

The 89th Texas Legislature

What Happened and What's Next for Water in
the Edwards and Trinity Aquifer Region

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Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance
November 19, 2025

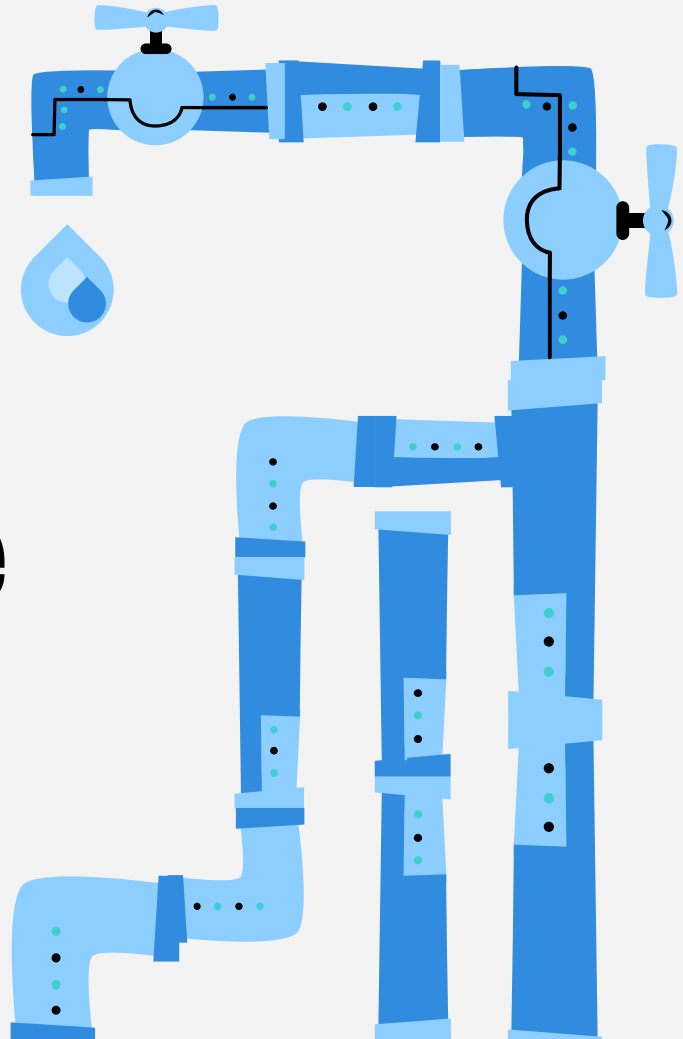




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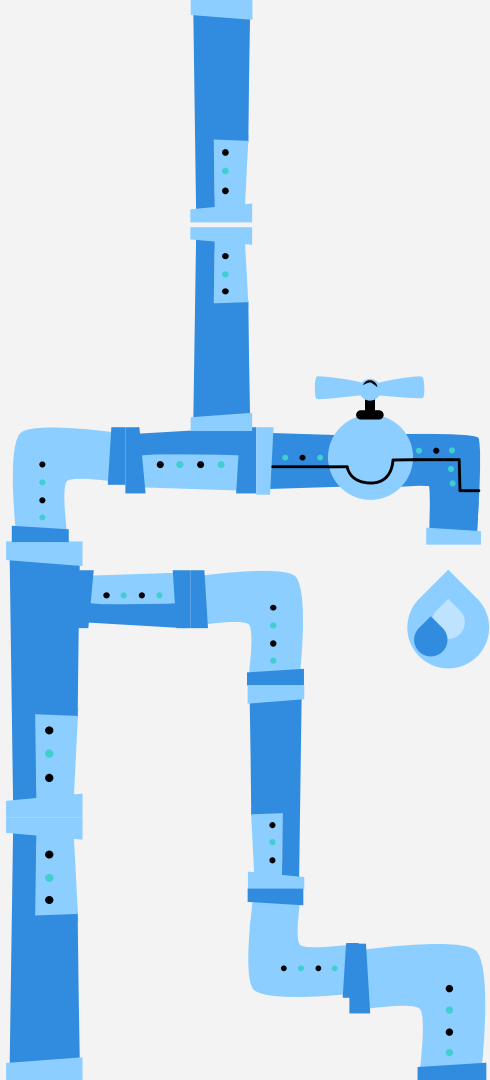
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01

Introduction





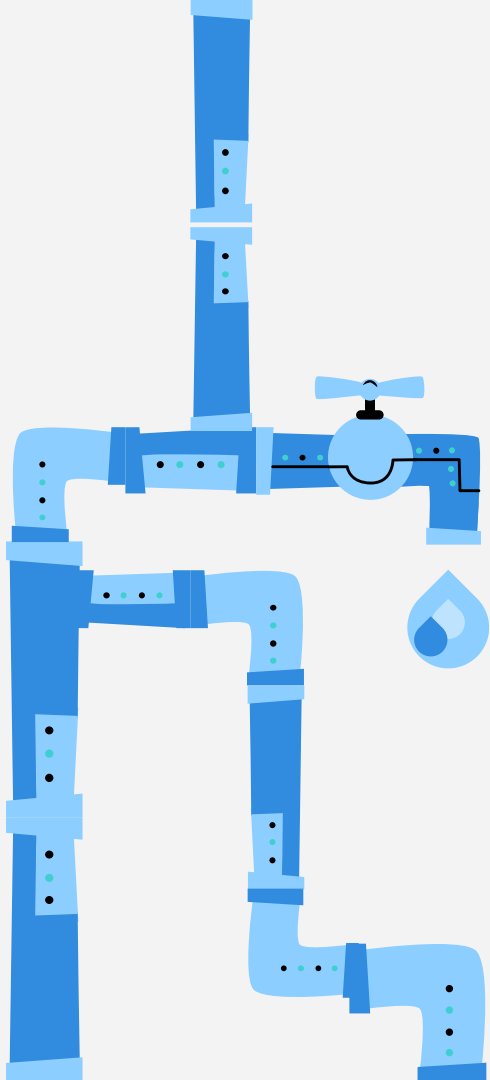
- The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance is a nonprofit dedicated to the promotion of effective broad-based advocacy for the protection and preservation of the Edwards and Trinity aquifers, their springs, watersheds, and the Texas Hill Country that sustains them.

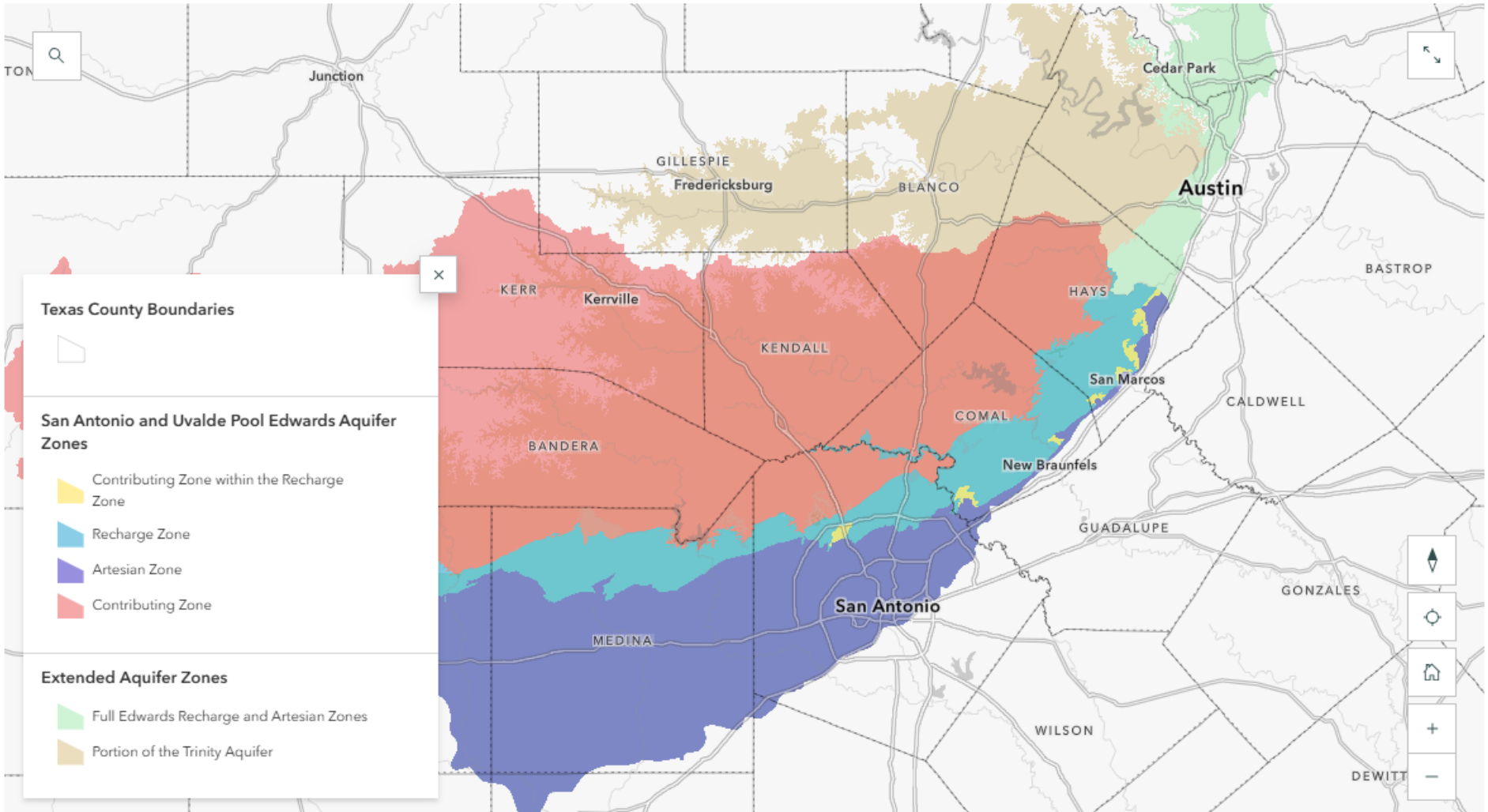
GEAA has 62 member groups across 21 counties in South-Central Texas and the Texas Hill Country.

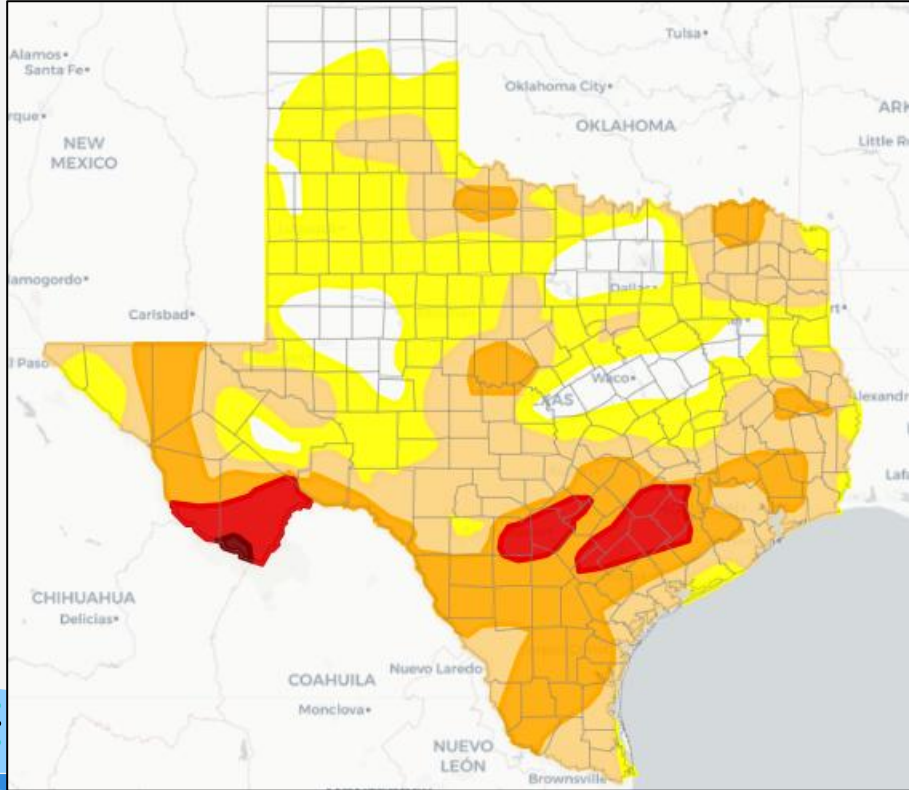


02

State of the Aquifers







Current Drought Stage

No Drought
Voluntary
Conservation

20 %
Curtailment

30 %
Curtailment

40 %
Curtailment



DAILY WATER READINGS

AQUIFER CONDITIONS

	Today	Yesterday	Ten Day
Bexar (J-17)	630.6	631.1	631.7
Uvalde (J-27)	834.5	834.7	835.1
Comal	101	107	110
San Marcos	115	116	125

	Current	Reduction
San Antonio	Stage 4	40%
Uvalde	Stage 5	44%

PROVISIONAL DAILY WATER READINGS AS OF
9:00AM

Barton Springs
Discharge
cubic feet/second (cfs)

District Drought Chart

Lovelyday Monitor Well
Water Elevation
feet-mean sea level (ft-msl)

Water Conservation Period		
38 cfs		478.4 ft-msl
20 cfs	Stage 1 Alarm Drought	462.7 ft-msl
14 cfs	Stage 2 Critical Drought	457.1 ft-msl
10 cfs	Stage 3 Exceptional Drought	453.4 ft-msl
	Stage 4 Emergency Response Period	

14 cfs →
10-day avg

← 456.4 msl
10-day avg

This is the official drought chart used by the Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District.

Last Updated: 10/8/25

FLASH FLOOD ALLEY

TEXAS

Proximity to Gulf and eastern Pacific

Prone to slow-moving thunderstorms

Terrain and arid soil promote rapid runoff

DALLAS

WACO

BRADY

TEXAS

AUSTIN

KERRVILLE

SAN MARCOS

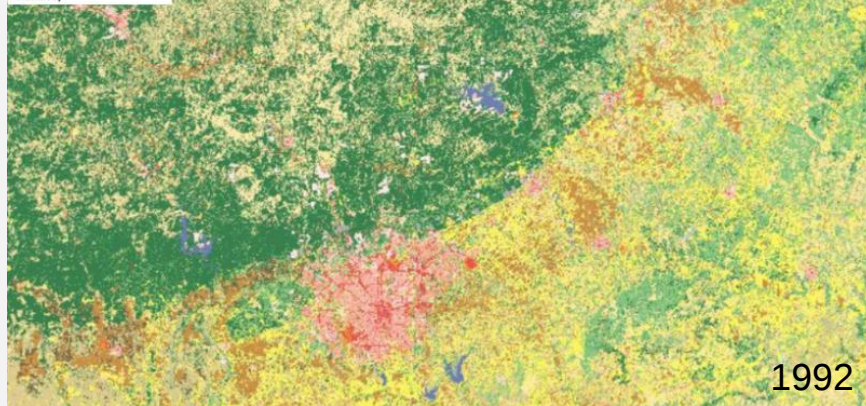
SAN ANTONIO

UVALDE



- 11 Open Water
- 12 Perennial Ice/ Snow
- 21 Developed, Open Space
- 22 Developed, Low Intensity
- 23 Developed, Medium Intensity
- 24 Developed, High Intensity
- 31 Barren Land (Rock/Sand/Clay)
- 41 Deciduous Forest
- 42 Evergreen Forest
- 43 Mixed Forest
- 51 Dwarf Scrub*
- 52 Shrub/Scrub
- 71 Grassland/Herbaceous
- 72 Sedge/Herbaceous*
- 73 Lichens*
- 74 Moss*
- 81 Pasture/Hay
- 82 Cultivated Crops
- 90 Woody Wetlands
- 95 Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands

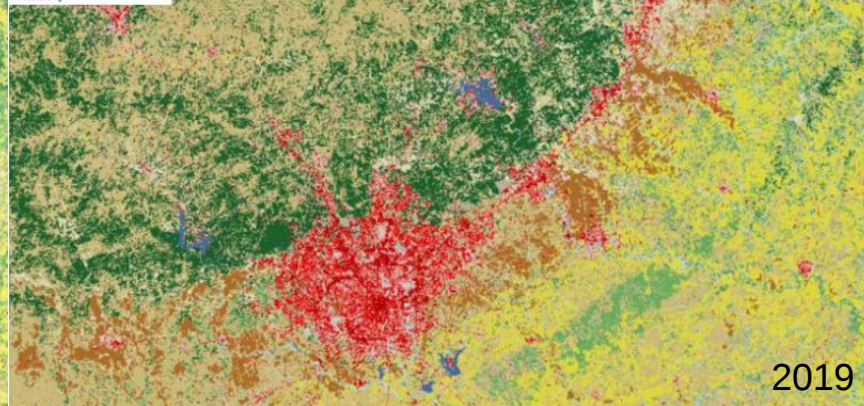
* Alaska only



1992

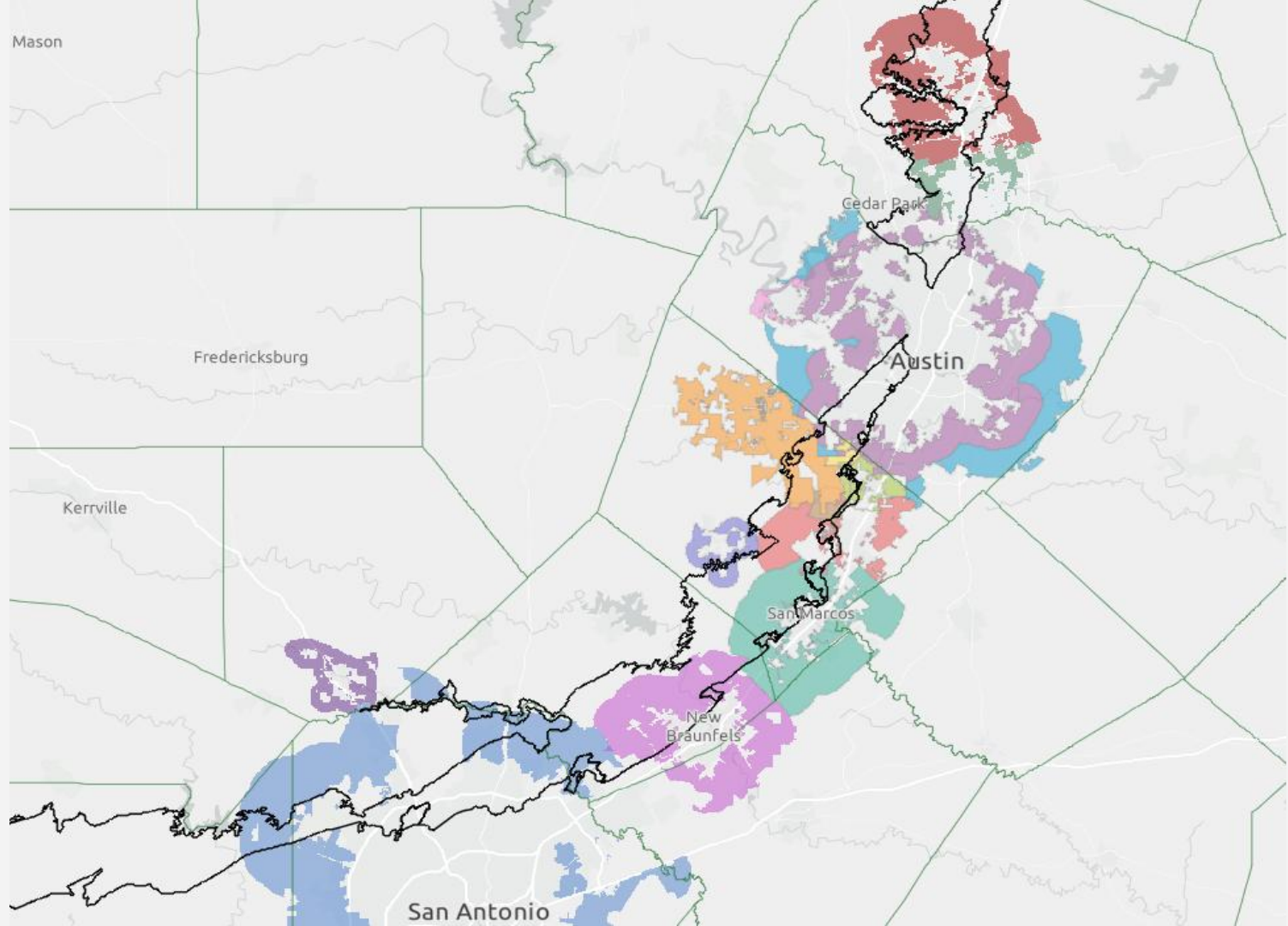
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2019



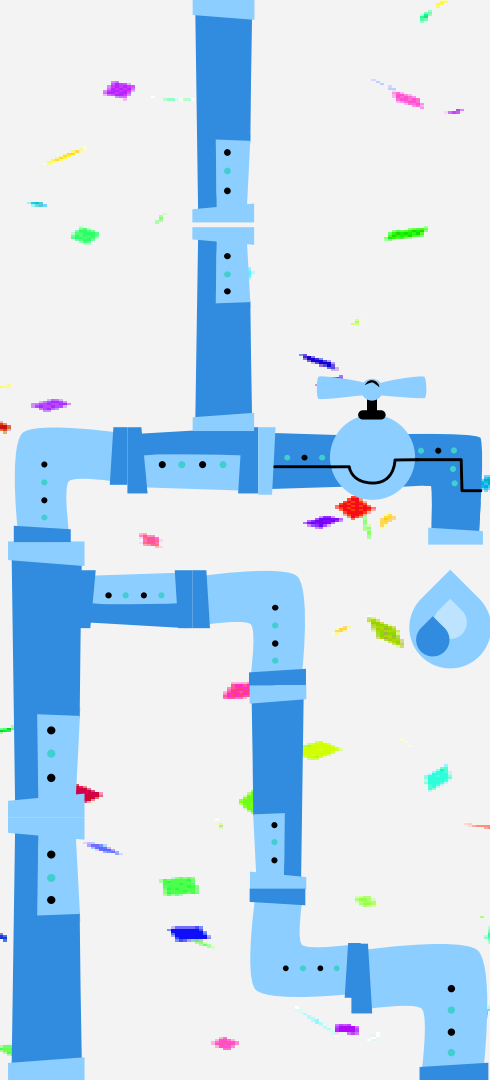


GEAA Priorities

- County Authority
- Extraterritorial Jurisdictions
- Flooding
- Land Use
- Stormwater Management
- TWDB Funding and Programs
- Wastewater/Water Quality
- Water Availability
- Water Reuse

Bills GEAA Supports in the 89th Texas Legislature

HB 16 Harris	HB 1730 Morales Shaw	HB 4025 Zwiener	SB 7 Perry	SB 1663 Zaffirini
HB 29 Gerdes	HB 1901 Cook	HB 4026 Harris Davila	SB 15 Bettencourt	SB 1669 Zaffirini
HB 156 Raymond	HB 2015 Zwiener	HB 4028 Zwiener	SB 102 Hall	SB 1720 Eckhardt
HB 157 Raymond	HB 2024 Turner	HB 4135 Zwiener	SB 212 West	SB 1855 Perry
HB 287 Harris Davila	HB 2078 Gerdes	HB 4214 Curry	SB 273 Miles	SB 1911 Eckhardt
HB 310 Guillen	HB 2091 Martinez	HB 4329 Lopez, Janie	SB 277 Miles	SB 1914 Eckhardt
HB 359 Goodwin	HB 2109 VanDeaver	HB 4404 Pierson	SB 291 Schwerthner	SB 1954 Campbell
HB 363 Bell, Keith	HB 2114 VanDeaver	HB 4433 Dean	SB 325 Perry	SB 1967 Hinojosa, Juan
HB 365 González, Mary	HB 2128 Spiller	HB 4460 Canales	SB 373 Miles	SB 1994 Hall
HB 422 González, Mary	HB 2265 Isaac	HB 4485 Bell, Cecil	SB 444 Hinojosa, Juan	SB 2114 Hughes
HB 464 González, Mary	HB 2268 Isaac	HB 4494 Bell, Cecil	SB 480 Perry	SB 2115 Hughes
HB 482 Lopez, Ray	HB 2269 Isaac	HB 4526 Martinez	SB 526 Eckhardt	SB 2122 Zaffirini
HB 516 Swanson	HB 2346 Zwiener	HB 4530 Romero	SB 542 Schwerthner	SB 2272 Miles
HB 517 Harris Davila	HB 2347 Zwiener	HB 4572 Morales Shaw	SB 561 Eckhardt	SB 2275 Miles
HB 638 Tepper	HB 2422 Goodwin	HB 4588 Orr	SB 583 West	SB 2295 Miles
HB 785 Gervin-Hawkins	HB 2512 Geren	HB 4657 Barry	SB 624 Kolkhorst	SB 2386 Miles
HB 844 Thompson	HB 2605 Gerdes	HB 4637 Troxclair	SB 718 Kolkhorst	SB 2389 Eckhardt
HB 853 Reynolds	HB 2608 Zwiener	HB 4722 Troxclair	SB 766 Zaffirini	SB 2441 Zaffirini
HB 859 Reynolds	HB 2692 Guillen	HB 4896 Garcia, Josey	SB 768 Menéndez	SB 2477 Bettencourt
HB 866 Reynolds	HB 2719 Anchia	HB 4978 Hickland	SB 783 Menéndez	SB 2497 Zaffirini
HB 871 Reynolds	HB 2751 Goodwin	HB 4981 Luther	SB 789 Alvarado	SB 2498 Zaffirini
HB 873 Wilson	HB 2817 Isaac	HB 5044 Reynolds	SB 863 Perry	SB 2499 Zaffirini
HB 882 Reynolds	HB 3010 Ashby	HB 5187 Patterson	SB 885 Eckhardt	SB 2591 Zaffirini
HB 937 Goodwin	HB 3039 Dutton	HB 5206 Guillen	SB 886 Sparks	SB 2635 Johnson
HB 1028 Shaheen	HB 3043 Walle	HB 5207 Guillen	SB 910 Blanco	SB 2660 Perry
HB 1145 Morales Shaw	HB 3091 Goodwin	HB 5213 Zwiener	SB 975 Eckhardt	SB 2661 Perry
HB 1168 Raymond	HB 3106 Goodwin	HB 5325 Isaac	SB 976 Eckhardt	SB 2662 Perry
HB 1245 Goodwin	HB 3115 Troxclair	HB 5348 Kitzman	SB 1034 Sparks	SB 2850 Menéndez
HB 1256 Zwiener	HB 3139 Zwiener	HB 5380 Walle	SB 1055 Nichols	SB 2874 Gutierrez
HB 1360 Hernandez	HB 3141 Zwiener	HB 5454 Money	SB 1150 Middleton	SB 2885 Flores
HB 1370 Raymond	HB 3217 Dutton	HB 5493 Romero	SB 1190 Perry	SB 2887 Cook
HB 1400 Harris	HB 3252 Harris Davila	HB 5552 Plesia	SB 1253 Perry	SB 2897 Cook
HB 1412 Allen	HB 3275 Richardson	HB 5555 Zwiener	SB 1268 Blanco	SB 2924 Parker
HB 1424 Goodwin	HB 3315 Harris	HB 5559 Harris	SB 1285 Eckhardt	SB 3017 Menéndez
HB 1432 Goodwin	HB 3333 Morales, Eddie	HB 5560 Harris	SB 1290 Schwerthner	SB 3022 Menéndez
HB 1437 González, Mary	HB 3338 Ward Johnson	HB 5569 Troxclair	SB 1289 Perry	-----
HB 1438 Zwiener	HB 3383 Canales	HB 5574 Barry	SB 1302 Kolkhorst	HJR 7 Harris
HB 1501 Tinderholt	HB 3482 Troxclair	-----	SB 1339 Hancock	HJR 27 Goodwin
HB 1522 Gerdes	HB 3535 Harris Davila	-----	SB 1387 Zaffirini	HJR 88 Zwiener
HB 1526 González, Mary	HB 3544 Martinez	-----	SB 1446 Menéndez	HJR 97 Raymond
HB 1529 Goodwin	HB 3561 Barry	-----	SB 1519 Campbell	HCR 121 Dorazio
HB 1576 Oliverson	HB 3609 Barry	-----	SB 1583 Blanco	HJR 126 Howard
HB 1633 Gerdes	HB 3637 Troxclair	-----	SB 1586 Schwerthner	HJR 188 Barry
HB 1674 Kerwin	HB 3875 Bell, Cecil	-----	SB 1624 Johnson	SJR 60 Campbell
HB 1689 Gerdes	HB 3915 Martinez	-----	SB 1625 Johnson	-----
HB 1690 Gerdes	HB 3919 Gates	-----	SB 1633 Campbell	-----
HB 1726 Collier	HB 4007 Money	-----	SB 1662 Zaffirini	-----



03

Supported Bills that Passed



Principle Water Infrastructure Funding Legislation



SB 7

Expands 2023 water funding legislation:

- 50% of funds to SWIFT and New Water Supply for Texas Fund
- 50% of funds to Flood Infrastructure, EDAP, etc.
- Adds water and wastewater reuse projects to eligible NWSTF projects
- Adds wastewater infrastructure projects to eligible TWF projects
- TWDB requirement to incorporate wastewater planning into state water planning process

HJR 7

Dedicates \$1 billion annually for the next 20 years to fund water supply and water infrastructure investments:

- \$1 billion per year from 2027 – 2047
- In addition to one time HB 500 allocation each of \$2.5 billion in FY 2026 and \$2.5 billion in FY 2027

(More on this in *Next Steps* section!)





RE: Groundwater Conservation Districts

HB 1633

Requires analysis of whether proposed use of water unreasonably effect exempt wells.

HB 1689

Can use export fees to assess and address impacts of groundwater development.

HB 2078

Updates Desired Future Conditions monitoring and tracking requirements.

HB 5560

Sets higher penalites for rules violations to deter overpumping and large water project violations.

SB 863

Prohibits water withdrawn from the Edwards aquifer from being exported.





RE: Local Regulation

HB 29

Requires large utilities to undergo water loss reporting, auditing, and mitigation.

HB 517

Prohibits HOAs from fining for dead grass during drought restrictions.

SB 480

Allows for more cross-governmental water planning and research efforts.

SB 783

Allows governmental entities to adopt certain updated energy codes and water conservation standards.

SB 2662

Ensures private and investor-owned utilities can enforce drought contingency plans.





RE: State Agencies

HB 3333

Restricts new direct wastewater discharge permits in the Devil's River.

SB 1663

Updates TCEQ guidelines for groundwater contamination notifications.

SB 1967

Allows flood infra projects with water supply components to receive funds.

SB 1302

Fixes permitting loophole within TCEQ waste discharge system.

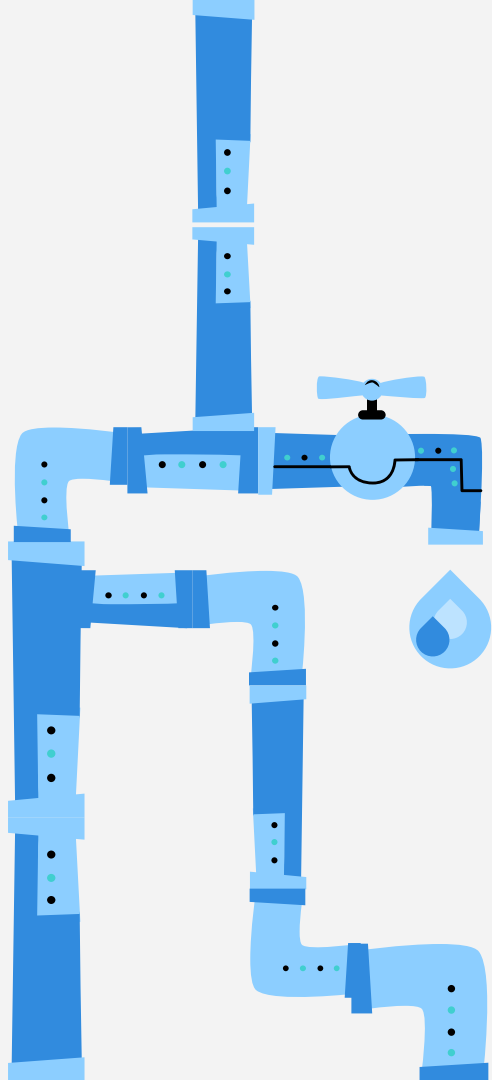
SB 2885

Allows for reuse water in ASR projects and requires TCEQ rulemaking.

SB 1 Rider

Study of technical/econ feasibility of municipal reuse water in quarry operations.





Opposed Bills that Passed



Restrictions on local authority and public protection

HB 49

Preemptively shields produced water supply chain from liability for harms from produced water.

HB 2559

Limit's city's ability to impose development moratorium even in time of water shortage.

SB 1883

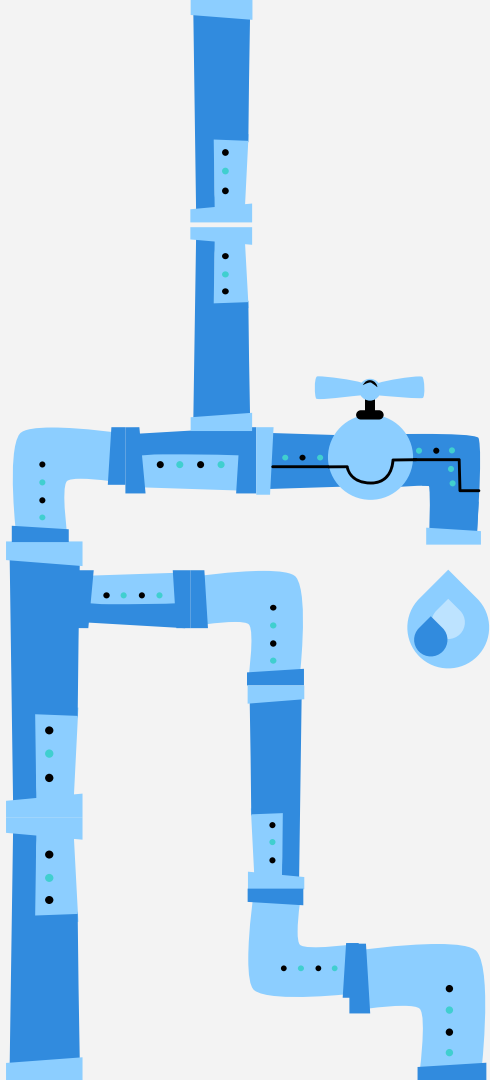
Requires supermajority vote for city's impact fee and freezes fee for next five years.





04

Supported Bills that Died





RE: Research and State Agencies

HB 1400

Would create a groundwater science, research, and innovation fund under the TWDB.



SB 1

Allocates funds to TWDB for implementing grants to GCDs to conduct projects and programs for groundwater research, science, and data collection that benefit groundwater management and planning.

HB 1730

Would study the effects of PFAS (i.e., forever chemicals) on public health.

HB 13

Would have established a grant program for counties to build new emergency communication infrastructure





RE: Water Conservation

HB 2015

TCEQ would consider water conservation plans for MUD permits in Hill Country PGMA.

HB 2347

Hays County could require water conservation programs for new developments.

HB 3637/HJR 88

Counties would be able to grant property tax exemptions for water conservation measures.

SB 1624

Water rights could be donated to Texas Water Trust/Bank for conservation needs.

SB 1855

Would strengthen groundwater supply evidence for subdivisions.





Passed Both Chambers but Vetoed

HB 1690

Would require increased notification requirements for transfer of groundwater out of GCD boundaries.

HB 4530

Would create a method for placing groundwater rights into the Texas Water Trust.

SB 1253

Provides impact fee credits for water conservation in developments and provides increased authority to HTGCD.

Special Session Item





Opposed Bills that Died



RE: Local Authority

HB 23

Would allow third-party review of development documents and inspections.

HB 2149

Would prohibit a city from stopping nonconforming land uses in certain situations.

HB 4313

Would prevent local governments from using any funds to address climate or pollution.

SB 1927

Would prohibit cities from protecting ashe juniper trees through tree ordinances.

SB 2522

Would restrict counties from governing safe, orderly, healthful development, and more.

SB 2523

Would eliminate city ability to consent in writing to property releases in ETJ.





RE: Local Authority cont'd and Water Conservation

SB 2858

Would expand provisions of the 2023 “Death Star” bill and potentially defund cities.

SB 3016

Would expand provisions of the 2023 “Death Star” bill and potentially defund cities.

SB 779

Would limit legal recourses available for impacts to human health, welfare, property, etc.

HB 2812

Would exempt significant amounts of water from HTGCD regulations and restrictions.

SB 2658

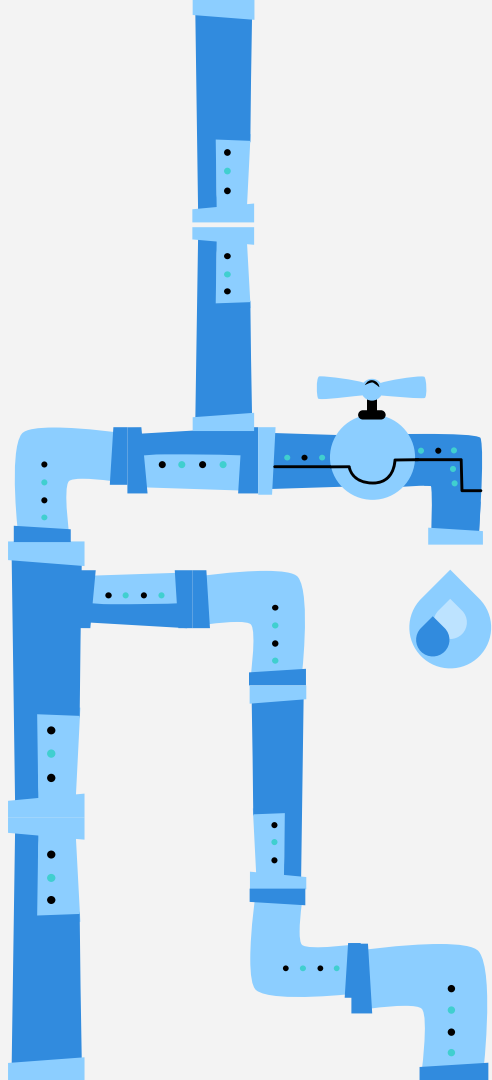
Would allow certain brackish groundwater wells to be exempt from GCD permitting reqs.





05

Special Sessions





Flooding Bills that Passed (2nd)

HB 1

Camp safety bill, no permanent youth camp buildings in floodplains, more regulations

SB 1

Camp safety bill, no residential camp buildings in floodways, more regulations

SB 3

Updated rules, programs, and funds for disaster early warning systems

SB 5

Funds for disaster relief, early warning systems, new camp regs, and weather stations (no funding for local gov comms)

SB 18

Streamlined permitting for some dams to update to temporarily store floodwater





Flooding Bills that Died (2nd)

HB 2/SB 2

Would have required major improvements to local gov coordination and response efforts

HB 3

Would have provided funding to local govs to update disaster response programs and coordination

HB 108/SB 45

Would have allowed counties to establish drainage fees and regulate land use for flood management

HB 117

Would have let counties regulate impervious cover to address flood management

HB 125

Would have allowed counties to meet all stormwater management permitting requirements

HB 225

Would have let counties implement higher building codes and standards





Other Special Session Bills

HB 215 (1st)

Died. Creates liability on entities that pumps and exports > 25k gpd when it damages neighbors

HB 216 (1st)

Died. GCDs may not approve a permit for production and export if more than 5% of Modeled Available GW for the GCD

HB 217 (1st)

Died. Provides liability for GCDs to deny permits based on long-term damage to aquifer

HB 218 (1st)

Died. Requires 2/3 of surrounding GCDs to approve export permits

HB 193 (2nd)

Died. GCDs may not approve a permit if the amount, combined with exempt GW production, exceeds the MAG of the GCD

SB 14 (2nd)

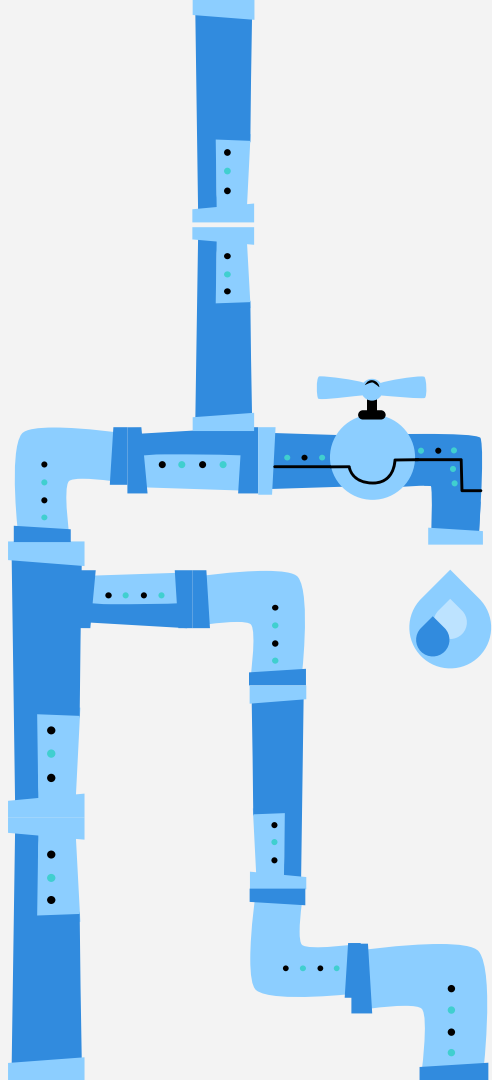
Passed. Provides impact fee credits for water conservation in developments

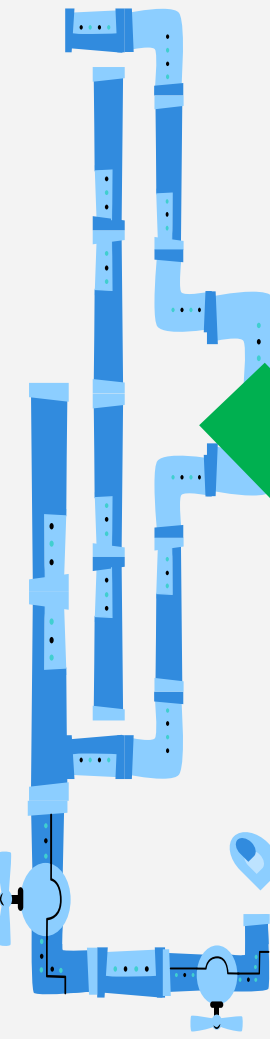




06

Next Steps





Vote for Prop. 4 Nov. 4

Proposition 4 passed with a **robust margin of 70.42%** of the vote, according to Texas Secretary of State data. A **total of 2,077,449 Texans** voted in favor of the measure. This was greater than the total number who voted for the 2023 proposition creating the Texas Water Fund (1,966,508) and the 2013 referendum establishing the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (839,369).

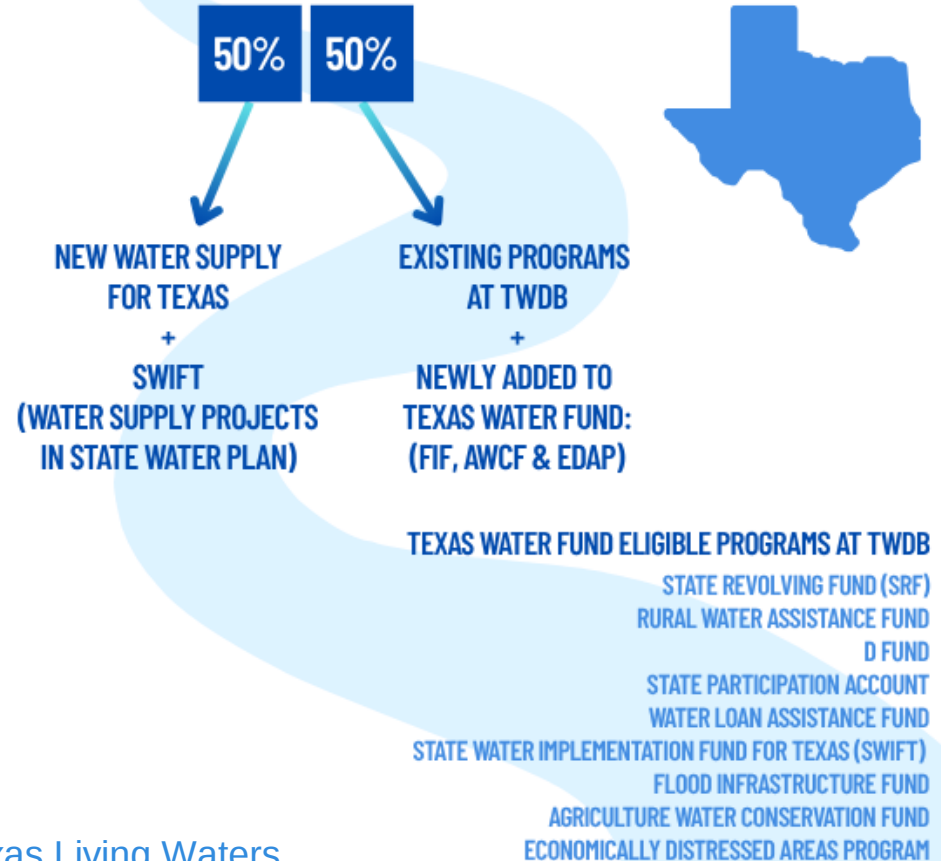
- Texas2036

Public input, participation, and advocacy will be crucial for to ensure the funds are used to:

- Prioritize projects that reduce long-term risk rather than temporary fixes
- Support communities that have historically struggled to fund water improvements
- Invest in conservation and efficiency to make limited water supplies last
- Protect rivers, wetlands, and natural areas that sustain wildlife and outdoor heritage

(Texas Living Waters)

PROP 4 : \$20 B ALLOCATION (\$1 B ANNUALLY 2027 - 2047)



Texas Living Waters

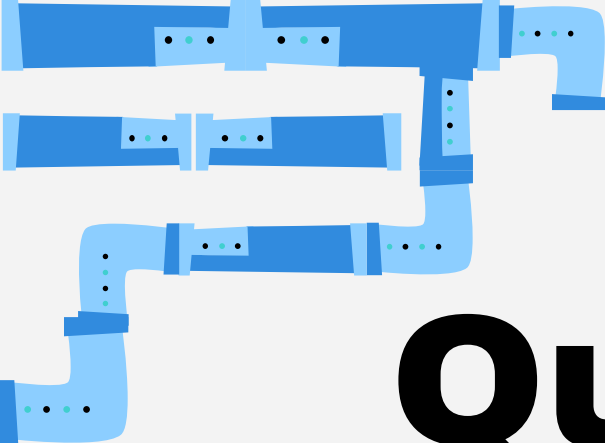


HJR 7 requires that the dedication of \$1 billion in state sales tax revenues to the Texas Water Fund begins in state fiscal year 2028, which starts on Sept. 1, 2027. These revenues will be placed in a special holding account where they may be appropriated by the Legislature during the 2029 legislative session.

- 
- This means that water infrastructure projects eligible for funding through this new revenue stream could apply for funding in late 2029.

While this dedicated funding will not be available to the Texas Water Fund for several years, the good news is that the Legislature approved over \$2.5 billion for water infrastructure funding earlier this year. This interim endowment – the largest one-time appropriation for water infrastructure in Texas history – will help jump-start water infrastructure development before the sales tax revenue dedication authorized by Proposition 4 begins (Texas 2036).



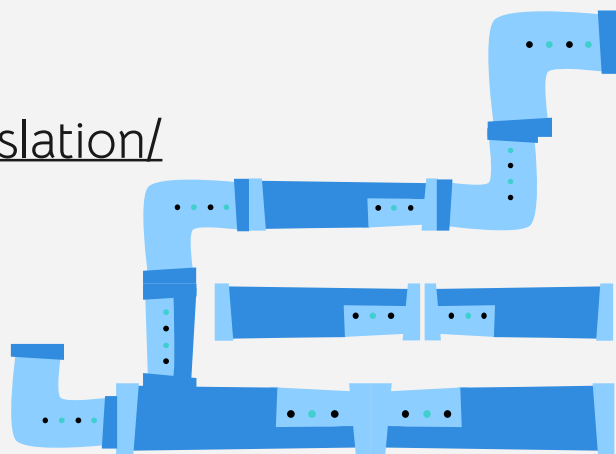


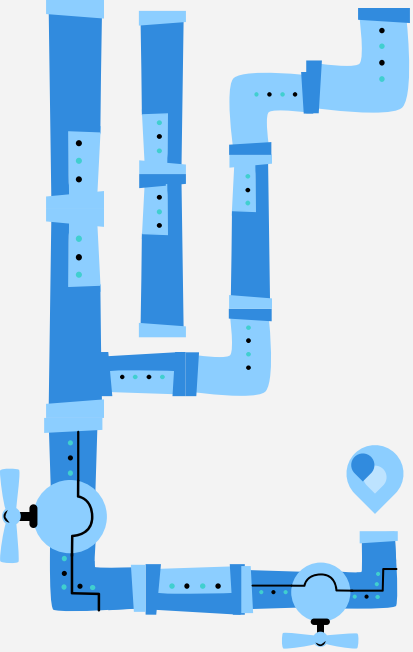
Questions?

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