



Federal Funding of Water Projects

SUPPORT funding of critical Texas water projects authorized in the **Water Resources Development Act of 2007**, including appropriating the full \$40 million authorized for the Texas Environmental Infrastructure Program (Section 5138).

SUMMARY: The state of Texas and the nation will benefit greatly from the Water Resources Development Act, recently reauthorized by Congress. However, the benefits of WRDA will not be realized unless appropriations follow. A number of critical water projects are authorized for Texas. The state has recently completed another update to its ongoing statewide planning process; working through a grassroots, comprehensive planning process unique in the nation, Texas knows its water needs and the projects needed to address them. The Texas Environmental Infrastructure Program was established to provide federal partnering with state and local partners to implement water projects identified in the Texas Water Plan. The Texas Water Conservation Association, with members representing both the state and local partners, urges Congress to appropriate full funding of the \$40 million authorized for the TEIP.

BACKGROUND: Texas and the rest of the nation face urgent water challenges, including:

- Deteriorating infrastructure;
- Increasing demands for water;
- Conflicting uses, especially those between economic and environmental uses;
- Frequent and extended droughts, particularly in the arid West; and
- Limited resources.

All levels of government – federal, state and local – as well as the private sector must act to meet these challenges.

Texas faces water shortages that are among the most severe in the nation. Recognizing the potential for adverse impacts to the state, Texas state and local governments committed considerable time and

millions of dollars to estimate water needs across the state and to develop comprehensive strategies for adequately managing these needs. The State Water Plan has been thoughtfully developed by regional water planning groups at the grassroots level. The plan identifies a balanced but urgent approach for managing water resources for our people, economy and environment. Investments in new water supply and conveyance are critical components of the State Water Plan, and part of a prudent strategy that applies conservation, reuse and other means to use existing water sources wisely.

Texas is proud that most of the costs of planning and implementing water management strategies will be met by local and state resources. These resources, however, can become even more powerful and effective when leveraged at the federal level. Texas is a significant contributor to the national economy. As such, it is in the federal interest to support a healthy Texas economy that thrives in an environmentally sustainable way. Thus, federal participation in water development in Texas is a national priority. The federal government and the state of Texas must commit to joint participation in investing in water for Texas. The Corps of Engineers is vital to this federal-state partnership.

Section 5138 establishing TEIP is a major step forward for the future of Texas water. TEIP will provide appropriate federal support for implementing the water projects identified in the Texas Water Plan, especially in rural and other areas of state that have not developed partnerships with the Corps of Engineers. Deteriorating infrastructure is a major problem facing many of these communities. TEIP will help provide answers for these areas.

