

FACT SHEET

Water Resources and Environmental Sources for Texans

***WATER for WEST TEXANS!*.....is a Cooperative Program for District 6 Texas AgriLife Extension Service -West Texas and the Texas Water Resources Institute
“AGUA ES VIDA!” or “WATER IS LIFE!”**

**by: Mike Mecke
Extension Water Programs Specialist, Texas Water Resources Institute
Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A & M University System**

West Texas! What a wild, scenic and yes, often desolate area it is. And what a rugged, self-sustaining and pioneering-type of person lived there! From the earliest paleo-Indians, Apaches, Comanche, Jumanos or Pueblos - to the Spanish and Mexican settlers, then to early Anglo ranchers – all learned to respect and preserve the rare and precious waters or perish. West Texans never had to be taught or told that their water resources, whether flowing in the Pecos or Rio Grande Rivers, from a spring or lying below ground, were valuable – this is instinctive to people living and working in dry, arid climates and in deserts. Truly here, “**Water IS Life!**”

Sustainability is such a popular and yet relevant term today, regarding water and other natural resources. While not called that, making sure your water, food, livestock forage and other vital resources were used wisely, with the future always in mind, was a daily way of life for these people who settled Texas. Early Texans were as rugged and enduring as the land they loved and they cared for the land and the waters, while working for the future of their children and grandchildren. *How can we who follow do less?*

Fortunately, we do not have to do it alone as early Texans often did. We now have many agencies and organizations in our region and across Texas and the nation ready and willing to answer questions and help either on the internet, by phone or mail.

Following is a listing of key water resource & environmental assistance/information resources for all Texans:

WATER RESOURCES

WORLD

**The Water Page
Water Policy International, LTD.
Provide general water facts, educational, etc.
<http://www.unesco.org/water/>**

**United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Information, events, books, glossary, etc.
<http://www.thewaterpage.com/>**

UNITED STATES FEDERAL AGENCIES

**US Geological Survey (USGS)
Dept. of Interior
Reston, VA
888/ASK-USGS
Water, geology, maps, biology, educational services
<http://water.usgs.gov>**

**US Forest Service - USDA
Washington, DC – TX is in two regions
Resource management, research & information
<http://www.fs.fed.us/>**

**US - EPA
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water (4101M)
1202 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460 - 202/564-0303
Water, environmental issues, educational, wastewater American Indians, wetlands, groundwater, water science, watersheds, and pollution incidents
<http://www.epa.gov/water/programs.html>**

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
US Department of Agriculture
Attn: Conservation Communications Staff
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, DC 20013
202/720-3210
Provide conservation assistance/information
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - HQ
Kingman Bldg. 7701
Telegraph Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22315
703/428-7389
Provide quality, responsive engineering services to nation:
manage, construct dams and other water-related structures
<http://www.usace.army.mil/>

Agricultural Research Service, USDA
Water, agricultural, foods, etc. research
HQ - Washington, DC <http://www.ars.usda.gov/main/main.htm>

Water Wise: A Well of Facts
US Agency for International Development
<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/0399/ijge/gi-07b.htm>

National Science Foundation
Independent Federal agency promoting science through research,
also science/engineering education pre-K through graduate
school and beyond.
<http://www.nsf.gov/index.jsp>

US Fish & Wildlife Service, Department of Interior
Washington, DC
202/208-5634
Wildlife information, education, law enforcement,
fisheries, endangered species, National Refuges and
wetlands protection
<http://www.fws.gov/>

Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240
202/513-0575
Manage, develop, protect water & related resources
<http://www.usbr.gov>

Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research
Facility – Bureau of Reclamation & Sandia Labs
Alamogordo, NM
<http://wrri.nmsu.edu/tbndrc/index.html>

National Water Program – CSREES- USDA
Partnership w/Land Grant Colleges
Grants, Projects, Training & Conferences

Southwest Region Ecological Services
US Fish & Wildlife Service - USDI
P.O. Box 1306 (4 Texas offices-ES)
Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306
<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/>

NON-GOVT. GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS

American Water Resources Association
P.O. Box 1626
Middleburg, VA 20118
540/687-8390 Very diverse membership. Hold
water, riparian, watershed conferences
<http://www.awra.org/>

The Groundwater Foundation
P.O. Box 22558
Lincoln, NE 68542
1-800/858-4844
Professionals dedicated to groundwater protection,
education and information
<http://www.groundwater.org/>

Digital Universe Foundation
“The vision of the Digital Universe is to organize the sum total
of knowledge and make it available to everyone.”
<http://www.dufoundation.org/>

Smart Growth America
1707 L St NW, Suite 1050
Washington, DC 20036
*Support citizen-driven planning coordinating development, transportation, revitalization of older areas and preservation of open
space and the environment.*
202-207-3355 - <http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/>

American Water Works Association
6666 W. Quincy Ave.
Denver, CO 80235
303/794-7711 Primarily membership is from
utilities: water, engineering, wastewater conferences
<http://www.awwa.org/>

Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable
USGS Sponsored
Collaborative effort of all levels of government, citizens,
Education, publications, youth activities, conferences
<http://water.usgs.gov/wicp/acwi/swrr/>

National Council for Science and the Environment
Dedicated to improving the scientific basis for
environmental decision making.
1707 H Street NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20006
-3918 | Phone: 202-530-5810
<http://ncseonline.org/>

American Rivers
1025 Vermont Ave NW, S – 720
Washington, DC 20005
202/347-9240
Public info, assistance on protecting/restoring rivers
<http://www.americanrivers.org/>

Environmental Defense
Partner with communities, businesses and governments to find solutions to water or other resource issues.
1875 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20009 - 1-800-684-3322
<http://www.environmentaldefense.org/home.cfm>

WATER SCIENCE FOR SCHOOLS
<http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/>

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
TEXAS WATER MATTERS – a Texas partnership to provide the public and officials water info/education
<http://www.texaswatermatters.org/>

Water Environment Federation
601 Wythe St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
1-800/666-0206
Technical & educational group dedicated to protection of global water environment, specialists in waste water
<http://www.wef.org>

THE INFINITE POWER OF TEXAS –
Texas State Energy Conservation Office (SECO)
Promotes renewable energy & sustainable building through demonstrations, education and hands-on instruction. Help w/financing and incentives.
<http://www.infinitepower.org/>

Texas State Energy Conservation Office (SECO)
Demonstration practices & education to accelerate the acceptance of renewable energy in Texas. Access to financing, incentives and policies through education and information.
<http://www.infinitepower.org/>

TEXAS – FEDERAL OFFICES

US Geological Survey (USGS), Dept. of Interior
5563 De Zavalla Rd., S-290
San Antonio, TX 78249
210/691-9200
Data gathering, analysis, distribution of surface & ground-water statistics, lab analysis – quantity and quality, geology, maps and biology
<http://txwww.cr.usgs.gov/>

International Boundary & Water Commission – US
Rio Grande Basin
4171 North Mesa, C-100
El Paso, TX 79902-1441
1-800-262-8857
Manages, with Mexico, Rio Grande River waters under treaties
<http://www.ibwc.state.gov/>

US Bureau of Reclamation (BoR), Dept. of Interior
700 E. San Antonio Ave. (Rio Grande Basin)
El Paso, TX 79901-7020
915/534-6300
Manages municipal, industrial, irrigation from BoR dams
http://www.uc.usbr.gov/contactus_uc/elpaso.html

US - EPA - Region 6 Office
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water (4101M)
1445 Ross Ave., Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202
214/665-6444
Water quality issues and prob
<http://www.epa.gov/region6>

EPA – Border Liaison Office
4050 Rio Bravo, Suite 100
El Paso, TX 79902
Border environmental and water issues, education
<http://www.epa.gov/r6border/index.htm>

US Bureau of Reclamation, Dept. of Interior
300 E. 8th St., Room 801 (TX–OK Area Office)
Austin, TX 78701-3225
512/916-5641
Manages water projects in upper Rio Grande basin
<http://www.gp.usbr.gov/otao.htm>

TEXAS STATE OFFICES

TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB)
AUSTIN - conservation, surface/groundwater info, pubs,
water conservation loans/grants, etc.
<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/home/index.asp>

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPT. (TPWD)
AUSTIN – rivers, lakes, bays, aquatic life data
collection, pubs, technical assistance/investigation
<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/>

TEXAS WATER RESOURCES INSTITUTE (TWRI)
TAMU – COLLEGE STATION - info, brochures, assistance
<http://twri.tamu.edu/>

SOIL, WATER & FORAGE TESTING LABORATORY
TAMU – COLLEGE STATION – lab tests & analysis
<http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/>

AGGIE HORTICULTURE
TAMU – Horticulture Dept. website -Xeriscape, plants, etc.
<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/>

TEXAS SEA GRANT PROGRAM
TAMU – GALVESTON - bays, estuaries, coastal wetlands
Education and information programs.
<http://texas-sea-grant.tamu.edu/>

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUPS (RWPG)
TWDB – set up for each state region – data & plans
http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/rwpg/group_info.asp

**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER
RESOURCES – TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY – San Marcos**
http://www.swt.edu/iiswr/iiswr_what.htmlx

**TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
(TSWCB) Partner w/NRCS in most counties, grants, assistance**
PO Box 658, Temple, TX 76503-0658
<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/>

**TEXAS COMMISSION on ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY (TCEQ) – AUSTIN - water/air/land
investigations, testing, permits, etc.**
<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/index.html>

**TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCES INFORMATION
SYSTEM (TNRIS) - AUSTIN - maps & data
(connected to Texas Water Development Board)**
<http://www.tnr.is.state.tx.us/>

TEXAS WATER: Water Resources Education
TAMU web site – information, education
<http://texaswater.tamu.edu/index.html>

IRRIGATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER (ITC)
TAMU – training - soon to be in San Antonio
Dr. Guy Fipps, Dir. <http://itc.tamu.edu/>

EL PASO RESEARCH CENTER - TAMU
Specializing in water research
<http://elpaso.tamu.edu/Research/Index.htm>

**TEXAS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICTS ASSOC. (TSWCD) - info & education**
Provide local employees for NRCS offices.
Operate under TSWCB in Temple.
<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/swcd/association.html>

TEXAS WILDSCAPES
TPWD – info on water-saving landscape plans
<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/nature/wildscapes/>

**TEXAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION - WEST
TEXAS DISTRICT 6 CENTER. Info & Education**
Fort Stockton <http://farwest.tamu.edu/>

**RIVER AUTHORITIES: Such as Colorado, Brazos,
Nueces, San Antonio, Guadalupe, etc. Manage river
basins, river parks, flood control, water supplies,
power, water quality, etc. Google river name.**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE
NETWORK – A coalition of several organizations, agencies and
Associations which assists local governments to find environ-
mental management, planning, funding & regulatory information**
<http://www.lgean.org/index.cfm>

TX WATER CONTROL & IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS
Units of local government authorized to engage in water programs.
Contact local offices for details of status and functions.
http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-043.html

GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS
Found in many Texas counties, monitor, manage
and protect aquifers. Provide education, information.
Check w/TX Alliance of Groundwater Districts
<http://www.texasgroundwater.org/>

PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
TEXAS WATER MATTERS – info/education
<http://www.texaswatermatters.org/>

WATER SCIENCE FOR SCHOOLS
<http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/>

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