

State Water Infrastructure Funding

Issue

Ensure adequate funding to implement water supply projects within the State Water Plan.

Background

The 2007 State Water Plan identified over \$17 billion in major water infrastructure projects needed to meet the long-term water supply needs for the State of Texas and resulted in the Texas Legislature appropriating \$762.9 million to programs intended to implement water management strategies. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) administers these funds through programs such as the Water Infrastructure Fund, State Participation Program and the Economically Distressed Areas Program.

By 2060, the TWDB estimates Texas' population will be 45.6 million (increase from a projected 24.9 million in 2010). Unmet water needs, based upon projected water supplies and demand, will total 2.7 million acre-feet. If funding needs are not met, the agency estimates a loss of 1.2 million jobs and a loss of \$98.4 billion in regional income.

In order to fully implement the 2007 State Water Plan to meet the water needs for the state for the next 50 years, additional funding will be needed.

Legislative Action Needed

Legislation to identify or create a dedicated revenue source to fund major water infrastructure projects statewide.

Fiscal Impact

Current funding received from General Revenue funds. Additional funding dependent upon identified source(s).