



# SIERRA CLUB

## LONE STAR CHAPTER



## Protect Our Water Supply

Support critical funding in the appropriations process and legislation to address water waste in outdoor watering

### Overview

- Although conservation measures have reduced per person water use in Texas over the past 25 years, many communities have failed to adopt best practices for conservation, and the most recent water loss audits filed with the State by water utilities serving a population of 25,000 or more show an average total water loss of 13% in their distribution systems.
- The population in Texas is expected to grow by 70 percent by 2070, putting many areas of the state at risk in meeting their water supply needs without additional water conservation, water loss control measures, and/or water supply projects.
- Texas is challenged by recurring droughts and floods, requiring planning for both scenarios.

### Funding

- Support the base appropriations proposed in HB 1/SB 1 for the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the 2020/2021 biennium but push for enhanced funding to the agency in key areas.
- Specifically, support these recommendations for enhanced funding for TWDB:
  - \$1 million for the biennium for TWDB to assist water utilities in preparing and validating their required water audits to pinpoint and reduce water loss in their systems
  - \$3 million for each year of the biennium, as recommended by the Water Conservation Advisory Council, for a statewide water conservation public education campaign
  - \$4.5 million for the biennium, as requested by TWDB, for a “flood technical package” to support the agency’s work to address the state’s flooding issues

### Legislation

**SB 1379 (Rodriguez) & HB 2957 (Zwiener).** Legislation that requires retail water utilities securing funding from TWDB for a water supply project to implement time-of-day restrictions on outdoor commercial and residential watering to reduce water waste through evaporation during the heat of the day.

### Background

TWDB is the state’s primary water planning, project financing, and science agency. The agency oversees the development of regional water plans and prepares a State Water Plan. TWDB provides financial assistance to communities for water, wastewater, and flood projects and technical assistance & scientific information to groundwater districts and water utilities for water management and conservation.