

Water for Texas

The Texas Water Development Board

Mission Statement

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

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is the state’s water planning and water project financing agency. The TWDB’s main responsibilities are three-fold: collecting and disseminating water-related data; assisting with regional water planning and preparing the state water plan for the development of the state’s water resources; and administering cost-effective financial programs for constructing water supply, wastewater treatment, flood control, and agricultural water conservation projects.

Since 1957, the TWDB has been charged with addressing the state’s water needs. The TWDB has both leadership and support roles in ensuring that sufficient, clean, and affordable water supplies are available to the citizens of Texas and that those water supplies foster a healthy economy and environment.

The TWDB

- ▶ Supports the development of regional water plans and incorporates them into a state water plan for the orderly and responsible development, management, and conservation of the state’s water resources.
- ▶ Provides loans to local governments for water supply projects; water quality projects including wastewater treatment, municipal solid waste management, and nonpoint source pollution control; flood control projects; agricultural water conservation projects; rural and small community water and wastewater projects; and expenses related to creating groundwater conservation districts.
- ▶ Provides grants and loans for the water and wastewater needs of the state’s economically distressed areas.

- ▶ Provides agricultural water conservation and water-related research and planning grants.
- ▶ Conducts studies of the occurrence, quantity, quality, and availability of the state’s surface water and groundwater, including development of groundwater availability models for the state’s major and minor aquifers.
- ▶ Collects data and conducts studies concerning the freshwater needs of the state’s bays and estuaries. In conjunction with other natural resources agencies, the TWDB maintains an instream flow data collection and evaluation program. The purpose of this program is to conduct studies of the state’s rivers and streams to determine necessary flow conditions for supporting a sound ecological environment.
- ▶ Facilitates the state’s efforts to determine the feasibility and identify the requirements for implementing large-scale seawater desalination projects. The TWDB supports the implementation of these projects, as appropriate, and also supports ongoing desalination research and technological information sharing to enhance brackish groundwater and seawater desalination activities throughout the state.
- ▶ Maintains a centralized data repository of information on the state’s natural resources called the Texas Natural Resources Information System (TNRIS) and manages the Strategic Mapping (StratMap) Initiative. StratMap is a Texas-based, public and private sector cost-sharing program to develop consistent, large-scale digital base maps describing surface water, elevation, transportation, aerial photography, and other information.

The governor appoints the TWDB's three-member governing Board. The Board meets regularly and conducts business that includes considering loan applications from eligible applicants, awarding grants for water-related projects, approving regional water plans, and adopting the state water plan.

For more information about the TWDB's financing programs, the state water plan, or the TWDB's extensive collection of water data, contact the TWDB at (512) 463-7847 or visit the Web site at <http://www.twdb.texas.gov>.

