



## **State's Top Water Groups and Key Water Stakeholders Form Broad Coalition to Support Water Funding**

**Austin, Texas  
February 6, 2023**

Texas has an estimated \$32.7 billion surplus heading into its 2024-2025 biennium, presenting a generational opportunity to help Texas invest in water, wastewater, and flood/stormwater projects. In anticipation of a significant push by the Texas Legislature to direct significant additional funding to address the state's aging water infrastructure, [a coalition of Texas water associations and key water stakeholders has coalesced to strongly encourage the State to invest in water infrastructure.](#)

**Texas has large, unmet water and wastewater infrastructure needs.** State and federal financial assistance continues to pale in comparison to the billions needed for water infrastructure. Additional grants and longer loan repayment terms could help communities more cost-effectively finance water infrastructure projects to the benefit of ratepayers. [In a recent survey of water stakeholders](#) aging infrastructure was identified as the largest driver of new capital projects, followed by population growth and regulatory compliance.

**Needs exist across small, mid-size, and large regional projects to support both basic system maintenance and asset management, as well as new growth.** Investment of state funds in water infrastructure is needed to ensure Texas communities can provide safe, clean water, and keep up with growing demands into the future.

**Plans being touted by Senate Water Committee Chairman Charles Perry anticipate directing billions of dollars to addressing aging water infrastructure, and bolster water supplies.** Depleted flood infrastructure funding and ensuring state agencies like the Texas Water Development Board are equipped with adequate administrative resources and personnel will also heavily factor into key legislative proposals this legislative session.

According to Perry Fowler, Executive Director of the [Texas Water Infrastructure Network \(TXWIN\)](#), "If the past year has taught us anything, it is that many communities in Texas have been left behind without adequate resources to make water infrastructure investment affordable. Texas has several successful programs that we can build on now to ensure our future water security. We cannot afford to shut down schools, businesses and place our economy at risk waiting on the federal government to save us. It is time for the legislature to

re-affirm its commitment to water infrastructure as it has done in the past with programs like SWIFT with this historic budget surplus. State leaders from Senator Charles Perry, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar, House Speaker Dade Phelan, and even Governor Abbott have recently made public statements in support of water funding and it's time for Texas to put our money where our mouth is and utilize this generational opportunity to invest in our water future."

The Texas Senate Finance Committee meets on Monday February 13 to discuss Article VI of the proposed budget which includes funding for Natural Resources including agencies such as the Texas Water Development Board.

[Click here to view the water funding coalition participants and additional information.](#)

For additional assistance and press inquiries:

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## TEXAS SHOULD INVEST IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Texas has an estimated \$32.7 billion surplus heading into its 2024-2025 biennium, presenting a generational opportunity to help Texas invest in water, wastewater, and flood/stormwater projects. **A coalition of Texas water associations and key water stakeholders strongly encourages the State to invest in water infrastructure as outlined below.** We also strongly support the Legislative Appropriations Requests and exceptional items for the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and the Public Utility Commission of Texas, which point to the critical need for investment in the Texas water workforce.

**Why is investment in water infrastructure needed?** Water infrastructure projects are critical for the health, safety, and economy of Texas.

- Texas' aging water infrastructure is in need of repair
- Booming population growth is increasing demand for water infrastructure and creating new needs that may exceed long-range planning estimates
- Increased frequency of extreme weather (drought, floods, freezes, etc) stresses water infrastructure and these events often expose a community's vulnerability
- Water infrastructure needs far exceed available funding capacity, and federal funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law are insufficient to meet needs
- Greater financial and technical assistance outreach is needed, especially to small and rural communities
- Extreme water agency staffing shortages exacerbate process delays, adding significant costs to local projects. TWDB has the same number of staff to process financial applications as in 2013, before creation of SWIFT and the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF).

Water Treatment	C-
Wastewater	D
Flood Mitigation	C-
Levees	D
Dams	D+

*Source: American Society of Civil Engineers*

### Water Infrastructure Funding Needs

**Texas has large, unmet water and wastewater infrastructure needs.** State and federal financial assistance continues to pale in comparison to the billions needed for water infrastructure. Additional grants and longer loan repayment terms could help communities more cost-effectively finance water infrastructure projects to the benefit of ratepayers. In a recent survey, aging infrastructure was identified as the largest driver of new capital projects, followed by population growth and regulatory compliance. Needs exist across small, mid-size, and large regional projects to support both basic system maintenance and asset management, as well as new growth. Investment of state funds in water infrastructure - for both structural and nonstructural projects - is needed to ensure Texas communities can provide safe, clean water and keep up with growing demands into the future.

EPA Current Needs Survey	\$57B
State Water Plan (10 years)	\$27B
State Water Plan (50 years)	\$80B
Apps. for SRF Funds (2023)	\$5.3B
<i>(despite \$750 million in 2023 SRF capacity with federal funds)</i>	

**Flood and stormwater infrastructure funding is largely exhausted.** TWDB received over \$2.4 billion in applications for the FIF, but the \$793 million appropriated for projects will be exhausted soon. The state's new regional flood planning process will cease after development of the state's first state flood plan in 2024 if the state does not provide additional funding. Adding funds for both the planning process and project implementation would address infrastructure deficiencies, reduce inequality, and reduce risks to the public, first responders, and private property.

Draft Regional Flood Plans	\$37B
FIF Capacity	\$0
Future Flood Planning Funding	\$0

**Investment in science and data is also needed to support water availability decisions and identify additional infrastructure needs.** Up-to-date and accurate data in the form of Water Availability Models (WAMs), Groundwater Availability Models (GAMs), water loss reports, hydrologic and hydraulic models, and planning figures is important to inform how much water is available and what infrastructure projects are needed.

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## TEXAS SHOULD INVEST IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

### Additional Coalition Partners

American Council of Engineering Companies	Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies
American Flood Coalition	Texas Business Leadership Council
American Society of Civil Engineers - TX Section	Texas Desalination Association
Association of Water Board Directors	Texas Farm Bureau
Environmental Defense Fund	Texas Floodplain Management Association
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance	Texas Ground Water Association
Greater Houston Partnership	Texas Nursery and Landscape Association
Houston Stronger	Texas Municipal League
Lower Rio Grande Valley Water District Managers Association	Texas Living Waters Project
Texas 2036	Texas Society of Professional Engineers
Texas Alliance of Energy Producers	Water Finance Exchange

Alliance Regional Water Authority	LRE Water
Angelina Neches River Authority	North Harris County Regional Water Authority
Anser Advisory	North Texas Municipal Water District
Aqua Water Supply Corp.	Northeast Texas Municipal Water District
Brazos River Authority	Nueces River Authority
Brookshire-Katy Drainage District	Parsons
Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District	Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District
Delta Lake Irrigation District	Red River Authority
Dow	RSAH2O
Franklin County Water District	Sabine River Authority
Freese and Nichols, Inc.	San Antonio River Authority
Greater Texoma Utilities Authority	San Antonio Water System
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority	San Jacinto River Authority
Gulf Coast Authority	Tarrant Regional Water District
Gulf Coast Water Authority	Texas Water Supply Partners
Half Associates, Inc.	Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority
Harlingen Irrigation District	Upper Trinity Regional Water District
Invenergy Clean Water	Wells Branch Municipal Utility District
KIT Professionals, Inc.	West Harris County Regional Water Authority
Lavaca Navidad River Authority	5engineering
Lower Colorado River Authority	