



# Chapter 13

## Planning Group Policy Recommendations





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*Although the state's 16 planning groups made over 300 policy recommendations on a variety of topics, a number of common concerns emerged from the planning process. Eight recommendations, in particular, surfaced from geographically and economically diverse regions of the state.*

### **Regional Planning Funding— Ten Regions**

**B, E, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O**

Echoing recommendations in the 2002 State Water Plan, the planning groups again voiced their support for the regional planning process. They requested adequate, ongoing funding to continue the process, as well as additional funding to cover administrative costs. They also recommended that voluntary members of the planning groups be reimbursed for reasonable expenses to eliminate inequities between the volunteers and those who participate in the planning groups as part of their jobs.

### **Groundwater Conservation Districts—Ten Regions**

**A, F, G, H, I, J, K, M, O, P**

In recent years the legislature has expanded the role of groundwater conservation districts, and many of the planning groups expressed their support for the districts' authority to manage the state's groundwater resources. The planning groups recommended adding new districts, strengthening conservation districts' authority, providing them with more training, and encouraging the districts to collaborate with one another.

### **Brush Control—Nine Regions**

**A, B, E, F, J, K, L, M, O**

Much of the western half of the state identified brush control as an important policy for improving water yield and quality. Because saltcedar poses a special problem, the planning groups requested funds for programs to eradicate it and other nuisance vegetation. They also suggested the legislature consider cost-sharing programs with landowners, financing new technical resources, and funding research to define watersheds that are the best candidates for brush management.

### **Water Reuse—Eight Regions**

**A, C, F, G, H, K, L, N**

The planning groups identified water reuse as an important water management strategy for this state water plan. Eight planning groups advocated establishing policies and funds to encourage its practice throughout the state. As part of their recommendation, the planning groups also cited the need for safety and environmental guidelines and a more clearly defined permitting process.

### **Groundwater Availability Modeling—Eight Regions**

**A, D, E, H, J, K, M, N**

Because the groundwater availability models authorized by the legislature in 1999 and 2001 are important tools for determining the amount of water available in the state, the regions requested ongoing funding for these computer models. They also requested funds to complete groundwater availability modeling on all minor aquifers and to integrate new technology into existing models as it becomes available.



## Conservation Education— Seven Regions

*D, F, G, J, K, L, O*

Recognizing that public information programs can result in water savings, the planning groups encouraged the legislature to fund and implement conservation education programs. The planning groups specifically mentioned the Water IQ program as one prototype to consider. This suggestion underscores the Water Conservation Implementation Task Force’s recommendation to consider public information as a best management practice.

## Groundwater Studies— Seven Regions

*E, F, J, L, N, O, P*

In addition to groundwater availability modeling, TWDB also conducts several programs that monitor both groundwater levels and groundwater quality. The planning groups recommended expanded, ongoing funding for these programs to ensure that critical water data remains available for water planning.

## Alternative Water Management Strategies— Seven Regions

*A, C, D, F, H, I, O*

Several regions requested more flexibility in developing water management strategies, specifically requesting that they be allowed to develop alternative strategies. Because Senate Bill 1, 75th Legislative Session, required regions to develop specific water management strategies for a drought of record, the planning groups believe this requirement limits their ability to meet the distinct needs of their regions.



## Agriculture

*Nine regions: A, B, E, H, J, K, L, O, P*

### Water Data

*Six regions: A, B, E, J, L, O*

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Improve accuracy of water use and demand information for irrigation and livestock | L, O |
| Develop irrigation demand numbers on a regional basis                             | A    |
| Provide funding for agricultural water use data collection                        | B    |
| Improve accuracy of TWDB historical irrigation pumpage reports                    | E    |
| Develop more accurate means of estimating actual irrigation use                   | J    |

### Conservation

*Four regions: A, H, L, P*

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Increase funding for TWDB agricultural water conservation programs  | H, L |
| Create a water conservation reserve program to convert irrigated acreage to dry land                                  | A    |
| Provide funding to expand the High Plains Potential Evapotranspiration network into a statewide network               | A    |
| Fund grants or subsidies to stimulate irrigation conservation practices   | H    |
| Leverage federal agricultural conservation grants by providing local matching share                                   | P    |
| Continue supporting state and federal programs that improve irrigation efficiency and agricultural water conservation | P    |

### Other

*Three regions: K, L, P*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Develop water polices that enable agriculture and rural Texas to achieve parity with other users | K |
| Provide additional funding to the Irrigation Technology Center at Texas A&M University           | L |
| Protect groundwater sources for agricultural production  | P |

## Conjunctive Use

*Four regions: F, G, L, N*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Expand definition of conjunctive use                                  | F |
| Encourage conceptual modeling for conjunctive use projects            | G |
| Include conjunctive use projects as management strategies             | G |
| Develop incentives for conjunctive use projects                       | L |
| Develop policy to manage all water resources on conjunctive use basis | N |

## Conservation

*Thirteen regions:  
A, B, C, D, F, G, H, J, K, L, N, O, P*

**Reuse** *Eight regions: A, C, F, G, H, K, L, N*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Encourage Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to evaluate rules governing reuse of wastewater and quantify incentives for its use                           | A |
| Recommend reducing legal obstacles to indirect reuse of treated wastewater  | C |
| Recommend Texas Commission on Environmental Quality clearly define permitting process for large-scale reuse projects  | C |
| Encourage legislation for safe and economical water reuse   | F |
| Work with federal agencies/representatives to develop safe procedures for disposing of reject water   | F |
| Encourage municipalities to manage return flows through direct and indirect reuse   | G |
| Encourage river authorities to manage return flows not under others' jurisdictions  | G |
| Resolve permitting issues for indirect reuse  | H |
| Advocate statewide reuse  | H |
| Encourage Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to continue thorough review of indirect reuse applications, including environmental and water rights concerns | K |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Request policy direction for environmental flows and reuse permitting process                 | L |
| Fund reuse technologies   | L |
| Promote water reuse and return flows wherever practical, after evaluating environmental needs | N |

**Conservation Funding** *Five regions:  
F, H, K, O, P*

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Support funding of the Natural Resources Conservation Service   | K, P |
| Fund grants or low-interest loans as incentives to use conservation technologies                                  | F    |
| Leverage federal conservation grants by providing matching funds  | H    |
| Collaborate with the Natural Resources Conservation Service state conservationist in identifying projects to fund | K    |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Support adequate funding of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and its water conservation efforts   | K |
| Fund conservation incentives for all user groups  | O |
| Support adequate funding of State Soil and Water Conservation Board and local soil and conservation districts | P |

**Water Conservation Implementation Task Force** *Four regions:  
C, F, H, L*

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Follow the Water Conservation Implementation Task Force recommendation to institute voluntary, rather than mandatory, per capita water use goals | C, F |
| Fund and implement programs recommended by the Water Conservation Implementation Task Force  | H, L |

**Voluntary Conservation** *Three regions:  
B, F, O*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Allow regions to establish voluntary water conservation goals                   | B |
| Encourage conservation through technical assistance rather than mandatory goals | F |
| Support landowner's voluntary protection of springs and seeps                   | O |

**Water Providers** *Two regions: D, G*

- Train water utilities to reduce water losses and improve their accountability D
- Encourage retail water providers to use inclining block rate structure G

**Conservation Management** *Two regions: J, N*

- Develop conservation-oriented management plans for areas particularly susceptible to drought J
- Encourage legislation to support conservation strategies that manage water supplies more efficiently N

**Resources** *One region: O*

- Establish a water conservation advisory council at TWDB O
- Create a water conservation resource library at TWDB O

**Other** *Five regions: A, F, J, K, O*

- Evaluate policy barriers to using playa lakes for conservation purposes A
- Support water conservation pricing when setting rates F
- Require conservation on all state-owned lands J
- Encourage conservation partnerships between water groups K
- Develop a tiered recognition program for conservation achievements O
- Control aquatic vegetation as water conservation practice O



**Data Collection and Research**

*Fourteen regions:  
A, B, D, E, F, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P*

**Groundwater and Surface Water Availability Modeling** *Nine regions:  
A, D, E, F, H, J, K, M, N*

- Continue funding groundwater availability models D, E, H, J, K, M, N
- Fund feasibility study linking groundwater and surface water in next generation of groundwater and water availability models J, K
- Conduct water availability modeling for minor Panhandle aquifers A
- Recommend agencies coordinate with one another and planning groups in developing water availability and groundwater availability models A
- Complete the groundwater availability modeling program D
- Develop new modeling tools for more accurate assessments of groundwater availability D
- Fund improvements to groundwater modeling and research in West Texas E
- Allow more flexibility in the use of water availability models in the planning process F
- Revise Hill Country Trinity Aquifer groundwater availability model J
- Encourage public and private sector technical review of groundwater and water availability models K
- Update the Central Gulf Coast Aquifer groundwater availability model N
- Fund updates of water availability models, specifically the Nueces River Basin N

**Groundwater Studies** *Seven regions:  
E, F, J, L, N, O, P*

- Expand groundwater availability studies of Diablo Plateau beyond Dell City E
- Study and quantify available water and recharge potential of Edwards-Trinity (Plateau), Capitan Reef, Marathon, and Rustler aquifers E

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| Finish study of Presidio Bolson Aquifer   | E | Increase funding for research to determine freshwater inflow needs  | H |
| Study and characterize limestone formation in southern Brewster County  | E | Complete the Texas Instream Flow Program  | L |
| Collect groundwater data to carry out Senate Bill 1   | F | Fund and improve freshwater inflow studies for bays and estuaries   | L |
| Continue funding monitoring studies   | J | Examine applicability of report by Study Commission on Water for Environmental Flows                                | L |
| Study and characterize the Edwards-Trinity (Plateau) Aquifer and associated aquifers  | J | <b>Aquifer Recharge</b> <i>Three regions: B, L, O</i>   |   |
| Provide groundwater conservation districts with technical assistance in gathering aquifer data  | J | Study the applicability of aquifer recharge programs and their impact to surface water rights                       | B |
| Study the Frio River alluvium   | J | Study quantity of increased groundwater from enhanced recharge structures   | B |
| Encourage legislation requiring economic and environmental studies for any groundwater project  | L | Fund research on Edwards (Balcones Fault Zone) Aquifer recharge and recirculation systems water management strategy | L |
| Encourage Railroad Commission to provide better information for identifying aquifer characteristics   | N | Identify and quantify recharge mechanisms for Ogallala Aquifer  | O |
| Provide additional funds to expand groundwater data program   | N | Study and describe impact of playas on recharge   | O |
| Encourage TWDB, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and Railroad Commission to expand and intensify groundwater data gathering and disseminating | N | <b>Agriculture/Rural</b> <i>Three regions: H, J, L</i>  |   |
| Fund computer models that quantify groundwater resources in each aquifer and project future availability based on historical net changes                | O | Fund research on more efficient irrigation practices  | H |
| Continue monitoring static water levels and groundwater pumpage   | P | Increase funding to research drought-resistant crop species   | H |
|   |   | Study impact of transient populations on rural water demand   | J |
|   |   | Undertake economic studies of water management strategies that meet irrigation needs                                | L |
| <b>Environmental Studies</b> <i>Five regions: D, E, F, H, L</i>   |   |   |   |
| Study mitigation effects as early as possible in reservoir planning   | D |   |   |
| Study contamination of the Rio Grande alluvium  | E |   |   |
| Fund studies to identify and quantify environmental values to be protected and stream flows necessary to maintain priority environmental values         | F |   |   |
| Involve local groups in studies that evaluate streamflow issues   | F |   |   |



**Conservation** *Two regions: F, H*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Continue participating in conservation research and demonstration projects | F |
| Fund research for advanced conservation technologies                       | H |

**Brush Control** *Two regions: J, K*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Fund multidisciplinary research for defining watersheds with greatest potential for increasing water yields through brush management; quantify costs | J |
| Fund voluntary brush control studies   | K |

**Rivers** *One region: E*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Study Pecos River between Girvin and Langtry to quantify and identify source of channel gains | E |
| Study effects of possible rechannelization of Rio Grande below Fort Quitman                   | E |

**General Data Collection** *Eleven regions: A, B, E, F, I, J, K, L, M, N, O*

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Fund all levels of data collection and analysis  | K, L, O |
| Improve monitoring and quantifying of small communities, manufacturers, livestock operators, and County-other categories | A       |
| Analyze economic effects of implementing water management strategies   | A       |
| Base calculation of gallons per capita per day on residential water use only   | B       |
| Remove provisions from Open Records Act restricting access to water data on private property                             | E       |
| Recommend TWDB meet with regions and consultants to discuss data collection and quality control                          | F       |
| Fund study on oral ingestion of radium before enforcing maximum containment load   | F       |
| Fund improved data for next planning cycle   | I       |
| Conduct studies on specific water resource issues  | J       |
| Develop better methodologies for estimating population and water demand  | J       |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Fund roles of TWDB and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in providing data for regional planning | L |
| Review Texas Water Code Section 36.122 and provide sufficient revenue for technical studies              | L |
| Evaluate the effect of groundwater withdrawals on surface water availability                             | M |
| Fund and establish regional research centers at local universities to focus on Coastal Bend water issues | N |
| Provide funds to establish and maintain a regional water resources information management system         | N |
| Fund a basic data network that maintains current inventory of surface water and groundwater resources    | O |
| Develop standardized, comprehensive methodologies for characterizing and computing per capita water use  | O |

**Education**

*Eight regions: D, F, G, J, K, L, N, O*

**Conservation Education** *Seven regions: D, F, G, J, K, L, O*

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Fund and implement conservation education programs for the public   | D, F, J, K |
| Create and fund a water conservation awareness program through TWDB | G, O       |
| Fund the Water IQ public education program                          | K, L       |

**General Education** *Four regions: J, K, L, O*

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Fund education programs for public sector  | O, J |
| Fund education programs for private sector                                       | J    |
| Address sustainability through education   | K    |
| Fund statewide education program and coordinate with Texas Cooperative Extension | L    |

**Regional Groups** *One region: N*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Make funds available to planning groups and groundwater conservation districts to educate public on water issues | N |
|--|---|

## Environment

*Twelve regions:  
A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, K, L, O, P*

### Unique Stream Segments *Five regions: A, B, C, H, L*

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Clarify intent and uncertainties of unique stream segment designation     | A, B, C, L |
| Examine ancillary issues regarding unique stream segments                 | C          |
| Support legislative action on region's recommended unique stream segments | H          |

### Instream Flows *Four regions: E, F, G, K,*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Codify instream flow requirements to better manage environmental flows | E |
| Protect existing water rights when considering instream flows          | F |
| Oppose adaptive management requirements concerning instream flows      | F |
| Evaluate return flows to determine impact on instream flows            | G |
| Provide direction to protect instream/freshwater inflows               | K |

### Reservoirs *Three regions: D, H, P*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Consider environmental and economic impacts of reservoir development      | D |
| Support legislative action on region's recommended reservoir sites        | H |
| Support efforts to mitigate environmental impacts of Lake Texana Stage II | P |

### Bays and Estuaries *One region: H*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Adopt recommended stakeholder process for determining bay and basin environmental flow requirements | H |
|---|---|



Include region and Galveston Bay Freshwater Inflows Group in stakeholder group H

Increase funds for the bays and estuaries programs at state agencies H

### Other *Seven regions: D, E, G, H, K, L, O*

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Encourage responsible land management practices to protect water sources  | G, L |
| Transfer responsibility of mitigation lands from federal to state level   | D    |
| Establish policy to protect aquifers and springs to preserve "the rural way of life"                                  | E    |
| Clarify agency rules on quantitative environmental analysis   | H    |
| Support planning process structure that evaluates environmental needs to determine available water supply             | K    |
| Support environmental flow policy that encompasses flexibility, sound ecology, and sufficient supply                  | L    |
| Evaluate land use and ecosystem health in light of sustaining future quality of life                                  | L    |
| Encourage collaboration of scientists, policy makers, and agricultural representatives in managing threatened species | O    |

## Groundwater

*Fifteen regions:  
A, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P*

### Groundwater Conservation Districts *Twelve regions: A, C, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, O, P*

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Manage groundwater resources through local groundwater conservation districts  | A, F, G, H, J, K, M, O, P |
| Create or expand groundwater conservation districts in areas not currently served                                    | A, F, I, J, M             |
| Encourage cooperation between groundwater conservation districts   | C, F                      |
| Recommend TWDB or Texas Commission on Environmental Quality oversee groundwater districts to standardize regulations | C, F                      |

|  |            |  |      |
|--|------------|--|------|
| Support groundwater conservation districts as local authority on groundwater issues  | G, K       | Notify planning groups when significant amounts of groundwater are being exported                                      | F    |
| Respect property rights and right to capture when adopting rules and regulations   | F          | Assess groundwater availability for regional plans based on groundwater conservation district's goals and requirements | F    |
| Base groundwater supply availability on management goals and rules   | F          | Recommend planning groups J, K, and L collaborate on Trinity Aquifer evaluation  | J    |
| Restrict export from a district until there is a plan to ensure adequate supplies are available for the district or region   | F          | Recommend TWDB-sponsored workshops for regions sharing aquifers  | J    |
| Ensure all state lands are subject to groundwater district rules and limits  | F          | Encourage collaboration between regions sharing aquifers   | L    |
| Train groundwater conservation districts in use of groundwater availability modeling   | J          | Encourage regional approach to groundwater management  | N    |
| Form groundwater conservation districts to administer sound, scientifically based groundwater management objectives  | J          | Recommend Regions O and A jointly develop groundwater supply water management strategy                                 | O    |
| Advocate that groundwater conservation districts consider developing management rules for Edwards (Balcones Fault Zone) Aquifer to sustain spring flows of upper Guadalupe River | J          | <b>Rule of Capture</b> <i>Four regions: F, H, O, P</i>   |      |
| Strengthen groundwater conservation districts' abilities to protect groundwater supplies   | K          | Support rule of capture  | F, P |
| Encourage TWDB to continue assisting groundwater districts   | K          | Maintain rule of capture in areas not subject to defined subsidence or groundwater conservation districts              | H    |
| Review Texas Water Code to ensure groundwater conservation districts are funded and equipped for comprehensive analysis tasks  | L          | Support rule of capture as modified by rules and regulations of existing groundwater conservation districts            | O    |
| Create and operate groundwater conservation districts under Texas Water Code, Chapter 36   | O          | <b>Oil and Gas</b> <i>Three regions: D, F, M</i>   |      |
| <b>Regional Collaboration</b> <i>Eight regions: E, F, G, J, K, L, N, O</i>   |            | Recommend Railroad Commission review and enforce regulations protecting aquifers from oil well contamination           | D, F |
| Encourage groundwater conservation districts to collaborate in planning process  | E, F, G, K | Levy fines for oil and gas producers who violate rules governing aquifer contamination                                 | F    |
| Recommend groundwater management councils coordinate efforts with planning groups  | E          | Support the industry-funded program to plug abandoned wells  | F    |
| Require state lands to abide by groundwater district regulations and submit water withdrawal plans to relevant planning group  | F          |                                    |      |

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Encourage adequate funding for the Railroad Commission to protect water supplies                                   | F                             |
| Encourage restoring funding to well-plugging account   | F                             |
| Appropriate sufficient funds to Railroad Commission for capping abandoned wells                                    | M                             |
| <b>Sustainability</b>  | <i>Three regions: G, L, P</i> |
| Advocate sustainable use of groundwater  | G                             |
| Suggest the state continue developing policy that protects historical use and future sustainability                | G                             |
| Support management strategies that achieve groundwater sustainability  | L                             |
| Support sustainable yield of the Gulf Coast Aquifer as the limit for water development                             | P                             |
| Recommend sustainable yield as upper limit for all groundwater conservation districts in region                    | P                             |
| <b>State Agencies</b>  | <i>Two regions: K, N</i>      |
| Encourage funding of TWDB groundwater programs   | K                             |
| Expand efforts of TWDB, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and Railroad Commission in managing groundwater | N                             |
| <b>Other</b>   | <i>Three regions: F, J, L</i> |
| Encourage groundwater legislation that is fair to all users  | F                             |
| Oppose historical use limits in granting water rights permits  | F                             |
| Oppose groundwater fees for wells used exclusively for dewatering  | F                             |
| Encourage state to review groundwater resources on state-owned land and determine appropriate management           | F                             |
| Standardize groundwater evaluations statewide  | J                             |
| Advocate groundwater management based on science, equity, and rationality  | L                             |
| Determine water management strategies for Edwards (Balcones Fault Zone) Aquifer during drought of record           | L                             |

## Innovative Strategies

*Eleven regions:  
A, B, C, E, F, J, K, L, M, N, O*

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Brush Control</b>  | <i>Nine regions: A, B, E, F, J, K, L, M, O</i> |
| Encourage funding for saltcedar eradication and long-term brush management strategies in Rio Grande watershed   | E, J, M  |
| Fund programs to eradicate saltcedar  | J, O   |
| Request TWDB guidance on including brush control projects as source of new surface water  | A  |
| Provide funding to implement brush control and land stewardship   | B  |
| Support brush control as funding priority   | F  |
| Recommend completing final phase of North Concho River brush control program  | F  |
| Continue funding Twin Buttes brush control project until completed  | F  |
| Fund brush control for region's reservoirs  | F  |
| Give priority funding to land conservation and management practices, including brush and burn management and follow-up grazing  | F  |
| Continue cooperating with federal agencies to secure brush control funds  | F  |
| Fund programs to eradicate nuisance vegetation  | J  |
| Fund a long-term, cost-sharing program for landowners participating in brush management similar to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Great Plains Conservation Program | J  |
| Provide pro rata funds to landowners for brush control assistance   | K  |
| Fund brush management technologies  | L  |
| Encourage funding for new technical resources to combat saltcedar and aquatic weeds   | M  |

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**Desalination** *Six regions: A, C, F, L, M, N*

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|--|------|
| Provide funds for desalination   | F, L |
| Recommend changing regulations governing desalination brine to coincide with those governing petroleum brine   | C, N |
| Continue funding salinity control projects in Canadian and Red River basins  | A    |
| Provide funding to small communities for desalination projects   | C    |
| Continue funding brackish groundwater projects and seawater desalination demonstration projects  | M    |
| Encourage Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, TWDB, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to investigate environmental impacts of seawater desalination discharge and allow it where no damage will occur | N    |

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**Weather Modification** *Two regions: F, L*

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|--|---|
| Support funding for researching, evaluating, creating, and operating weather modification programs | F |
| Fund weather modification technologies   | L |

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**Aquifer Recharge** *Two regions: J, L*

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|   |   |
|---|---|
| Fund recharge structures and provide technical assistance | J |
| Fund small aquifer recharge dams                          | L |

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**Playas** *One region: O*

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|   |   |
|---|---|
| Cooperate with landowners to rehabilitate playa basins by silt removal and habitat management | O |
| Create and preserve native grass buffers to protect playa basins                              | O |

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**Other** *Three regions: F, J, L*

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|   |      |
|---|------|
| Encourage and fund rainwater harvesting   | J, L |
| Support state/federal funding for demineralization, reclamation, and aquifer storage and recovery | F    |
| Increase funds for projects demonstrating alternative water supply strategies                     | L    |

**Interbasin Transfers***Eight regions: C, D, F, G, H, I, K, N*

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**Junior Rights** *Three regions: F, I, N*

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|   |   |
|---|---|
| Oppose modifying the junior rights provision until basin of origin needs are ensured by reviewing water availability models to determine there are no detrimental impacts | F |
| Support legislation to allow junior water rights exemptions from contracts reserving sufficient supply to meet 125 percent of demand in basin of origin                   | I |
| Repeal junior rights provision and additional application requirements for interbasin transfers   | N |

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**Basin of Origin** *Two regions: D, K*

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|  |   |
|--|---|
| Review the definition of “need” in basin of origin to ensure that needs are met before transfers are permitted | D |
| Evaluate compensation to basin of origin   | D |
| Protect basins of origin in interbasin transfers   | K |

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**Other** *Five regions: C, F, G, H, K*

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|  |   |
|--|---|
| Recommend that unnecessary, counterproductive barriers to interbasin transfers be removed from Texas Water Code                                | C |
| Support interbasin transfers as most efficient method for meeting state water needs  | F |
| Protect current water rights holders in interbasin transfers   | F |
| Recognize retail water pricing may include interbasin transfers when in best interests of taxpayers  | G |
| Remove barriers to interbasin transfers within region  | H |
| Verify that interbasin transfers are consistent with regional water plans  | K |
| Complete the Lower Colorado River Authority/San Antonio Water System study to verify that water transport meets regional water plan guidelines | K |

## Providing and Financing Water and Wastewater Systems

*Seven regions: A, F, H, K, L, M, O*

### State/Regional Plans *Four regions: H, L, M, O*

Fund water management strategies identified in regional water plans M, O

Establish financing mechanisms to develop new water supply projects in adopted regional plans H

Create statewide mechanism for funding state water plan projects L

Provide sufficient funding to TWDB and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for administering state water plan programs L

### Federal Monies *Two regions: H, L*

Investigate opportunities for increased Corps of Engineers funding H

Encourage more active state solicitation of federal monies L

### State Funding Programs *One region: H*

Increase funding of the State Loan Program for near-term infrastructure cost projections H

Continue state and federal support of Texas Community Development Program H

Increase funding of State Participation Program to develop water supply projects meeting long-term demands H

Increase funds for Small Towns Environment Program H



Increase funding of Regional Water Supply and Wastewater Facilities Planning Program; expand to include engineering design and cost estimates H

Increase future funding of State Revolving Fund to cover system capacity increases H

Make State Participation Program available to public/private partnerships and nonprofit water supply corporations H

### Other *Four regions: A, F, K, M*

Fund region-specific water supply strategies A

Develop or improve grant and loan programs to replace and repair aging infrastructure A

Provide grants to small and rural drinking water treatment systems to meet federal drinking water standards F

Provide funds for water treatment and radioactive waste disposal threatening rural water supplies K

Encourage regionalization of water and wastewater utility service M

## Regional Water Planning

*Sixteen regions: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P*

### Funding/Support *Eleven regions: B, E, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P*

Continue adequate funding of regional water planning process B, E, H, K, L, M, N, O

Provide additional state funding for regional planning administrative costs B, E, J, K, O

Reimburse planning group members for reasonable expenses E, J

Advocate that regions fund administrative costs of planning process I

Consider factors other than population in funding the planning process M

Request public entities provide their share of funding for regional planning activities N

Establish funding for planning groups through TWDB P

**State Agencies** *Six regions: C, F, G, J, K, M*

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Recommend that TWDB and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality collaborate on determining which water availability modeling data to use in regional planning | C, F |
| Recommend all state agencies adhere to state water plan   | G    |
| Recommend nonvoting state agencies attend regional planning meetings or relinquish authority to alter adopted plan  | J    |
| Encourage Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to provide technical reviews and draft permits to planning groups to ensure consistency with regional plans | K    |
| Suggest Texas Commission on Environmental Quality assist Rio Grande area in converting water rights from one use to another                                     | M    |

**Alternative Strategies** *Seven regions: A, C, D, F, H, I, O*

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Allow alternative water management strategies in regional plan  | C, D, F, H, I, O |
| Allow small systems to develop alternative near-term scenarios  | A                |
| Allow alternative scenarios in population growth and economic development in determining future water demands | D                |

**Consistency** *Seven regions: B, C, D, E, F, H, I*

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Allow maximum flexibility in determining consistency with regional plans  | C, F, I |
| Recommend Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and TWDB collaborate on consistency determinations and waivers to allow for maximum flexibility | F, I    |
| Recommend waivers for surface water projects that will not significantly impact regional supplies and do not involve new water sources              | B       |
| Recommend TWDB consider entire regional plan when determining consistency   | D       |
| Apply consistent economic principles to water project and strategy evaluation   | E       |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Recommend TWDB publish clear criteria for consistency determinations before adopting regional water plans | F |
| Recommend waivers for consistency issues for small projects   | F |
| Clarify rules to address consistency within regional plans  | H |
| Remove willing buyer/seller transactions from consistency requirements                                    | I |
| Advocate removing consistency requirements from Senate Bill 1   | I |

**Water Demand Figures** *Three regions: D, E, L*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Revise procedure for water demand reductions to recognize areas with low per capita consumption                    | D |
| Allow more time for final demand figures   | E |
| Recommend more real life analysis of demand figures during drought conditions                                      | E |
| Modify planning process so that water demand projections allow for regional input                                  | L |
| Modify regional planning process to allow for more flexibility in developing growth and water demand methodologies | L |

**Planning Group Authority** *Two regions: E, O*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Give planning groups authority to do their own contracting                  | E |
| Oppose legislature empowering planning groups with any regulatory authority | O |

**Training** *Two regions: E, J*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Recommend ongoing training for planning group members | E |
| Provide training for new planning group members       | J |

**Other** *Eight regions: A, C, E, F, H, K, L, M*

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Allow flexibility in applying water availability models for planning                         | C, F |
| Clarify relationship between drought contingency planning and regional water supply planning | A    |
| Ensure eligibility for small cities and entities included as County-other                    | A    |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Avoid constraining planning process with technical requirements                         | E |
| Set deadlines for regional plans that avoid legislative sessions                        | E |
| Consider all water resources available to a region including those outside of the state | E |
| Recommend rule simplification before next round of planning                             | F |
| Modify notification procedures for amendments to regional plans                         | H |
| Coordinate regional planning process with Texas Clean Rivers Program                    | K |
| Improve representation of women and minorities on planning groups                       | K |
| Include in plan water supplies over and above those required to meet the projected need | L |
| Establish contract requirements before grant proposals are submitted                    | L |
| Oppose changes to planning process except through formal rulemaking procedure           | L |
| Urge prompt and full implementation of these plans                                      | L |
| Amend planning process to treat each irrigation district as a water user group          | M |
| Include wildlife and environmental needs as a category of water use                     | M |

## Rural Water

*Three regions: G, H, L*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Encourage regionalization, education, and proactive planning of small water systems  | G |
| Support increased funding of federal Rural Utilities Service programs and funding of the state Rural Water Assistance Fund | H |
| Study implications of water export, considering its implications on rural environment and economy                          | L |



## Surface Water

*Ten regions:  
A, B, C, D, F, G, H, L, M, P*

| <u>Reservoirs</u>  | <i>Four regions: A, D, H, P</i> |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Recommend TWDB submit reservoir feasibility study plans and results to Compact Commissions                             | A                               |
| Change definition of water availability in reservoirs to match owner's operational criteria                            | A                               |
| Include possible reservoir sites and flood control/aquifer recharge structures in future water plans                   | A                               |
| Designate Toledo Bend Reservoir as a supply strategy for upper Sabine Basin in Region D and supply option for Region C | D                               |
| Consider potential economic and environmental impacts to reservoir development   | D                               |
| Establish flood damage liability limits for reservoirs   | H                               |
| Develop Lake Texana Stage II as supply strategy  | P                               |

| <u>Water Permits</u>  | <i>Two regions: F, L</i> |
|---|--------------------------|
| Notify all basin water rights holders when a request to amend a water right increases quantity or changes purpose or place of use | F                        |
| Fund Texas Commission on Environmental Quality adequately to ensure appropriate use of permitted surface water rights             | L                        |

| <u>Corps of Engineers</u>   | <i>Two regions: B, H</i> |
|---|--------------------------|
| Recommend Corps of Engineers transfer flood storage to conservation storage | B                        |
| Allow Corps of Engineers to increase water supply storage in new reservoirs | H                        |

| <u>Sediment Control</u>  | <i>Two regions: B, C</i> |
|--|--------------------------|
| Support efforts to rehabilitate existing sediment control structures and construct new ones  | B                        |
| Seek additional federal funding to improve and maintain Natural Resources Conservation Service sediment and flood control structures | C                        |

**Uncommitted Water** *Two regions: C, F*

- Recommend changing Texas Water Code to exempt from cancellation nonuse associated with developing and managing reservoirs C
- Oppose canceling uncommitted water contracts/rights F

**Watermaster Program** *One region: M*

- Authorize Watermaster Program to manage the Rio Grande water availability model M
- Direct all appropriate Rio Grande water rights fees to Watermaster operations M

**Other** *Five regions: B, F, G, K, M*

- Recommend all surface water uses, regardless of size, be consistent with regional plan B
- Review state surface water policy to ensure its appropriateness for next 50 years F
- Support long-term contracts for future projects and droughts F
- Support long-term contracts for reliable water supply planning and shorter-term “interruptible” contracts to meet needs before long-term water rights are fully used F
- Support coordinated operation of two or more water supply sources G
- Give priority to water policies that increase surface water availability K
- Encourage development of an operating plan for Mexican tributary reservoirs that ensures full compliance with 1944 Water Treaty while optimizing supply available to Mexico M

**Water Marketing**

*Six regions: A, C, F, L, O, P*

- Oppose additional regulations in willing buyer/willing seller water transactions C, F
- Assess potential of transporting water into Panhandle from outside regions A
- Assess potential for transferring groundwater to counties within region A
- Require all water export plans to be submitted to regional planning groups F

Recommend legislative review of Water Code to consider changes in light of increasing number of water export proposals F

Oppose export of surface water outside of region, except for existing contracts until a comprehensive plan is in place F

Allow property owners to capture and market water F

Fund development of a standard method for evaluating water export proposals L

Clarify that water planning regions are not intended to be barriers to water transport L

Oppose transport fees for groundwater transported within state O

Consider export fee to offset negative impacts of transferring water out of basin P

Allow water transfer out of basin that does not interfere with exempt, existing, or previously permitted wells P

**Water Quality**

*Seven regions: A, B, D, F, G, K, N*

**Standards** *Three regions: B, D, F*

Allow flexibility in drinking water standards for small systems, such as use of bottled water programs B, F

Maintain current arsenic standards until further research completed D

Fund assessment of public water systems that have difficulty complying with drinking water standards and identify alternate means for meeting standards D

Recommend TWDB and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality standardize rules for minimum water supply requirements D

Recommend that Texas Commission on Environmental Quality revise its policy requiring use of secondary water standards, particularly total dissolved solids, when granting permits F

**Water Planning** *Three regions: A, D, K*

Require Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to attend regional planning meetings and assist with water quality issues A

Recommend considering water quality in future estimates of groundwater availability D  
 Support integrating water quality into water supply planning K

**Radioactive Wastes** *Two regions: F, K*

Recommend Texas Commission on Environmental Quality develop disposal procedures for the safe handling of radioactive wastes in water treatment process F, K  
 Develop disposal procedures for radioactive wastes threatening water supplies K

**Mining** *One region: N*

Amend rules to require routine, nonpartisan water quality monitoring of mining operations N  
 Oppose in-situ mining (a process that circulates acidic water through injection and recovery wells to remove minerals) where drinking water will be contaminated N  
 Monitor water quality from mining activities N

**Other** *Three regions: B, D, G*

Recognize chloride control project as regional priority B  
 Recommend Texas Commission on Environmental Quality expedite effort to replace methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) in gasoline D  
 Encourage policies and business practices that give priority to water quality G

**Other**

*Five regions: A, J, L, M, N*

Establish guidelines differentiating between groundwater and surface rights A  
 Recommend basing drought management plans on peak use rather than annual production J  
 Give counties additional authority for regulating land development to protect water resources L  
 Renew efforts to ensure Mexico's compliance with 1944 Treaty to eliminate water delivery deficits M

Amend state laws governing procurement of professional services to allow more flexibility in public works projects N

**Specific Funding Requests**

*Fifteen regions: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, O, P*

**Agriculture** *Four regions: A, H, L, P*

Increase funding to agricultural water conservation programs H, L  
 Provide funding to expand the High Plains Potential Evapotranspiration Network into a statewide network A  
 Fund grants or subsidies to stimulate irrigation conservation practices H  
 Provide additional funding to the Irrigation Technology Center at Texas A&M University L  
 Leverage federal agricultural conservation grants by providing local matching share P

**Conservation** *Six regions: F, H, K, L, O, P*

Support funding of the Natural Resources Conservation Service K, P  
 Fund and implement programs recommended by the Water Conservation Implementation Task Force H, L  
 Fund grants or low-interest loans as incentives to use conservation technologies F  
 Leverage federal conservation grants by providing matching funds H  
 Support adequate funding of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and its water conservation efforts K  
 Fund reuse technologies L  
 Fund conservation incentives for all user groups O  
 Support adequate funding of State Soil and Water Conservation Board and local soil and conservation districts P

**Data Collection and Research** *Ten regions: D, E, F, H, J, K, L, M, N, O*

Continue funding groundwater availability models D, H, J, K, M, N

|  |         |  |   |
|--|---------|--|---|
| Fund all levels of data collection and analysis  | K, L, O | Fund updates of water availability models, specifically the Nueces River Basin   | N |
| Fund improvements to groundwater modeling and research in West Texas   | E       | Provide additional funds to expand groundwater data program  | N |
| Fund studies to identify and quantify environmental values to be protected and streamflows necessary to maintain priority environmental values       | F       | Fund and establish regional research centers at local universities to focus on Coastal Bend water issues                                 | N |
| Fund research on more efficient irrigation practices   | H       | Provide funds to establish and maintain a Regional Water Resources Information Management System   | N |
| Increase funding to research drought-resistant crop species  | H       | Fund a basic data network that maintains current inventory of surface water and groundwater resources                                    | O |
| Increase funding for research to determine freshwater inflow needs   | H       | Fund computer models that quantify groundwater resources in each aquifer and project future availability based on historical net changes | O |
| Fund research for advanced conservation technologies   | H       |  |   |
| Continue funding monitoring studies  | J       |  |   |
| Fund multidisciplinary research for defining watersheds with greatest potential for increasing water yields through brush management; quantify costs | J       |  |   |
| Fund feasibility study linking groundwater and surface water in water availability models  | K       |  |   |
| Fund voluntary brush control studies   | K       |  |   |
| Fund and improve bays and estuaries freshwater inflow studies  | L       |  |   |
| Fund research on Edwards Aquifer Recharge and Recirculation Systems water management strategy  | L       |  |   |
| Fund roles of TWDB and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in providing data for regional planning   | L       |  |   |
| Review Texas Water Code Section 36.122 and provide sufficient revenue for technical studies  | L       |  |   |

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**Education** *Eight regions: D, F, G, J, K, L, N, O*

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|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Fund and implement conservation education programs for the public  | D, F, J, K |
| Create and fund a water conservation awareness program through TWDB  | G, O       |
| Fund the Water IQ public education program   | K, L       |
| Fund education programs for public sector  | J, O       |
| Fund education programs for private sector   | J          |
| Address sustainability through education   | K          |
| Fund statewide education program and coordinate with Texas Cooperative Extension                                 | L          |
| Make funds available to planning groups and groundwater conservation districts to educate public on water issues | N          |

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**Environment** *One region: H*

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|--|---|
| Increase funds for the bays and estuaries programs at state agencies | H |
|--|---|

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**Groundwater** *Four regions: F, K, L, M*

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|--|---|
| Support the industry-funded program to plug abandoned wells                      | F |
| Encourage adequate funding for the Railroad Commission to protect water supplies | F |



|   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| Encourage restoring funding to well-plugging account  | F  | Fund recharge structures and provide technical assistance   | J   |
| Encourage funding of TWDB groundwater programs  | K  | Provide pro rata funds to landowners for brush control assistance   | K   |
| Review Texas Water Code to ensure groundwater conservation districts are funded and equipped for comprehensive analysis tasks   | L  | Fund brush management technologies  | L   |
|   |  | Fund weather modification technologies  | L   |
| Appropriate sufficient funds to Railroad Commission for capping abandoned wells   | M  | Fund small aquifer recharge dams  | L   |
|   |  | Increase funds for projects demonstrating alternative water supply strategies   | L   |
| <b>Innovative Strategies</b>  | <i>Nine regions: A, B, C, E, F, J, K, L, M</i> | Encourage funding for new technical resources to combat saltcedar and aquatic weeds   | M   |
| Encourage funding for saltcedar eradication and long-term brush management strategies in Rio Grande watershed   | E, J, M  | Continue funding brackish groundwater projects and seawater desalination demonstration projects   | M   |
| Provide funds for desalination  | F, L   | <b>Providing and Financing Water and Wastewater Systems</b>   | <i>Seven regions: A, F, H, K, L, M, O</i> |
| Fund programs to eradicate saltcedar  | J, O   | Fund water management strategies identified in regional water plans   | M, O                                      |
| Encourage and fund rainwater harvesting   | J, L   | Fund region-specific water supply strategies  | A   |
| Continue funding salinity control projects in Canadian and Red River basins   | A  | Provide grants to small and rural drinking water treatment systems to meet federal drinking water standards                                   | F   |
| Provide funding to implement brush control and land stewardship   | B  | Establish financing mechanisms to develop new water supply projects in adopted regional plans   | H   |
| Provide funding to small communities for desalination projects  | C  | Increase funding of the State Loan Program for near-term infrastructure cost projections  | H   |
| Continue funding Twin Buttes Brush Control Project until completed  | F  | Continue state and federal support of Texas Community Development Program   | H   |
| Fund brush control for region's reservoirs  | F  | Increase funding of State Participation Program to develop water supply projects meeting long-term demands                                    | H   |
| Support state/federal funding for demineralization, reclamation, and aquifer storage and recovery   | F  | Increase funds for Small Towns Environment Program  | H   |
| Give priority funding to land conservation and management practices, including brush and burn management and follow-up grazing  | F  | Increase funding of Regional Water Supply and Wastewater Facilities Planning Program; expand to include engineering design and cost estimates | H   |
| Support funding for researching, evaluating, creating, and operating weather modification programs  | F  |   |   |
| Fund programs to eradicate nuisance vegetation  | J  |   |   |
| Fund a long-term, cost-sharing program for landowners participating in brush management similar to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Great Plains Conservation Program | J  |   |   |

|  |                        |  |                               |
|--|------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Increase future funding of State Revolving Fund to cover system capacity increases   | H                      | Establish funding for regional planning groups through the TWDB  | P                             |
| Make State Participation Program available to public/private partnerships and nonprofit water supply corporations            | H                      |  |                               |
| Provide funds for water treatment and radioactive waste disposal threatening rural water supplies                            | K                      |  |                               |
| Create statewide mechanism for funding state water plan projects   | L                      |  |                               |
| Provide sufficient funding to TWDB and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for administering state water plan programs | L                      |  |                               |
| <b>Regional Water Planning</b>   |                        | <b>Ten regions: B, E, H, J, K, L, M, N, O, P</b>   |                               |
| Continue adequate funding of regional water planning process   | B, E, H, K, L, M, N, O |  |                               |
| Provide additional state funding for regional planning administrative costs  | B, E, J, K, O          |  |                               |
| Reimburse planning group members for reasonable expenses   | E, J                   |  |                               |
| Consider factors other than population in funding the planning process   | M                      |  |                               |
| Request public entities provide their share of funding for regional planning activities                                      | N                      |  |                               |
|  |                        | <b>Rural Water</b>   | <b>One region: H</b>          |
|  |                        | Support increased funding of federal Rural Utilities Service programs and funding of the state Rural Water Assistance Fund                           | H                             |
|  |                        | <b>Surface Water</b>   | <b>Three regions: C, L, P</b> |
|  |                        | Seek additional federal funding to improve and maintain Natural Resources Conservation Service sediment and flood control structures                 | C                             |
|  |                        | Fund Texas Commission on Environmental Quality adequately to ensure appropriate use of permitted surface water rights                                | L                             |
|  |                        | Develop Lake Texana Stage II as supply strategy  | P                             |
|  |                        | <b>Water Marketing</b>   | <b>One region: L</b>          |
|  |                        | Fund development of a standard method for evaluating water export proposals  | L                             |
|  |                        | <b>Water Quality</b>   | <b>One region: D</b>          |
|  |                        | Fund assessment of public water systems that have difficulty complying with drinking water standards; identify alternate means for meeting standards | D                             |



