



Texas Water Development Board's Drought Resources

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) provides assistance and education for the management of water resources to ensure that Texans have the information they need 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

The TWDB offers a variety of cost-effective financing programs that provide for the planning, acquisition, design, and construction of drinking water and water supply projects. The TWDB works to expedite financial assistance for entities that are experiencing critical water supply shortages. Additional information on specific programs can be found at www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/index.asp.

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, and assistance. The Council develops situation reports to inform leadership at the Texas Division of Emergency Management about statewide drought conditions. These reports also inform various economic sectors of the state that depend on water supplies about the current impacts of drought. For more information about the Council, visit www.dps.texas.gov/dem/CouncilsCommittees/droughtCouncil/stateDroughtPrepCouncil.htm.

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 water supply entities 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 publishes and disseminates the monthly Texas Water Conditions Report that summarizes them. Additionally, the TWDB maintains the WaterDataforTexas.org website, which shows reservoir conditions across the state as well as groundwater well levels and includes extensive drought monitoring, forecasting, impacts, and response information and resources. The TWDB also maintains the Texas Mesonet (Texmesonet.org), which is a network of meteorological stations owned by the TWDB and a network of networks that collates a suite of meteorological data from cooperative networks across the state. This network of networks enables TexMesonet 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.