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Texas Water Development Board's Drought Resources

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) provides financial and technical assistance to ensure water security for Texans today and in the future. The TWDB also shares educational information with Texans to conserve and responsibly develop water. During times of drought, the TWDB works in a variety of ways to assist Texans with their drought-related needs. The following are some of the ways the TWDB assists with drought response and preparedness.

Financial Assistance for Water Supply Projects

The TWDB offers a variety of cost-effective financing programs that provide for the planning, acquisition, design, and construction of drinking water, water supply, and conservation projects. The TWDB works to address the financial need of entities that are experiencing critical water supply shortages. Limited Urgent Need funding is available through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund when appropriate. Additional information on specific programs can be found at www.twdb.texas.gov/financial.

Drought Preparedness Council

To emphasize the need for Texas to have a proactive approach to drought planning, the state formed the Drought Preparedness Council (Council). As a member agency, the TWDB supports drought management efforts, emphasizing drought monitoring, assessment, preparedness, mitigation, planning, and financial assistance. Among other activities, the Council develops situation reports to inform various stakeholders, including leadership at the Texas Division of Emergency Management, about statewide drought, water supply, and forecast climate conditions. Furthermore, the Council recommends counties for inclusion in drought disaster proclamations issued by the Governor.

Emergency Drinking Water Task Force

In addition, the TWDB is a member of the Emergency Drinking Water Task Force, which is activated through the Drought Preparedness Council during times of severe drought. The Emergency Drinking Water Task Force manages the 180-Day High Priority Water System List, which is a listing of all public water suppliers that have self-reported less than 180 days of water supply remaining. The Emergency Drinking Water Task Force focuses on developing and expediting procedures that enable these entities to provide adequate potable water for drinking and sanitation to ensure public health and safety.

Drought Conditions

To provide updated drought and water conditions information, the TWDB retrieves reservoir, groundwater, and drought index data from a variety of partners. The TWDB shares these data via the [Drought Dashboard](http://DroughtDashboard) and other components of the WaterDataforTexas.org website, which shows reservoir conditions and groundwater well levels across the state as well as information and resources on drought monitoring, forecasting, and impacts. Additionally, the TWDB publishes and disseminates the monthly Texas Water Conditions Report that summarizes water conditions throughout Texas. The TWDB also maintains the TexMesonet program, which is a network of hydrometeorological stations owned by the TWDB combined with meteorological data from cooperative networks across the state. This network of networks approach enables the TexMesonet program to present a dynamic view of current weather conditions at a high spatial resolution that is beneficial for drought monitoring, wildfire management, and energy utility forecasts.