

Water Conservation and Management



Texas has adequate groundwater and surface water resources to meet its needs, but ensuring adequate planning to conserve those resources while balancing the needs of economic activity with the needs of recreational water use and “environmental” needs to ensure healthy water flows are of paramount importance.

The Sierra Club will be supporting adequate funding through the budget process to ensure that the Texas Water Development Board is able to conduct necessary research on groundwater sources, environmental flows, climate impacts on resource planning, as well as critical water issues like providing technical assistance to groundwater districts and water utilities to enhance water management and conservation and implementing the state water conservation education program. The Sierra Club will also work to create and fund **Water Audit Report Data Validity Pilot Projects** across Texas to determine effectiveness of increased water loss control programs.

In addition, the Sierra Club will work with legislators and groundwater districts to ensure they have adequate authority and resources to carry out their responsibilities for proper groundwater management, including the recognition of the hydrologic connections between groundwater and surface water.

We will also work to implement the recommendations of the Texas Water Conservation Advisory Council to improve data and best practices on water conservation.

We will continue to work to improve the state’s water planning process by ensuring regional water planning that facilitates diverse public participation, prioritizes conservation and drought management, and protects environmental flows.

Responsible water supply solutions

Support innovative water supply options that avoid costly and energy-intensive movement of water around the state, minimize environmental impacts, and emphasize efficiency and equity.

Finally, we will work on ways to implement regional-scale green storm water infrastructure. With the constant threat of flood-related disasters in the Gulf Coast region, the creation and funding of a regional-scale “Gulf Coast Resilient Watersheds” Authority, or alternatively, a shared regional approach among existing authorities, would allow for the development of connected green storm water infrastructure across jurisdictions as well as increased collaboration between local authorities.

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