# WATER REUSE / WATER CONSERVATION / WATER DESALINATION

## BACKGROUND


Fresh water is the most precious and essential element for sustaining life on this planet earth. The growth and health of the Texas economy hinges on this critical resource.

The future of water in Texas requires advancing a number of water management strategies and innovations. Traditional major water supply strategies such as reservoirs and pipelines must be bolstered by the emerging sustainable water supply approach. These emerging strategies are sustainable and serve to support Federal "Green Initiative" policies. The timely implementation of these strategies advances the goal of meeting Texas' water needs and is consistent with the objective of the economic stimulus initiative to create jobs, to advance science and technology in a manner that creates long-term benefits, and to address the strong connection between water and energy.

- ***SUPPORT*** increased federal funding for research, development, and implementation of innovative and sustainable methods of enhancing water supplies, including reuse, conservation and desalination (seawater, brackish groundwater, and surface water).
- ***SUPPORT*** additional funding for the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI Program and agricultural water conservation projects.
- ***SUPPORT*** additional funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's Research Grant Program, State Revolving Funds program, and the Alliance for Water Efficiency.
- ***SUPPORT*** innovative Clean Renewable Water Supply Bonds (CREWS) legislation (H.R. 4132, S. 1371).
- ***SUPPORT*** funding of the USGS Cooperative Water Program ($95 million) and the National Streamflow Information program ($110 million) to gather quantity and quality data critical to the development of science and technology essential for a successful water reuse program.
- ***SUPPORT*** legislation that would restore eligibility for issuance of private activity bond financing for air and water pollution control facilities. The eligibility of these facilities would provide another tool for financing required to meet new and existing environmental requirements to reduce greenhouse gases and improve quality of discharge to our rivers and streams (H.R. 4243).

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## REUSE

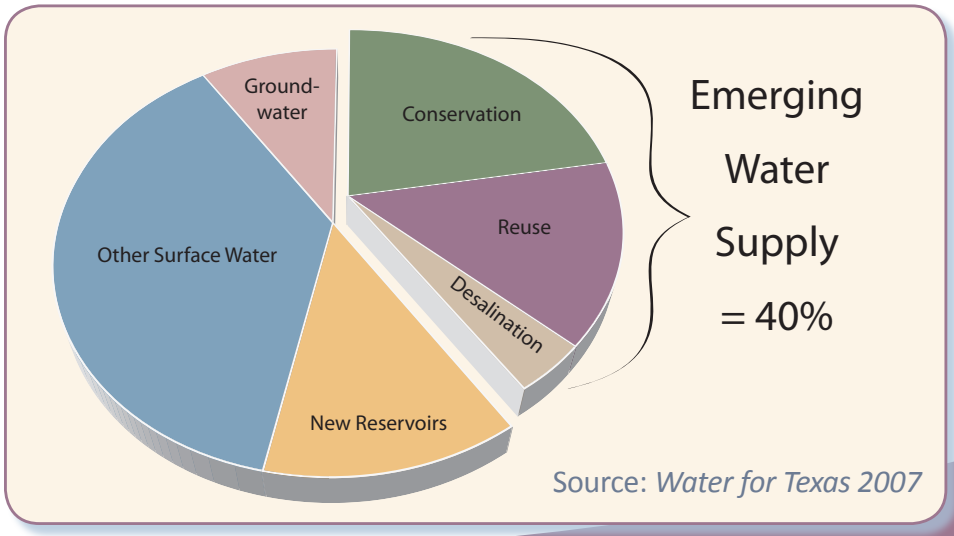
Water reuse in Texas is a significant emerging water management strategy and is anticipated to provide an additional 1.3 million acre-feet/year of water to meet Texas' water needs through 2060. The key challenges for implementing projects to provide this quantity of water include: public education, science and technology, and funding. The 2007 Texas Water Plan indicates that it will cost about four billion dollars to implement the targeted amount of reuse water. Of major value to advancing water reuse in Texas, as well as other areas of the United States, is providing funding support to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) Title XVI Program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Research Grant Program, the State Revolving Funds Program, and the U.S. Geological Survey's program to gather water quantity and quality data. Water reuse is recognized as a water management strategy that expands water conservation, and its use represents greater stewardship of our water resources. Support for H.R. 4132 and S.1371 is especially beneficial.

## CONSERVATION

Water conservation in Texas is anticipated to save about 2 million acre-feet/year of water in 2060. Increased funding of the Alliance for Water Efficiency, the WaterSense Program and State Revolving Fund accelerate efforts to reduce water demand. The BOR special project funding for agricultural water conservation efforts is needed to free up water to help meet future demands in the state. In addition, the Texas Agriculture Water Conservation Demonstration initiative of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2007 provides the Texas Water Development Board with funds to give farmers and ranchers the tools to reach higher efficiencies in on-farm water conservation. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Environmental Quality Incentives Program provides incentives for water quality and water conservation projects.

## DESALINATION

The 2007 Texas Water Plan indicates that desalination is anticipated to develop 300,000 acre-feet/year of new water supply by 2060. Current planning to update the Texas Water Plan is giving further consideration to desalination of brackish surface water, brackish groundwater, and seawater. It is anticipated that the updated planning will significantly increase the quantities of water that will be provided by desalination. Additionally, efforts are being pursued to manage saline water sources, which are adding salt to existing Texas water sources. Effective saline water management to protect and enhance fresh water supplies will also be significant benefit in meeting the state's water needs. Support for H.R. 4132 and S. 1371 is especially beneficial.




Source: *Water for Texas 2007*