

Brackish Groundwater & Seawater Desalination

Desalination technology has been proven both reliable and cost-effective. The 2007 State Water Plan identifies desalination projects that would create over 300,000 acre-feet per year of new water supply by 2060. Initial capital costs as well as on-going power and energy costs present a potential impediment for implementing desalination projects in Texas.

The 2007 State Water Plan, *Water for Texas – 2007*, projects that available supplies will no longer be sufficient to meet water supply demands as early as

2010 if no new supplies are developed with the associated infrastructure to treat and deliver the water. Through the state and regional water planning process, the regional water planning groups identified water management strategies to meet the anticipated needs. These strategies include additional surface water and groundwater supplies, conservation, reuse, desalination, and others.

Among the many sources of water that Texans will rely upon in the future for human consumption only seawater has the unique potential to provide an uninterrupted and limitless supply during times of drought. Droughts are a recurring theme in Texas and often have devastating effects upon the state's economy and environment. Desalination along the Gulf Coast, where nationally and internationally critical seaports and industrial complexes are located, will support economic growth in these areas and will create opportunities for the sale or lease of downstream water rights in the state's rivers upstream to alternative locations, benefiting inland cities and water users.

By the end of Fiscal Year 2007, Texas would have invested in excess of \$4 million on planning and preliminary engineering works for developing large-scale seawater desalination facilities at three potential sites along the Gulf Coast. An infusion of financial assistance to defray a portion of the estimated \$500 million capital cost for the projected facilities, would allow for design and construction efforts to begin in 2008.

****REQUEST****

- [Support](#) capital funding and operations (e.g. power subsidies) for developing new drought-proof water supplies by means of brackish and seawater desalination.
- [Support](#) continued federal funding for research for brackish and seawater desalination technologies.