



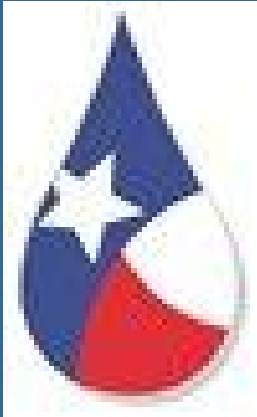
Sustainable Water Resources

October 20, 2008

University of St. Thomas



www.subsidence.org



www.savetexaswater.org

*Water Conservation
Advisory Council*



www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org



- **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

“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**
- **23 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.**



WATER



IQ

Know your water.SM

www.wateriq.org

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!**

New Conservation Plan Requirements

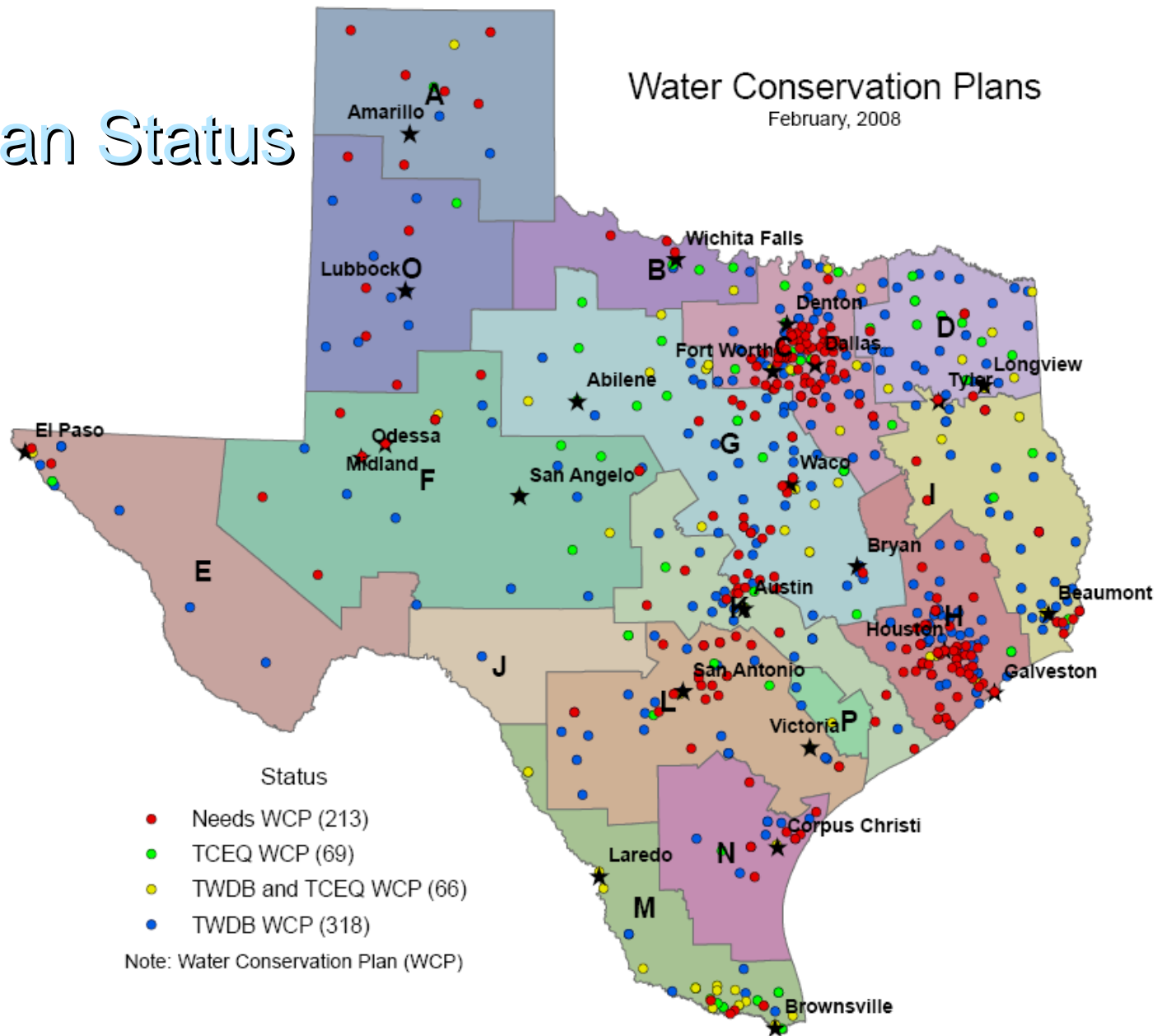
Requires a retail public utility that provides potable water service to 3,300 or more connections to submit a water conservation plan based on:

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

Plan Status

Water Conservation Plans

February, 2008



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.

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.

Where are we now as we head into the future?

- **Water Conservation Advisory Council**
 - **23 Members Appointed by TWDB**
 - **Municipalities, Groundwater Districts, River Authorities, Environment, Irrigation Districts, Institutional Water Users, Higher Education, Profession Organization focused on WC, Refining & Chemical Mfg., Electrical Generation, Mining & Recover of Minerals, Landscape Irrigators & Horticulture, Water Control & Improvement Districts Rural Water Users & MUDs.**

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.**

Legislative Report

- The Council believes that in order to achieve success on a local, regional and state level, efforts must be focused on three critical elements:
 - Implementation & Measurement
 - Public Awareness & Recognition
 - Resource Availability: Information, Tools & Expertise

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has!”



Carole Baker
Harris-Galveston Subsidence District
Direct: 281.956.2191

cbaker@subsidence.org