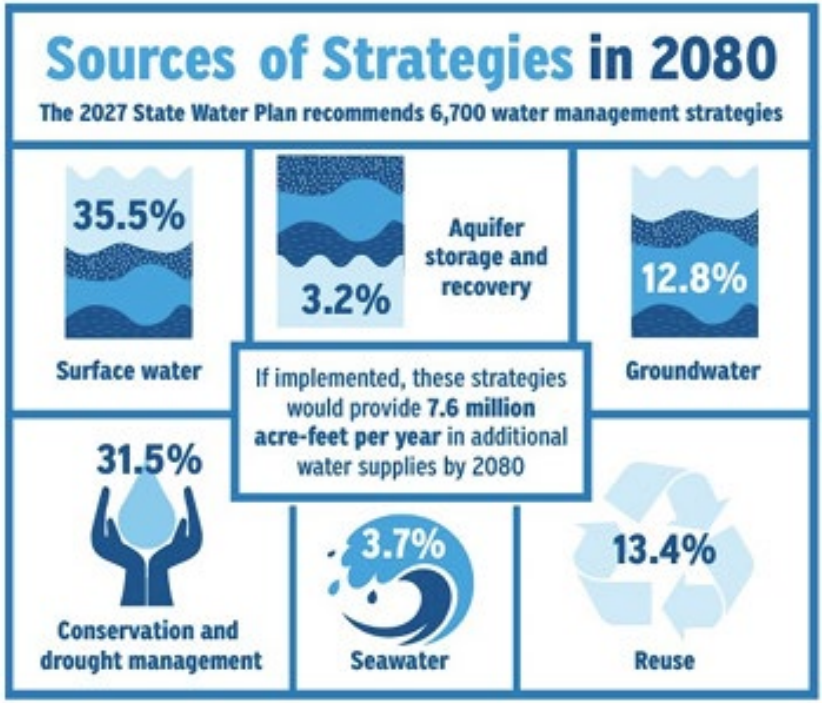
Numeric Population Change in Texas Counties, 2024 - 2025



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2025 Population Estimates.

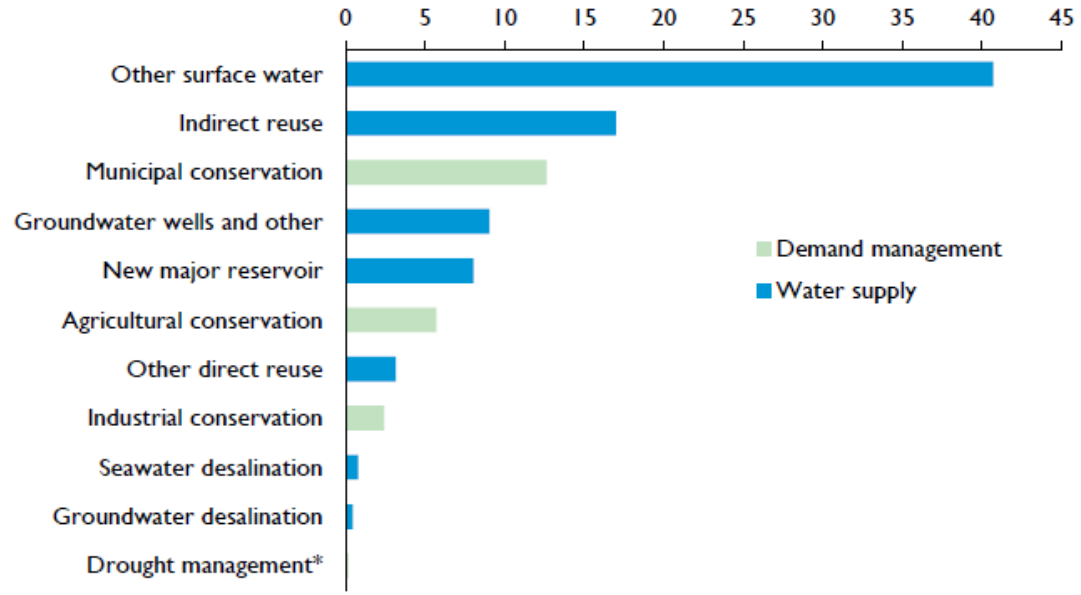
State Water Plan Strategies

- Total water demands for all use categories, including municipal, are **projected to increase less significantly than population growth**—by approx. 6% between 2030 and 2080. This is influenced by declining irrigation demand projections over the planning horizon.
- The estimated capital cost to design, construct, and implement the more than 3,000 recommended projects by 2080 is **$174 billion**, more than double the cost of the 2022 State Water Plan.



Region H

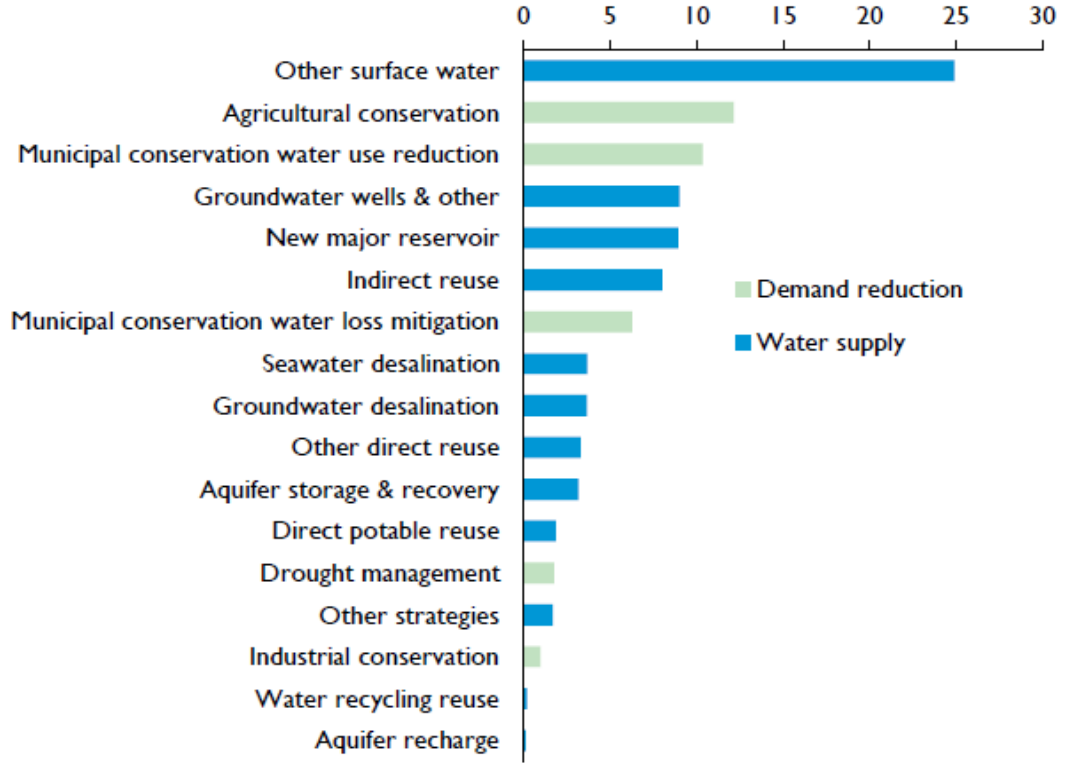
Figure 1 - Share of recommended water management strategies by strategy type in 2080 (percent)



* *Strategy share at a scale not represented in the figure*

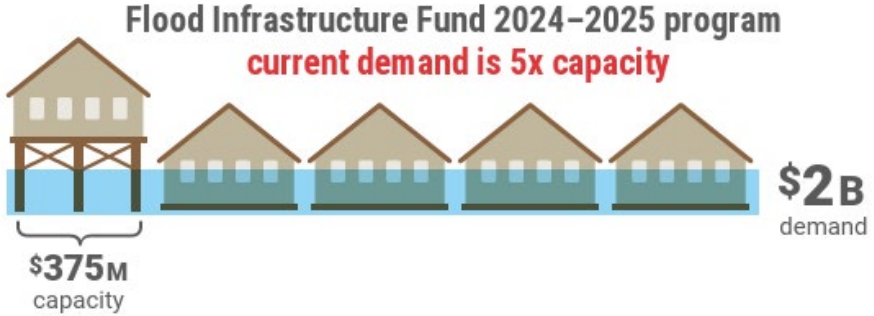
Statewide

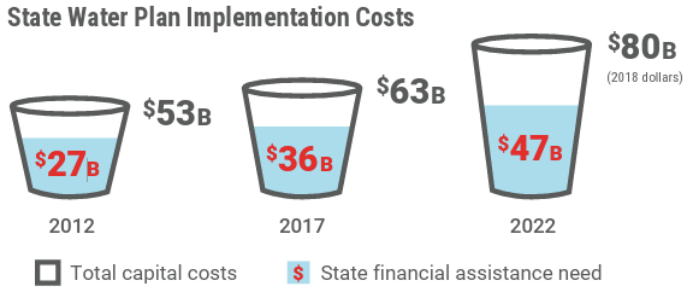
Figure ES-8. Share of recommended water management strategies by strategy type in 2080 (percent)



Financial Assistance Programs

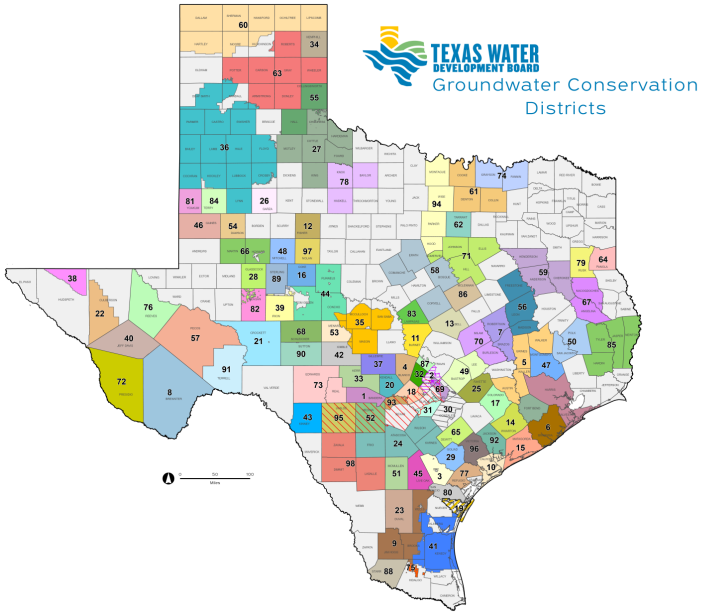
- The TWDB is home to financial assistance programs for water-related projects, including:
  - State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT)
  - Clean Water & Drinking Water State Revolving Funds
  - Flood Infrastructure Fund
  - Rural Water Assistance Fund
  - Agricultural Water Conservation Grants
  - And more
- Technical Assistance
  - Asset Management Plan for Small Systems
  - CFO-to-Go
  - Water Utilities Technical Assistance Program





Water Management and Regulation

- Layers of Federal, State, and Local management and regulation
  - Federal: water quality, wetlands, endangered species
  - State: TCEQ (environmental, surface water rights), PUC (rates, CCNs), RRC (related to O&G), TDLR (construction of wells, licensing of drillers)
  - Local/GCD's: groundwater withdrawals, construction/spacing of wells
- Groundwater as a property right
- Rule of Capture
- Groundwater Conservation Districts
- Groundwater Management Areas



89th Session Recap

The most bills and joint resolutions ever filed: 9,014

- **Governor's Emergency Item**
  - "A Texas-sized investment in water"
- **Senate Bill 7 by Perry**
  - Expands financing eligibility for major water supply infrastructure
  - Directs TWDB to facilitate planning, and encourage regional scaling of projects and interconnectivity through conveyance coordination
- **House Joint Resolution 7 by Harris (Proposition 4)**
  - Constitutional amendment for a dedicated revenue stream for water infrastructure
- **Senate Bill 1/House Bill 500**
  - Water Supply & Infrastructure Grants
  - General Revenue Grants
- **Senate Bill 3 (89th Second Called Session)**
  - Provides for outdoor warning sirens in flash flood prone areas within a 30-county region covered by the disaster declaration from July 2025 floods
- **Groundwater Conservation District Grants**
  - Funds groundwater research, science, and data collection that benefit local groundwater management and planning

Prop 4 – What does it mean for Texas?

- Constitutional amendment provides that up to $1 billion annually from state sales and use tax revenue, after the first $46.5 billion collected, is deposited to the Texas Water Fund for water supply, wastewater, and flood projects
- Approved by **70.42%** of voters in November 2025 ☑
- First-of-its-kind dedicated revenue stream for water infrastructure
- This provision goes into effect September 1, 2027, and expires August 31, 2047

Legislative Interim Charge Highlights

- **Senate Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs Committee**
  - Prioritizing Utility Revenue for Infrastructure Maintenance
  - Evaluating Desalination Viability
  - Assessing Water Demands of Energy-Intensive Technologies

- **House Natural Resources Committee**
  - Groundwater Management
  - Innovative Water Supply Strategies
  - Brackish Groundwater Production
  - Program Capacity
  - Data Center Water Use and Conservation
  - Regional Water Planning Process
  - Rio Grande Compact

Web Resources

Texas Water Development Home Page
www.twdb.texas.gov

Join Email List
https://www.twdb.texas.gov/newsmedia/signup.asp

Statewide Water Awareness Campaign
www.thisistexaswater.org

Stay connected

Questions?

Director Ashley Morgan
Texas Water Development Board