

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Budget – Establishing a Stronger Role in Texas

Created in 1902, USBR is an agency within the Department of the Interior whose mission is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner within the western states. The addition of Texas in 1906 expanded USBR responsibility to 17 western states.

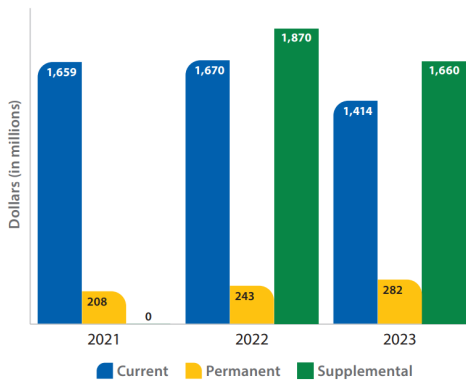
Texas Activities. Much of the Reclamation activities in Texas is directed to municipal, industrial water as well as irrigation but on a scale much less than those in other Western states.

In Texas, Reclamation projects provide water supply, flood protection and recreational opportunities to over one million people. The Nueces River Project provides municipal and industrial water to the Corpus Christi area. In addition to irrigation, the San Angelo Project provides for the integrated operation of Twin Buttes Reservoir with Lake Nasworthy to meet the municipal water requirements of the city of San Angelo. The project also provides fish and wildlife, recreation, and flood control benefits. The Canadian River Project provides municipal and industrial water to 11 cities in the Texas Panhandle including Amarillo and Lubbock. This project also provides flood control and recreation benefits to the area.

- USBR Dams in Texas**
- Sanford Dam at Lake Meredith
 - Twin Buttes Dam at San Angelo
 - Choke Canyon Dam on the Nueces River



Reclamation Funding



Limited funding despite

great need. The Reclamation funding for FY23 is \$1.4 billion. However, *Texas, for its projects, typically receives less than 1% of USBR’s budget, lower than other western states.* Even as USBR’s budget has increased in recent years, the Texas funding allocation has not increased substantially.

USBR’s budget includes significant supplemental funding for water storage, water resources-related work and drought response particularly in California. The Texas State Water Plan identifies numerous Texas water storage and delivery projects that could

benefit from this category of USBR funding. Texas has among the fastest population growth of any state, and as such, the greatest need to meet increasing water demands through new water supply projects.

Competitive grant programs could better target USBR funds.

Competitive grant programs promote efficient use of federal funds by requiring all projects to compete on a level playing field and be prioritized for federal funding based on project cost and benefits. TWCA strongly supports the competitive Title XVI water reuse/recycling program put in place by the WINN Act. Similarly, USBR’s WaterSMART competitive planning program has offered extensive benefits to Texas water managers; 35 projects in Texas have received over \$12.1 million in WaterSMART

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grants over a period of several years. Competitive programs allow USBR to target federal dollars to projects providing the greatest benefit.

Requests for Congress:

- **Increase USBR funding for Texas.** Increased funding for Texas would promote funding equity with other western states and assist in the implementation of water supply, conveyance, and reuse projects. TWCA supports additional funding that recognizes water needs throughout the Western States, including fair share for Texas. From California to Texas, all Western States are impacted significantly.
- **Replace the legacy Title XVI program with a competitive program,** such as the competitive Title XVI program initiated under the WIIN Act.