



The Texas Water Fund: Water Conservation, Water Loss Mitigation, and Water Awareness

The Texas Water Fund

What is it, and what can it do for water conservation, water loss mitigation, and water awareness?

Sam Marie Hermitte

Central Texas Water Conservation Symposium

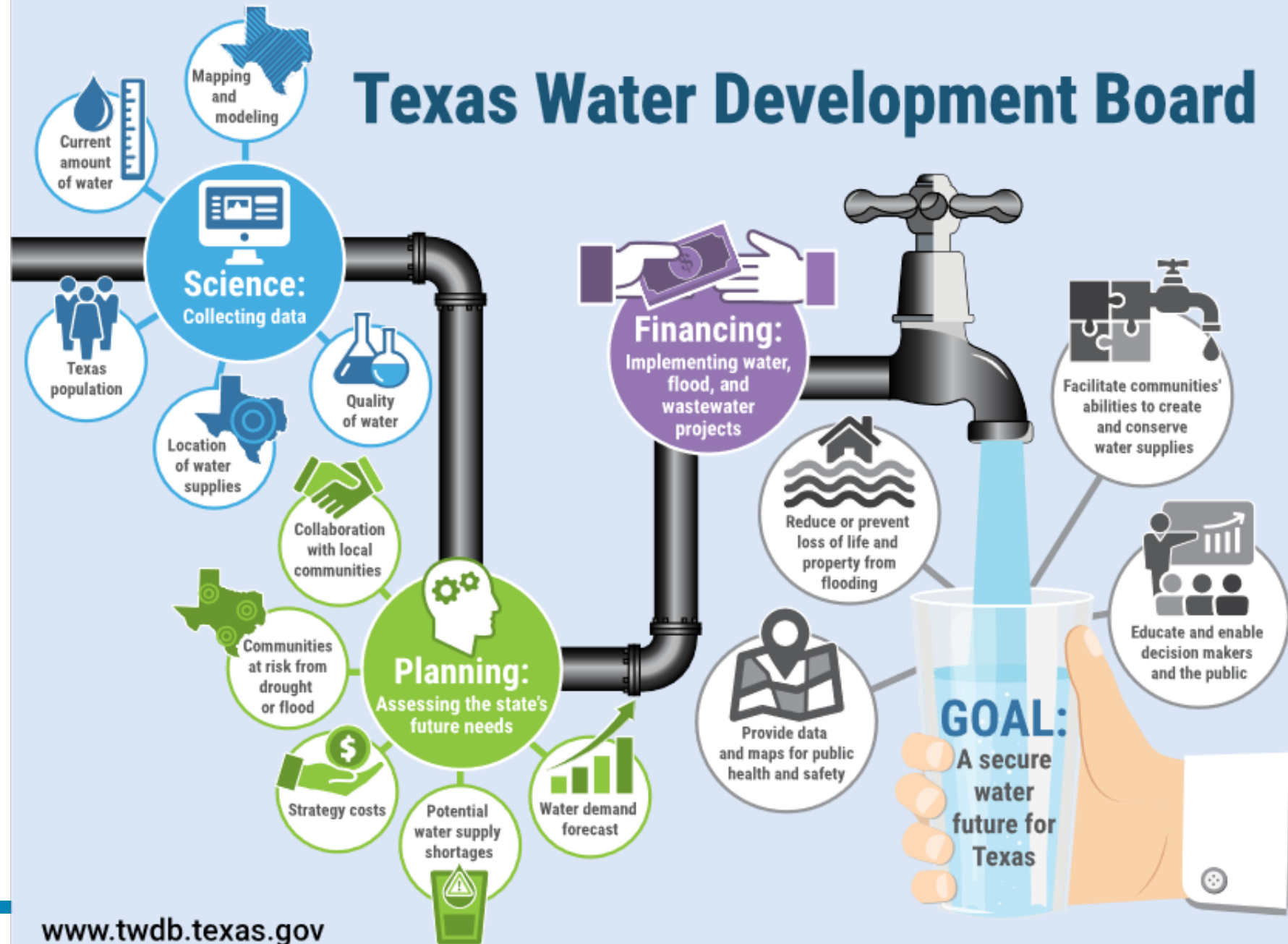
March 19, 2024

BORING TITLE

**EXCITING
OPPORTUNITY!!**



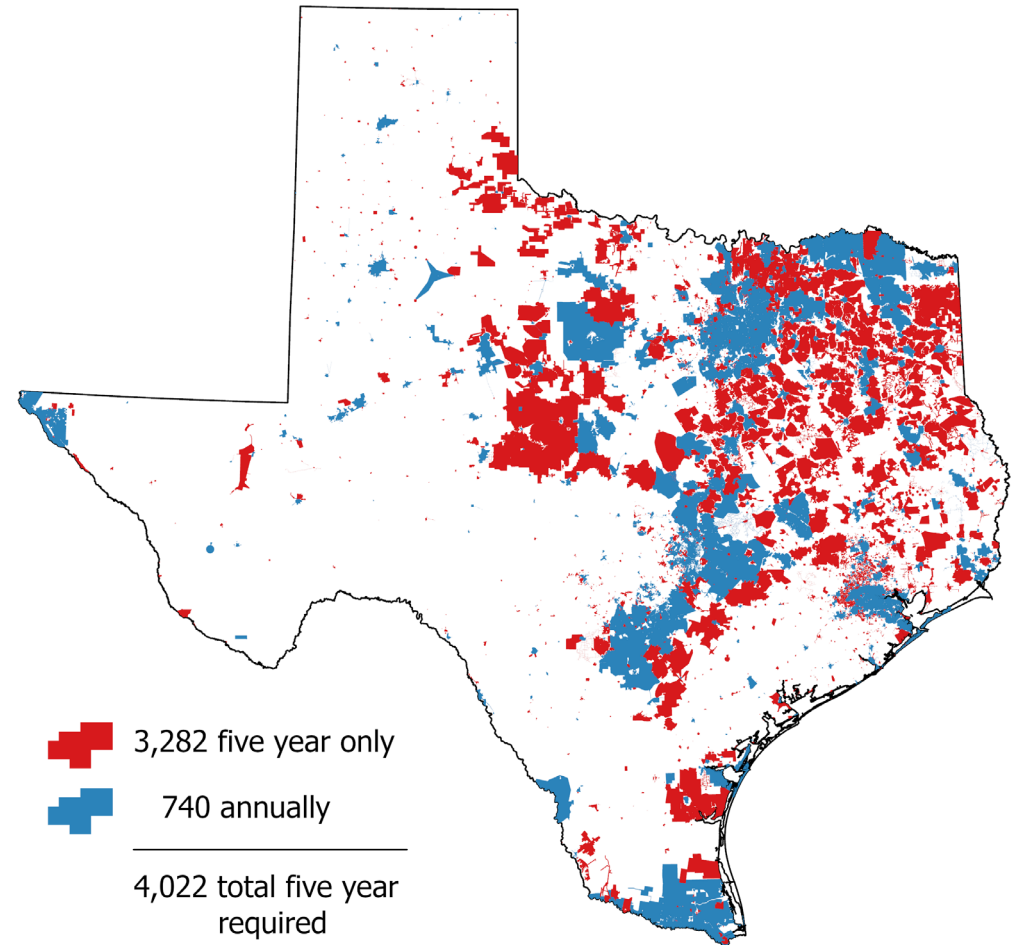
Texas Water Development Board



www.twdb.texas.gov

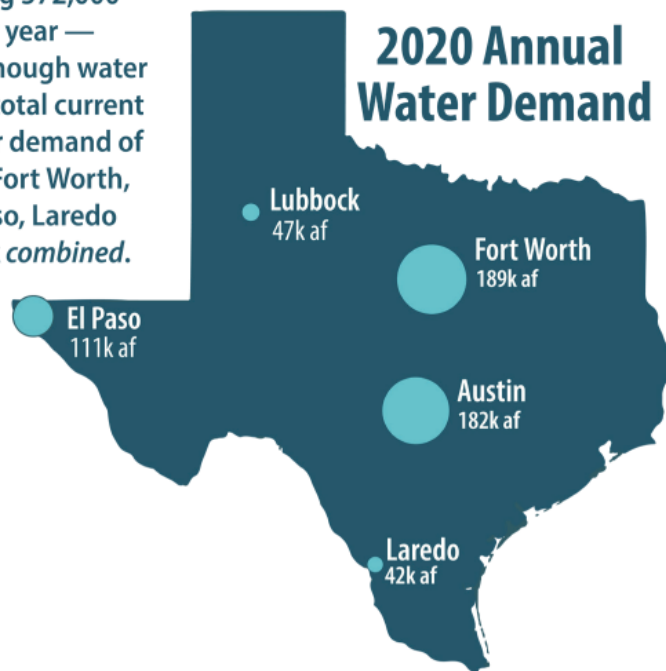
Some context...

Required Water Loss Audits



A little more context...

Texas is losing 572,000 acre-feet per year — more than enough water to meet the total current annual water demand of the cities of Fort Worth, Austin, El Paso, Laredo and Lubbock combined.



2020 Average Annual Water Loss in Texas



51 gallons/conn/day **249k af/yr savings**

Each service connection in Texas loses an average of 51 gallons of water every day.

Achieving a 75th percentile performance level could save Texas about 249,000 acre-feet per year.

And just a bit more...

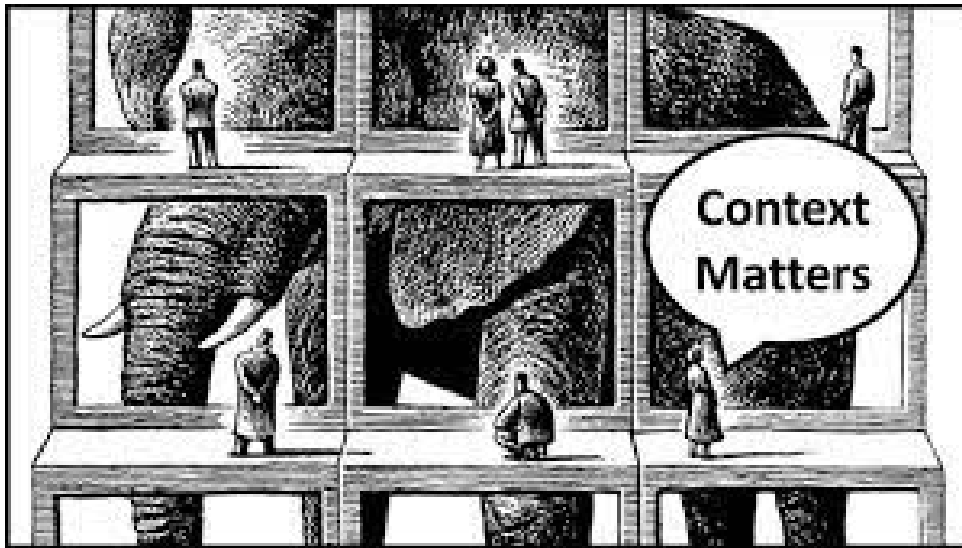
3. Creation of a statewide water conservation awareness campaign

The Council recommends that, subject to available state revenue for the 2023-2024 biennium, the Texas Legislature appropriate up to \$3 million per year to the TWDB to implement or contract with another entity for the statewide water conservation public awareness program that was created by the Texas Legislature in 2007 with the passage of Senate Bill 3 and House Bill 4.

At local, regional, and statewide levels, water conservation and efficiency continue to be a crucial strategy for meeting our growing water demands. Conservation and efficiency targets can be advanced through various strategies such as water loss reduction, plumbing and fixture codes, etc., but must also be addressed through public awareness and behavioral/cultural changes. While some entities are working to advance water conservation public awareness through localized campaigns, Texas has not yet funded a statewide, coordinated approach to water conservation public awareness.

The need for a statewide water awareness campaign is not new, and the legislative recommendation that it be funded by the Texas Legislature was first recommended by the Council in 2016. A history of actions towards establishing a statewide water campaign is included below:

- 2004: Water Conservation Implementation Task Force discusses the need for a coordinated, statewide water conservation public awareness campaign. Texas Water Foundation initiates and funds statewide polling to identify how different population segments value water. This data leads to the creation of the TWDB's Water IQ in 2007, a public awareness program aimed to increase knowledge of drinking water.
- 2007: Texas Legislature formalized the need for a public awareness campaign by adding it to Texas Water Code, which reads "The executive administrator shall develop and



What is the Texas Water Fund and how is it being implemented?

Texas Water Fund Legislation (88th session)

- Senate Bill 28
 - Created the Texas Water Fund, New Water Supply Fund for Texas, and the Statewide Water Public Awareness Account
- Senate Bill 30
 - Authorized a onetime, \$1 billion supplemental appropriation of general revenue to the Texas Water Fund, contingent on enactment of SB 28 and approval of SJR 75 by voters
- Senate Joint Resolution 75
 - Proposed constitutional amendment creating the Texas Water Fund to assist in financing water projects in Texas
 - Directed TWDB to allocate no less than 25 percent to the New Water Supply Fund for Texas

Texas Constitutional Amendment Proposition 6 Approved November 7, 2023

"The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state."

TEXAS VOTERS APPROVED
✓ 78% YES

New Water Supply Fund for Texas

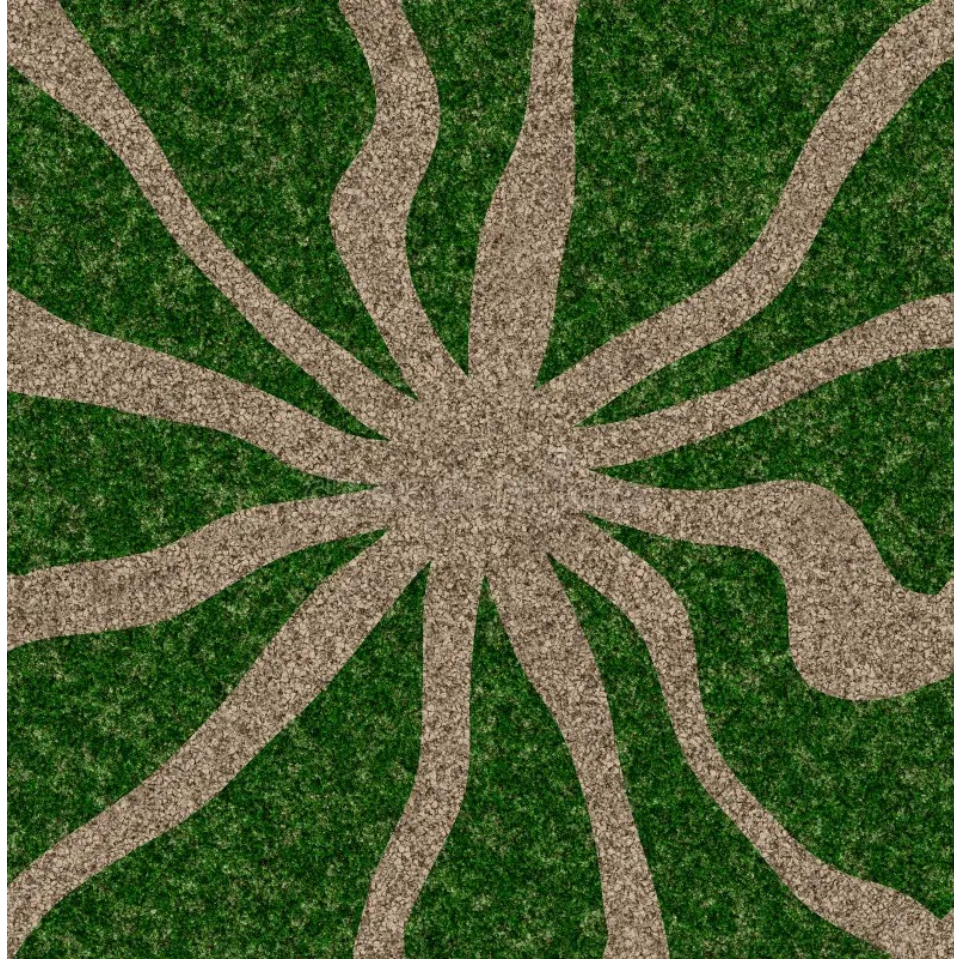
Created to provide financial assistance to develop water supply projects that create new water sources for the state

\geq \$250 million

Texas Water Fund

- Allows the TWDB to transfer money to certain existing TWDB financial assistance programs
- TWDB must ensure that a portion of the money is used for:
 - water infrastructure projects for rural political subdivisions and municipalities with a population of less than 150,000
 - projects for which all required state or federal permitting has been substantially completed
 - water conservation strategies
 - water loss mitigation projects
 - the statewide water public awareness program

Where do we go from here??



Texas Water Fund Implementation



Proposition 6 and Texas Water Fund Frequently Asked Questions and Implementation Timeline

January 2024

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q: What is the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)?

A: The mission of the Texas Water Development Board is to lead the state's efforts in ensuring a secure water future for Texas. Our mission is a vital part of Texas' overall vision and the state's mission and goals that relate to maintaining the viability of the state's natural resources, health, and economic development.

The TWDB's main responsibilities are threefold: collecting and disseminating water-related data; assisting with regional water supply and flood planning that contributes to preparing the state water plan and state flood plan; and administering cost-effective financial programs for constructing water supply, wastewater treatment, flood control, and agricultural water conservation projects.

Since 1957, the TWDB has been charged with addressing the state's water needs. The TWDB works to ensure Texans have access to sufficient, clean, and affordable water supplies that foster a healthy economy and environment.

2. Q: What is the Texas Water Fund?

A: In 2023, the 88th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 28 and Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 75 providing for the creation of the Texas Water Fund. In addition, SB 30 authorized a one-time, \$1 billion supplemental appropriation of general revenue to the Texas Water Fund, contingent on enactment of SB 28 and approval of SJR 75 by voters. Proposition 6 (the proposition for SJR 75), creating the Texas Water Fund to assist in financing water projects in Texas, passed on November 7, 2023, with more than 77 percent in favor.

The Texas Water Fund will be a special fund created in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund to be administered by the TWDB. SB 28 directs that the TWDB may only use the Texas Water Fund to transfer money to the following funds or accounts administered by the TWDB:

- The **New Water Supply for Texas Fund**, a new fund created by SB 28.
- The **State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT)** and the State Water Implementation Revenue Fund for Texas, which support the [SWIFT financial assistance program](#) that provides low-cost financing for projects in the state water plan.

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Texas Water Fund Issues for Consideration and Request for Feedback

Response requested by April 30, 2024

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is seeking public input to assist in implementing the [Texas Water Fund](#), a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund to be administered by the TWDB.

Administrative rules are not required to implement the Texas Water Fund itself; however, stakeholder feedback is requested to inform funding priorities as well as the administration of the programs to which funds may be transferred. Formal rulemaking for the water loss technical assistance program required by [Senate Bill 28](#) has already taken place.

Other [rulemaking](#) related to the Texas Water Fund may include:

- Minor changes to the Rural Water Assistance Fund rules in 31 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 365
- Minor changes to financial assistance rules in 31 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 363
- New rules for the New Water Supply for Texas Fund, as a new subchapter in 31 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 363

The TWDB is seeking stakeholder input via three survey instruments:

- [Texas Water Fund Survey 1: Financial Assistance for Water Infrastructure Projects](#)
- [Texas Water Fund Survey 2: New Water Supply Fund for Texas](#)
- [Texas Water Fund Survey 3: Statewide Water Public Awareness Program](#)

The information requested in these surveys is intended to solicit general and specific feedback that will inform formal rulemaking and other implementation efforts. Written feedback may also be submitted to TexasWaterFund@twdb.texas.gov. Information provided in the surveys or submitted via email is requested by April 30, 2024.

In addition to the surveys, we will be inviting public comment on the Texas Water Fund at TWDB Board meetings through March and providing information at upcoming [financial assistance workshops](#) around the state. We will also be hosting a stakeholder meeting in Austin in March and a stakeholder Board meeting in Lubbock in April. See the [Proposition 6 and Texas Water Fund Frequently Asked Questions and Implementation Timeline](#) for details as they become available.

We invite you to join us in these discussions and look forward to hearing from you over the coming months.



You're Invited: Texas Water Fund Stakeholder Meeting

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) invites you to a meeting to discuss implementation of the Texas Water Fund, including the key areas for which we are seeking [public input](#). TWDB staff will provide an update on implementation efforts and will be available to discuss any topics of interest; the meeting will be held in person with a virtual option (see below). Please see our [Frequently Asked Questions and Implementation Timeline](#) for more information.

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

1:30 to 3:30 pm

Barbara Jordan State Office Building

2nd Floor Meeting Room 2.034

1601 Congress Avenue, Austin, 78711

Parking Information

Parking will be available free of charge at the top of State of Texas Garage B at 1511 San Jacinto Blvd, Austin, 78701. Please see the attached Capitol Complex Open Parking map and **make sure to print and display the attached parking permit on the dashboard where it can be clearly seen from the front of the vehicle**. Parking for a fee is available at the Bullock Texas State History Museum at 1800 Congress Avenue, Austin, 78701; metered street parking in the area is limited.


Virtual Attendance Option

Details will be available the week prior to the meeting.

Texas Water Fund

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The Texas Water Fund is not a new financial assistance program itself; rather, it allows the TWDB to provide funding through certain existing financial assistance programs and the newly created New Water Supply Fund for Texas. The TWDB is working to implement the Texas Water Fund and is seeking stakeholder feedback to inform funding priorities as well as the administration of the programs to which funds may be transferred.

Sign up for TWDB "General Information" and "Financial Assistance"  [email lists](#) for regular updates.



[Texas Water Fund - March 20 Stakeholder Meeting Invitation](#)



[Texas Water Fund Issues for Consideration and Request for Feedback](#)



[Texas Water Fund FAQs and Implementation Timeline](#)

Upcoming Financial Assistance Workshops

[Agriculture Water Conservation Grants](#)

[Agriculture Water Conservation Loans](#)

[Asset Management Program for Small Systems](#)

[Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#)

[Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#)

[Lead Service Line Replacement \(LSLR\) Program](#)

[Emerging Contaminants \(EC\) Programs](#)

[Economically Distressed Areas Program](#)

[FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance](#)

[Flood Infrastructure Fund \(FIF\)](#)

[Rural Water Assistance Fund](#)

[State Participation Program](#)

[State Water Implementation Fund for Texas \(SWIFT\)](#)

[Texas Water Development Fund](#)

[Water Utilities Technical Assistance Program](#)

[Total Funding Commitments](#)

Statewide Public Awareness Program

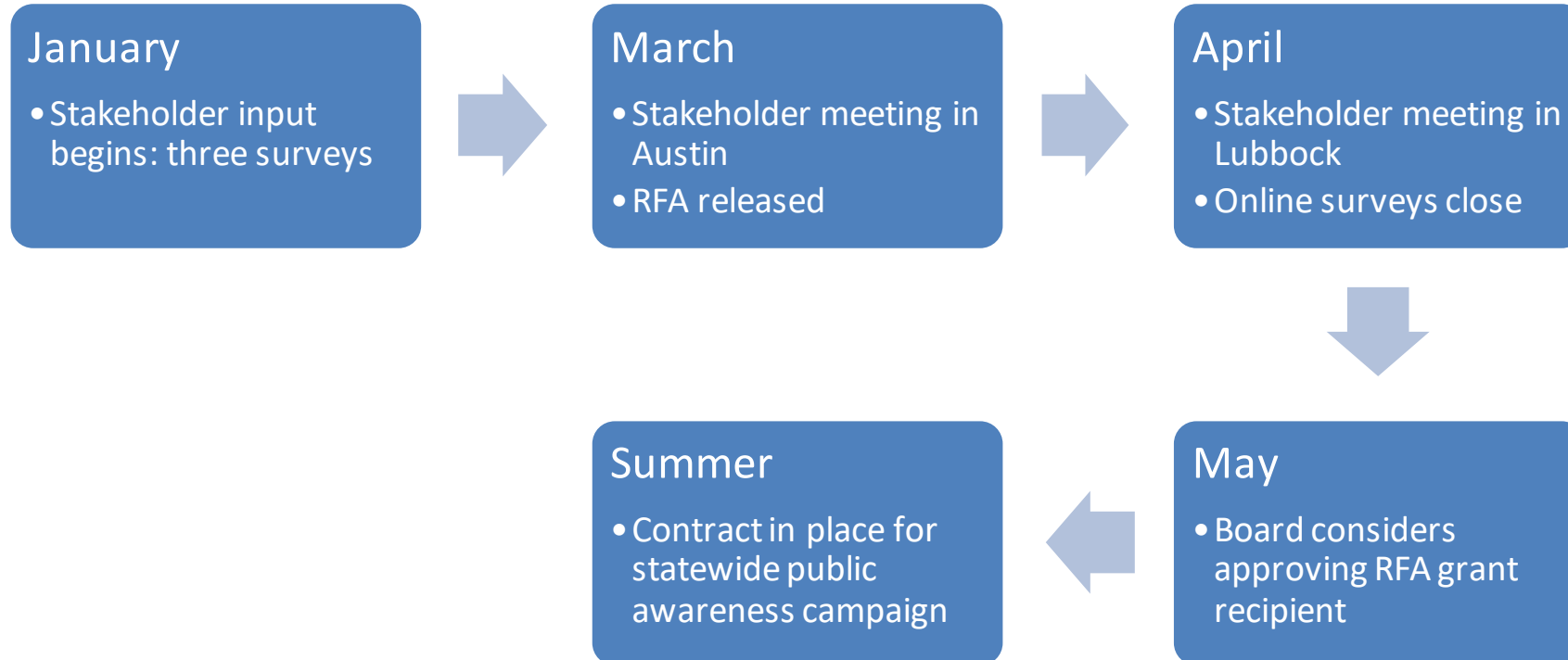


CAMPAIGN

vs.

PROGRAM

Texas Water Fund Implementation Timeline



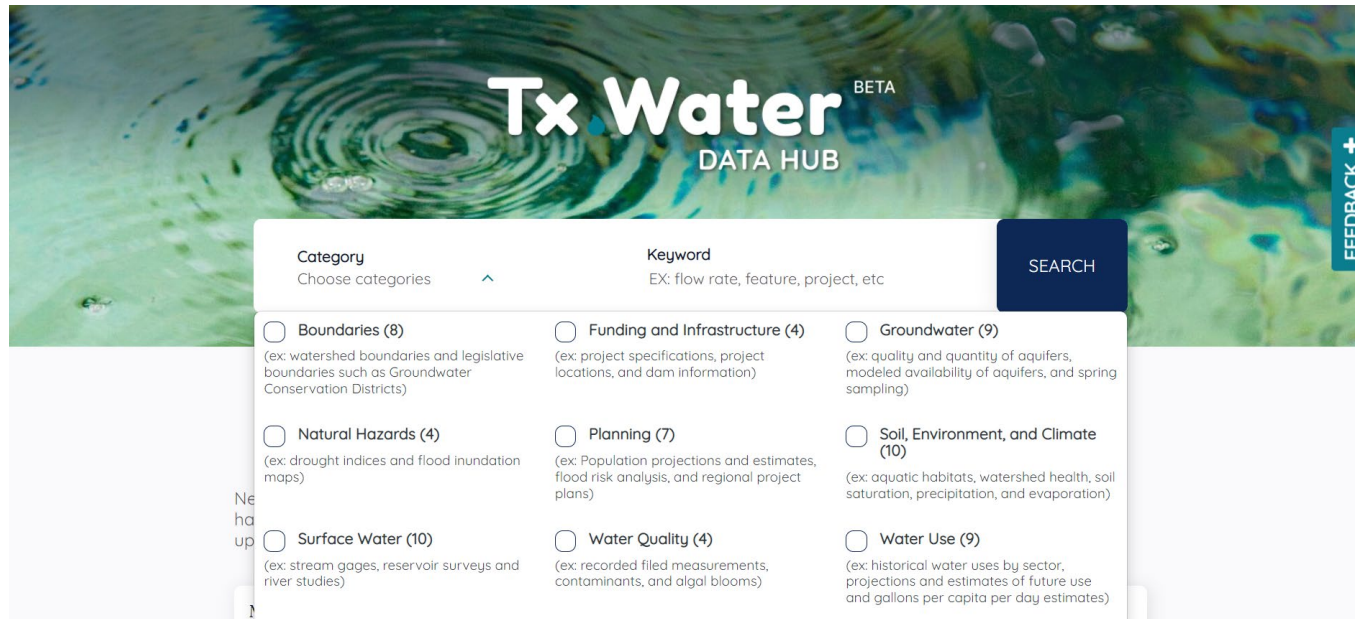
WARNING



TxWaterDataHub.org

Our mission: To create an intuitive system to index, document, search, and access Texas water data.

We built the Hub with benefits to the users in mind following the principles of FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) data.



TxWaterDataHub.org

The Hub relies on data contributions to build a diverse network of water data across entities, geography and disciplines.

For data providers we aim to provide benefit through:

- Standardized documentation
- Increased access, use, and value
- No moving data, easy download, and fewer requests

Send a Suggestion

Have a dataset or application in mind for the Hub?
Let us know about it!

Send to

DATA HUB SUPPORT

Name

Your Name

Email

username@email.com

☒ Data ☐ Application (interactive maps, dashboards, web tools) ☐ Both ☐ I Don't Know

Title of Resource

My resource

Who owns or maintains this resource? (if known)

Texas Water Development Board



FEEDBACK +

Visit the Hub
www.txwaterdatahub.org

Want to discuss more?
datahub@twdb.texas.gov



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**TEXAS WATER
DEVELOPMENT BOARD**



The Texas Water Fund: Water Conservation, Water Loss Mitigation, and Water Awareness