“Water taken in moderation cannot hurt anybody!”

Mark Twain
“Water is our most precious natural resource.”

Is Texas meeting the Challenge?
Regional Water Planning

- Senate Bill 1 & Senate Bill 2
- The first strategy to meet future demand must be Conservation.
- How are we doing?
Senate Bill 1094

- **Water Conservation Implementation Task Force**

- 32 Members, Diverse Interest Groups

- Task Force was directed to review, evaluate & recommend optimum levels of water use efficiency & conservation for Texas!
Tasks Included:

- Developing a Best Management Practices (BMP) Guide for identifying, evaluating & selecting BMPs for municipal, industrial & agricultural water uses & evaluating the costs & benefits for the selected BMPs.

- BMPs are VOLUNTARY, VOLUNTARY, VOLUNTARY!!
Statewide Public Awareness Program

- Consider the need to establish & maintain a statewide public awareness campaign for Water Conservation.

- Funds were raised to develop research & brand for the campaign.
State Funding, Evaluation & Oversight

- Using water conservation progress as a criterion for funding & compliance.
- Innovative water conservation grants.
- Cataloging and tracking water conservation plans.
- Water Conservation Advisory Council

- Recommendations to 2005 Legislature!
2007 Legislative Session

- Creation of the Water Conservation Advisory Council.
- New WC plans for suppliers with 3300 connections & above.
- Gives priority for loans & funding to those entities implementing WC programs or using the funds to develop WC programs.
- New irrigator rules & enforcement of state regulations for outdoor watering required by cities of 20,000 or more.
Regulatory Approaches are Powerful Tools!

- Local outdoor water restrictions have helped to limit excessive lawn watering & runoff

- State plumbing code amendments requiring water efficiency standards for plumbing fixtures have profoundly influenced product design & markets.

Encouragement to do the right thing is good, but regulate when necessary!
Where are we now as we head into the 21st Century?

- **Water Conservation Advisory Council**

- 23 Members Appointed by TWDB

Duties of the Council

- Monitor trends in water conservation implementation
- Monitor new technologies for possible inclusion by the Board as BMPs in the Best Mgt Practices Guide developed by the WC ITF.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the statewide water conservation public awareness program and associated local involvement in implementation of the program.
Duties Continued…..

- Develop & implement a state water management resource library.
- Develop & implement a public recognition program for WC.
- Monitor the implementation of water conservation strategies by water users included in regional water plans.
- Monitor target and goal guidelines for water conservation to be considered by the Board & Commission.
Who Has a Conservation Plan?

- If you have a loan from TWDB
- If you have a surface-water right from TCEQ
- All retail public water suppliers required to have a drought plan
New Conservation Plan

Requirements

Requires a retail public utility that provides potable water service to 3,300 or more connections to submit a water conservation plan based on:

- specific targets and goals
- using appropriate best management practices
- or other water conservation strategies.
Plan Status

Water Conservation Plans
February, 2008

Status
- Needs WCP (213)
- TCEQ WCP (69)
- TWDB and TCEQ WCP (36)
- TWDB WCP (318)

Note: Water Conservation Plan (WCP)

Source: TWDB and TCEQ, 02/2008
Reporting Requirements

Each entity that is required to submit a water conservation plan to the State must report annually on the entity's progress in implementing the plan.
Funding Prioritization

- Projects which result in the development of a new, usable supply of water;
- Projects which have the earliest identified need, as identified in the water plan; and
- Have already demonstrated significant conservation savings; or
- Will achieve significant conservation savings by implementing the proposed project.
Home-rule Municipality

May enforce ordinances requiring water conservation in the municipality to customers of the municipality's water and sewer utility in the extraterritorial jurisdiction.
Irrigation Standards

Revise rules and adopt standards for irrigation that include water conservation, irrigation system design and installation, and compliance with municipal codes.

Enforcement by Municipalities of 20,000+ population.
A new broad-based non-profit organization based in Chicago and dedicated to the efficient and sustainable use of water. It brings together a diverse range of stakeholders to advocate for water-use efficiency and conservation.

www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org
What is the Problem?

- Unreliable Water Supplies
- Skyrocketing Costs of Providing Drinking Water
- Changing Climate
- Increasing Impacts to the Environment

www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org
How Do We Benefit You?

- Stand as a Clear and Authoritative National Voice for Water Efficiency.
- Provide Comprehensive Information about Water Efficient Products, Practices & Programs – what works & what doesn’t!
- Represent the interest of Water Efficiency in the Development of Codes & Standards

www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org
How Do We Benefit You?

- Transform the Market for Fixtures & Appliances.
- Coordinate with Green Building Initiatives to Institutionalize Water Efficiency
- Train Water Conservation Professionals.
- Educate Water Users

www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org
“Well done is better than well said!”
Benjamin Franklin

Carole Baker
Harris-Galveston Subsidence District
Direct: 281.956.2191

cbaker@subsidence.org