

**Water Conservation Advisory Council  
Trends and Metrics Workgroup 2  
Population Estimate Pilot Project 07/18/08**

**Background:**

Estimates of population are important data challenges for water supply planners. It is critical to know how many people a utility serves and to project how many may be served in the future to ensure adequate water supply. At the same time as conservation metrics like gallons per capita (GPCD) are calculated, accurate and consistent estimates of population are necessary to have useful trend data.

**The Challenge:**

This pilot project will develop one methodology for estimating current population for within water service provider boundaries using commonly available data. It must be a methodology that can be replicated accurately and consistently by the Texas Water Development Board in the future. The combination of techniques used should also be reasonable for larger urban areas, rural areas, rapidly growing areas, and areas where there may be negative growth.

**Volunteer Process:**

The Water Conservation Advisory Council (WCAC) Metrics and Trends Workgroup seeks a small group of diverse volunteer water providers to participate in this pilot project. Representative volunteer utilities should include: a larger utility (over 300,000 connections), a rural city utility, a Water Control Improvement District, A Municipal Utility District, a mid-sized utility (about 100,000 connections), and a utility with mixed city/urban/ETJ boundaries. Representatives from these water providers will work with the WCAC members and the State Demographer over the next year to develop a methodology that can be recommended by the WCAC to the TWDB.

**Expertise Available:**

We are fortunate to have the leadership and expertise of Dr. Karl Eschbach, the State Demographer for the State of Texas and several data experts from the Texas Water Development Board including Dr. Dan Hardin who will work on this project. We will also have available information from many utilities regarding how population estimates have already been completed.

**Advantages of Participation in Pilot:**

- Learning more about your customer data.
- Having advanced knowledge of your population estimate.
- Opportunity to provide input about your community's special population concern's.
- Confidence that the method is fair and reasonable.
- Opportunity to learn and to train staff.

**Timeline:**

There will be bi-weekly conference calls and periodic face to face meetings from October 2008- June 2009. Volunteer utility groups should be established by October, 2008 and initial data made available by the end of November, 2009.