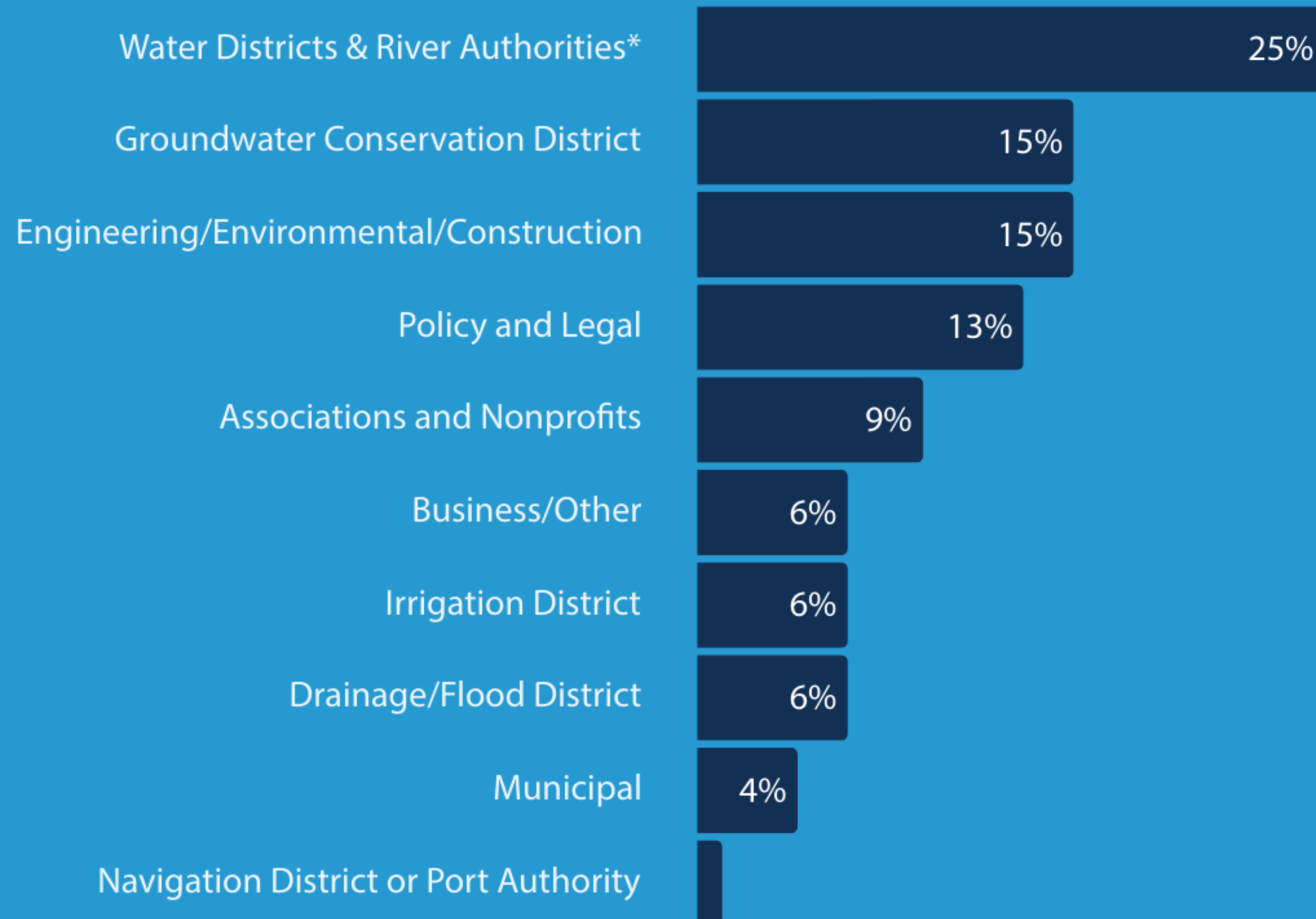


Legislative Update

February 2025

Sarah Kinkle, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs

Who is Texas Water Association?



TWA is a nonprofit policy association of the Texas water industry focusing on water supply and management.

From drought to flood, TWA works with its members to develop sound water policy for Texas.



89th Regular Session

KEY DATES

November 5	Election Day
November 11	First day of prefiling
January 14	First day of 89th Lege
March 14	Bill Filing Deadline
June 2	Sine Die – Final Day
June 21	Veto Deadline

House Natural Resources Committee

Senate Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee

89TH COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

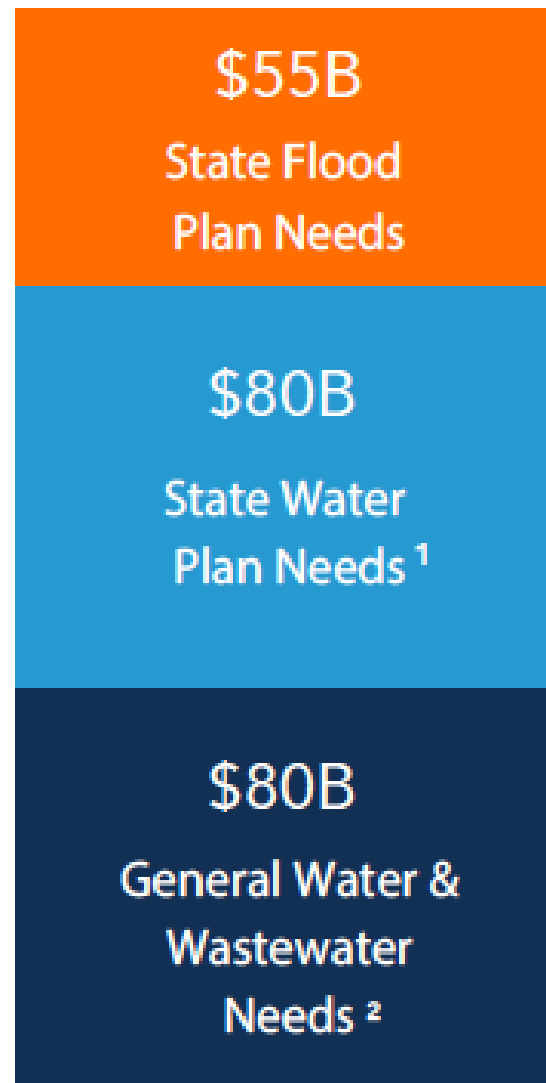
Chair	Rep. Cody Harris
Vice Chair	Rep. Armando Martinez
Members	Rep. Trent Ashby
	Rep. Jeff Barry
	Rep. Cecil Bell
	Rep. Brad Buckley
	Rep. Caroline Fairly
	Rep. Erin Gamez
	Rep. Josey Garcia
	Rep. Mary Gonzalez
	Rep. Ramon Romero
	Rep. Denise Villalobos
	Rep. Erin Zwiener

89TH COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Chair	Sen. Charles Perry
Vice Chair	Sen. Kelly Hancock
Members	Sen. Brian Birdwell
	Sen. César Blanco
	Sen. Roland Gutierrez
	Sen. Adam Hinojosa
	Sen. Nathan Johnson
	Sen. Lois Kolkhorst
	Sen. Kevin Sparks

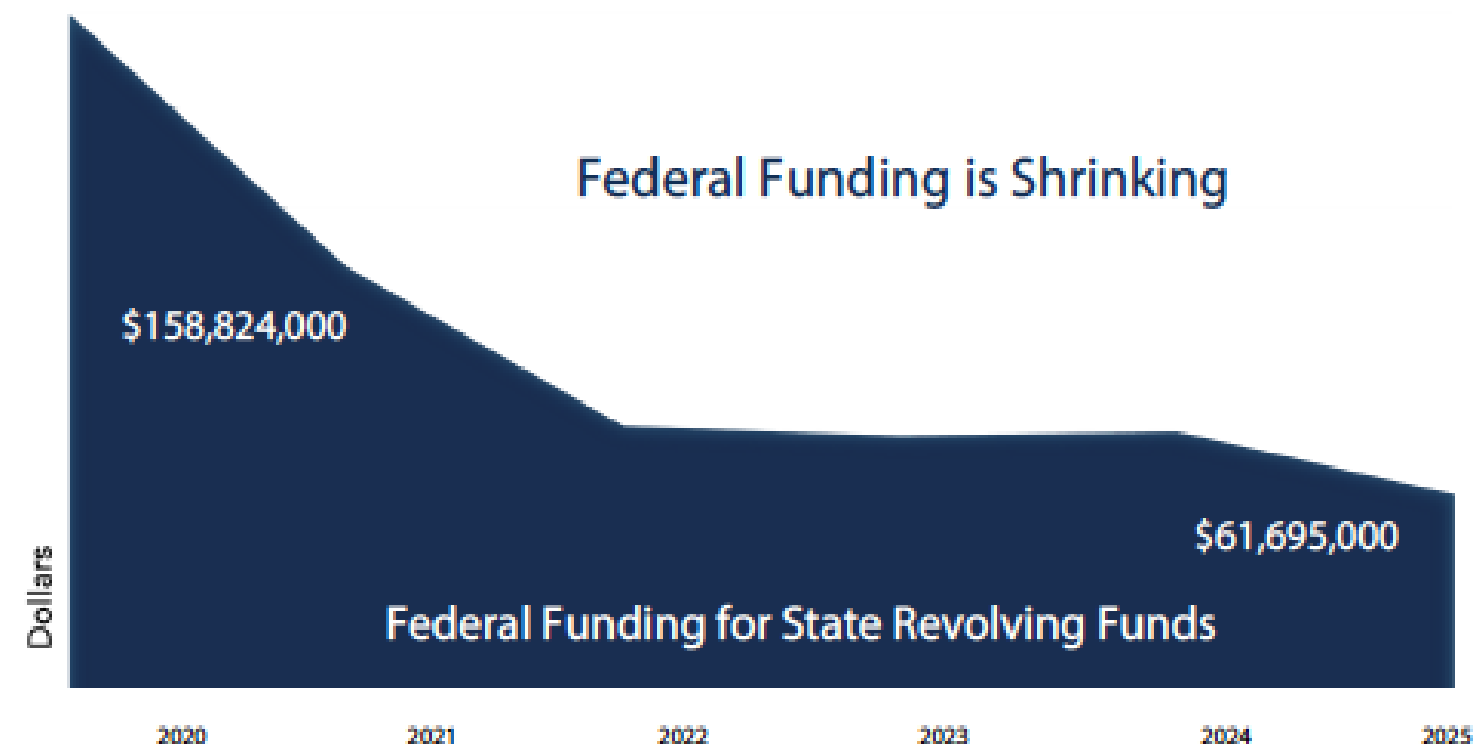
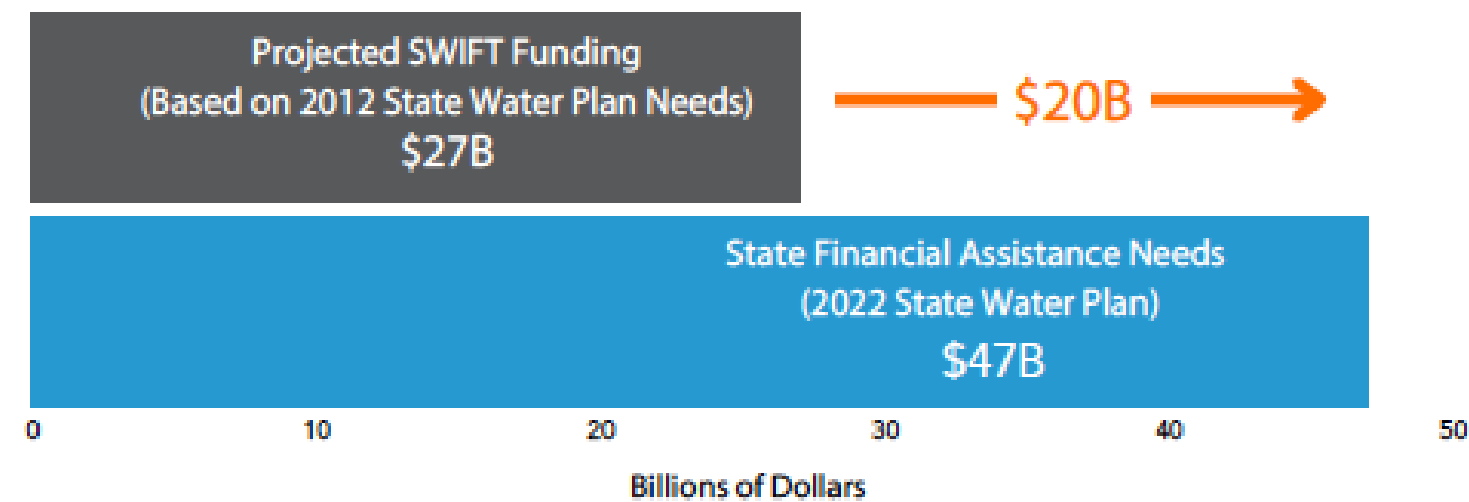
Texas Needs Additional Investment in Water Infrastructure

The price tag for Texas' water, wastewater, and flood infrastructure needs is in the hundreds of billions of dollars.



EXISTING FUNDING FALLS FAR SHORT OF WHAT'S NECESSARY

\$20B Gap in State Water Plan Needs and Projected Funding



! The Texas Water Development Board's financial assistance programs are as much as **ten times** oversubscribed.

TWA Legislative Agenda

PRIORITY ISSUE: INVESTMENT IN TEXAS WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

- Leverage dedicated funding and/or a one-time infusion of dollars
- Support water and wastewater needs through the Texas Water Fund*
- Address flood needs through the Flood Infrastructure Fund

*The Texas Water Fund provides the most flexibility for the TWDB to address the state's significant water and wastewater needs

TEXAS WATER ASSOCIATION ALSO SUPPORTS:

- Extending loan repayment terms for certain water infrastructure projects to help communities finance larger, more expensive projects, especially in high-growth areas
- Funding to update water availability model data in certain river basins to inform decision making on new water right applications
- Establishing and funding a Groundwater Science & Research Fund at the TWDB to enhance groundwater data and planning capabilities
- Funding to replenish the Ag. Water Conservation Grant/Loan Program, as requested in TWDB's Legislative Appropriations Request




Investment in Water Infrastructure

Sen. Perry and the \$5B + \$1B plan
Statewide Water Grid
Other tweaks



PFAS in Biosolids

H.B. 1674/S.B. 886 (Kerwin/Sparks) - Relating to the production, sale, and use of certain agricultural products containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)





Key Groundwater Bills

H.B. 1050 (Dorazio) - Attorney fees

H.B. 1633 (Gerdes)/S.B. 624 (Kolkhorst) - Registered wells in permitting

H.B. 1689 (Gerdes) - Interlocal contract for mitigation

H.B. 1690 (Gerdes) - Notice of permit application

H.B. 1400 (Harris)/S.B. 718 (Kolkhorst) - Groundwater science/research fund

H.B. 2077 (Gerdes) - Eligibility to appeal a DFC





Key Groundwater Bills

H.B. 2078 (Gerdes) - DFC achievement

H.B. 2080 (Gerdes) TCEQ's petition for inquiry process

S.B. 480 (Perry) - Interlocal contracts for water research and planning

H.B. 2805 (DeAyala) Attorney fees

H.B. 2812 (Isaac) Exempts public water supply wells from regulation, permitting, or metering by the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District.





Other Key Water-Related Bills

H.B. 2091 (Martinez) Adds mid-size city as a priority in the Texas Water Fund

H.B. 2109 (VanDeaver) Removes proposed reservoir projects from the State Water Plan

H.B. 2114 (VanDeaver) Prohibits certain engineering firms from constructing a reservoir

H.B. 2326 (Hopper)/H.J.R. 129 Replaces 3 governor-appointed board members of TWDB with 16 elected members

H.B. 2422 (Goodwin) Requires disclosures of water rights/services in residential property

H.J.R. 126 (Howard) Dedicates certain general revenue to the Texas Water Fund

H.B. 2584/S.B. 1145 (Landgraf/Birdwell) Land application of produced water

H.B. 2605/S.B. 1190 (Gerdes/Perry) Municipal water losses

H.B. 2620 (VanDeaver) Inclusion of certain water strategies in regional water plans

H.B. 2815/S.B. 1261 (Gerdes/Perry) Extends loan repayment terms for certain of water infrastructure projects

The background of the slide features a detailed, ornate dome ceiling, likely from a state capitol building. The ceiling is composed of a grid of octagonal and square panels, each with intricate carvings and gilded details. The overall color scheme is warm, with gold and cream tones. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white rectangular area in the center of the image.

Public Funds in Lobbying Bills

H.B. 309 (Leo-Wilson)/H.B. 1189 (Troxclair)/H.B. 1294 (Patterson)/S.B. 239 (Middleton) - Prohibits entities from using public funds to hire a lobbyist or pay association dues if the association hires a lobbyist

H.B. 571(Cain)/H.B. 671 (Shaheen) - Prohibits public funds in lobbying but exempts association legislative services (education not advocacy)

H.B. 755 (Spiller) - Public entity boards approve lobby contracts

H.B. 811 (Spiller) - Legal services to political subdivisions

S.B. 758 (Middleton) - Associations subject to open records

Contact

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