

Regional Plan Implementation

Legislative Tasks

According to Senate Bill 3 and House Bill 4 passed by the 80th Legislature, one duty of the Water Conservation Advisory Council (Council) is to “monitor the implementation of water conservation strategies by water users included in regional water plans.”

In response, the Council has determined the most appropriate course of action to evaluate the effectiveness of the state’s water conservation measures is to contact the state’s sixteen regional water planning groups to survey the progress of each planning group in implementing the water conservation measures outlined in the state water plan and the water savings gained through the implementation of these water conservation strategies.

The Council requested regional water planning groups complete and return a four-part survey. The survey requested the following information:

1. A list of conservation strategies included in the region’s current water plan;
2. The expected water savings on an annual basis for each conservation strategy listed in response to request number one;
3. A list by water user of the amount of water saved on an annual basis by each conservation strategy implemented; and
4. A list of additional conservation strategies being considered by your region.

Summary of Progress

In early June 2008, the Council provided the four-part survey to the chairs of the sixteen regional water planning groups. The Council requested the regional planning groups submit the survey responses to the Texas Water Development Board no later than October 1, 2008.

Additionally, the Council requested the regional water planning groups update the surveys each even number year following the initial 2008 submission. All surveys will be submitted to the Texas Water Development Board, as TWDB is responsible for providing staff assistance to the Council.

To date (June 18, 2008) the chairs of Region A and Region C water planning groups have requested their respective consultants to address the four survey items.

Key Findings/Recommendations

Findings and recommendations related to the Council’s charge to monitor the implementation of water conservation strategies by water users included in regional water plans, should be considered as a resource for the Legislature to monitor water conservation efforts. The survey results may be used to identify effective conservation initiatives and means of promoting these initiatives at both the state and/or local levels through both funding and/or policy support.

Because the Council’s findings are not reflective of an exhaustive review of proposed or implemented water conservation strategies, they should not be used to rank regional

water planning groups on their implementation or to prescribe or endorse certain conservation methods.

Findings/Recommendations will be completed after review of surveys (October 2008). Findings may provide an evaluation, by region, of the water conservation strategies proposed in the regional water plans and the conservation strategies implemented in the regions. This comparison will demonstrate the acre feet of water anticipated to be conserved and the acre feet actually conserved.

The Council has identified the potential need for funding for regional water planning groups to conduct the proposed survey and monitor the implementation and savings that result from the implementation of the water conservation measures.

Activities Report

Future Objectives

The Council plans to continue monitoring the implementation of water conservation measures by requesting the regional water planning groups submit the four-part survey on a biennial basis.

This survey data may be used to assist the Council and the Legislature in addressing the other charges presented to it by the Legislature, including monitoring trends in water conservation implementation, developing and implementing a public recognition program for water conservation, and monitoring target and goal guidelines for water conservation to be considered by the Texas Water Development Board and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.