



How to Find Water Rights Information

Access TCEQ's Extensive Online Data and Resources

Water Rights Permitting and Availability Section

Water Availability Division

Jenna Rollins

Program Support Coordinator

Water Rights Permitting and Availability
Section

Agenda

- TCEQ Webpages
- Water Rights Forms and Applications
- Submitting Applications
- Technical Resources
- Texas Water Rights Viewer Demo
- Q & A Session

Navigating TCEQ's Webpage to Access Water Rights Information



TEXAS COMMISSION ON
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Water

Maintaining water quality and availability for municipalities, businesses, and homeowners.



Drinking Water

- Assisting Consumers and Operators of Public Water Systems
- Monitoring Drinking-Water Quality
- Reporting and Notification Requirements



Surface Water Rights and Availability

- Determining Water Availability
- Permitting and Ensuring Compliance
- Planning for Water Conservation and Drought




Water Quality in Rivers, Lakes and Estuaries

- Developing Water Quality Standards
- Monitoring and Assessing Surface Water Quality
- Protecting and Restoring Surface Water Quality





TEXAS COMMISSION ON
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

How Water Rights Webpages are Organized

 TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Home | Air | Land | Water | Licenses | Permits | Reporting |



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Home / Permits, Registrations, and Reporting / Surface Water Rights and Availability

Surface Water Rights and Availability

Water rights in Texas, water conservation plans, drought contingency plans, environmental flows, and ensuring compliance.

► **Annual Water Use Reports (WURs)** can be submitted electronically via SUNSS Surface Water Rights Data (SWRD) for non-Watermaster areas. Water Right holders can fill out the WUR form online in SUNSS and submit electronically. They can also use TCEQ Excel spreadsheet templates to upload their data into the SUNSS work area. Find more information at [Submitting Your Annual Water Use Report](#). Please send an e-mail to WUR@tceq.texas.gov for assistance.

► **Water Right Applications** should be submitted in two parts: **an electronic copy** should be submitted directly to WRPT@tceq.texas.gov, **and one hard copy** should be submitted to the TCEQ Central Office, Mail Code 160 with the required payment. If the files are too large to be submitted via e-mail, TCEQ's FTP may be utilized. Please visit the [FTP help site](#) for more information on how to transfer. If you need to submit a Water Right application via FTP, please send an e-mail to WRPT@tceq.texas.gov for further direction on how to transfer these files to staff.

Change of Ownership requests may be submitted directly to WRCOO@tceq.texas.gov. If your files are too large to be submitted via e-mail, TCEQ's FTP may be utilized. Please visit the [FTP help site](#) for more information on how to transfer. If you need to submit a Change of Ownership via FTP, please send an e-mail to WRCOO@tceq.texas.gov for further direction on how to transfer these files to staff.


► **TCEQ Water Rights Viewer** - The TCEQ Water Rights Viewer includes information about water rights authorizations and other water related information. A user can find information about the location of authorized water rights points, a copy of the water right and the Adjudication Final Determination, current ownership of the water right, recent water use data, and TCEQ's adopted environmental flow standards.

Questions or Comments:
wras@tceq.texas.gov,

Related Content

- [Drought in Texas](#)
- [Advisory Groups](#)
- [Dam Safety](#)
- [Compacts with Other States](#)

River Basins in Texas



General Water Rights Information

[Water Rights: Permits Home](#)


[Am I Regulated? Water Rights in Texas](#)

[Applications and Forms Related to Surface Water Rights](#)

[Water Rights Permits: Annual Water Use Reporting](#)

[Water Rights Advisory Work Group](#)

[Water Rights and Water Use Data](#)

 [How are we doing? Take our customer satisfaction survey](#)

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Am I Regulated? Water Rights in Texas

What is state water? How is it regulated in Texas? Who needs a permit to use it? Find out how to apply to use state water or to change the ownership or authorizations of an existing water right.

What is State (Surface) Water?

- The water of the ordinary flow, underflow, and tides of every flowing river, natural stream, and lake, and of every bay or arm of the Gulf of Mexico, and the stormwater, floodwater, and rainwater of every river, natural stream, and watercourse in the state.
- Water that is imported from any source outside the boundaries of the state for use in the state, and that is transported through the bed and banks of any navigable stream within the state, or by utilizing any facilities owned or operated by the state.
- State water *does not* include percolating groundwater; nor does it include diffuse surface rainfall runoff, groundwater seepage, or spring water before it reaches the watercourse.

Who Owns State Water?


Surface water in Texas is owned by the state and held in trust for the citizens of the state. The state grants the right to use this water to different people, such as farmers or ranchers, cities, industries, business, and other public and private interests.

How Are Water Rights Prioritized?

Water rights have priority dates which indicate the seniority of one water right over another, known as "first in time, first in right." In times of drought, those with the earliest dates have the right to get water before those with newer dates. Today, priority dates for new appropriations of water are based on the date the application is declared administratively complete.

Do I Need a Permit to Use State Water?

Anyone who wants to use surface water in Texas must first **get permission** from the state, unless they are using the water for one of several "exempt uses" in the Texas Water Code.

Some exemptions include: domestic and livestock use, wildlife management, emergencies like wildfires, and other specified uses (see [Texas Water Code Section 11.142](#) )

What if I'm in a Watermaster Area?

If you are in the Brazos, Concho, or Rio Grande River basin, or South Texas, see our **Watermasters webpage** for information about water rights in these areas.

Application Forms


- Application forms can be found on the TCEQ website:
https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water_rights/wr-permitting/wr_applications.html#permitting
- New Appropriations, Amendments, Temporary Permits, Abandonments, Extension of Time, and Change of Ownership
- As of October 2024, there's a new Temporary Water Use application form for temporary water use permits processed by the Water Rights Permitting and Availability Section

Instructions for Completing Application Forms

 [Instructions for Completing the Water Rights Permitting Application \(TCEQ-10214a\)](#)

 [Instructions for Completing the Extension of Time Application \(TCEQ-10203b\)](#)

NEW  [Instructions for Completing the Temporary Water Rights Permit Application \(TCEQ-10202-inst\)](#)

 [Instructions for the Change of Ownership Form \(TCEQ-10204inst\)](#)

We have instruction packets for our various application forms posted on our Applications and Forms Related to Surface Water Rights webpage that can assist you while filling out an application.

Temporary Permit Application

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

P.O. Box 13087 MC-160, Austin, Texas 78711-3087
Telephone (512) 239-4600, FAX (512) 239-4770

APPLICATION FOR A TEMPORARY WATER USE PERMIT FOR MORE THAN 10 ACRE-FEET OF WATER, AND/OR FOR A DIVERSION PERIOD LONGER THAN ONE CALENDAR YEAR

This form is for an application for a temporary permit to divert water under Section 11.138, Texas Water Code. Any permit granted from this application may be suspended at any time by the applicable TCEQ Office if it is determined that surplus water is no longer available.

Notice: This form will not be processed until all delinquent fees and/or penalties owed to the TCEQ or the Office of the Attorney General on behalf of the TCEQ are paid in accordance with the Delinquent Fee and Penalty Protocol.

1. **Data on Applicant and Project:** Social Security or Federal ID No. _____
- A. Name: _____
- B. Mailing Address: _____
- C. Telephone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____
- D. Applicant owes fees or penalties? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- If yes, provide the amount and the nature of the fee or penalty as well as any identifying number:
- _____

- E. Describe Use of Water: _____
- F. Description of Project (TDH Project No. if applicable) _____
- G. Highway Designation No. _____ County _____

2. **Type of Diversion (check one):** ☐ From Stream ☐ From Reservoir
3. **Rate of Diversion:**
- A. Maximum _____ gpm
(capacity of pump)

4. **Amount and Source of Water:**
- _____ acre-feet of water within a period of _____ (specify term period not to exceed a three year term). The water is to be obtained from _____, tributary of _____, tributary of _____, tributary of _____, Basin.

5. **Location of Diversion Point:** Provide Latitude and Longitude in decimal degrees to at least six decimal places, and indicate the method used to calculate the diversion point location.
- At Latitude _____°N, Longitude _____°W, ((at) or (near) the stream crossing of), (at a reservoir in the vicinity of) _____ (R-O-W) (Highway), located in Zip Code _____, located _____ miles in a _____ direction from _____ (County Seat), _____ County, and _____ miles in a _____ direction from _____, a nearby town shown on County road map. Note: Distance in straight line miles.

Enclose a USGS 7.5 minute topographic map with the diversion point and/or the return water discharge points labeled. Owner's written consent is required for water used from any private reservoir, or private access to diversion point.



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

TEMPORARY WATER RIGHTS PERMIT APPLICATION

Application for a temporary water use permit for more than 10 acre-feet of water and/or for a diversion period longer than one calendar year but not exceeding three years or for a temporary bed and banks authorization.

This form may be used for an application for a temporary water use permit to divert state water under Section 11.138, Texas Water Code. Any permit granted by this application may be suspended at any time by the applicable TCEQ Office if it is determined that sufficient water is no longer available.

This form may also be used for a temporary bed and banks authorization.

Applicants are REQUIRED to schedule a pre-application meeting with TCEQ Staff to discuss Applicant's needs prior to submitting an application. Call the Water Rights Permitting Team of the Water Availability Division to schedule a meeting at (512) 239-4600.

Date of pre-application meeting: _____

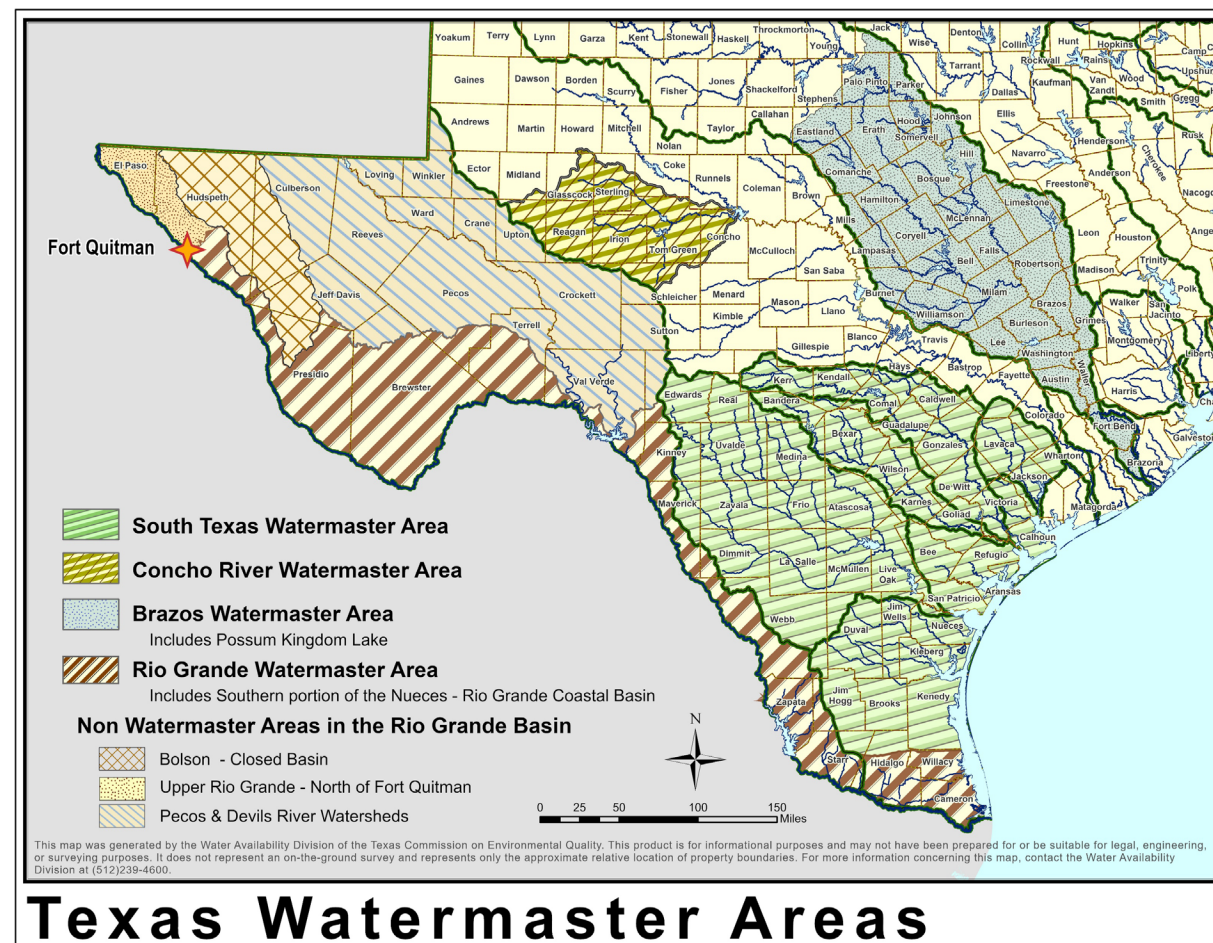
Indicate whether the following items are included in your application by writing either Y (for yes) or N (for no) next to each item (all items are not required for every application). Instructions, Page 5.

Y/N	Y/N
_____ Administrative Information	_____ Worksheet 3.0
_____ Additional Co-Applicant Information	_____ Ground Water Well Permit
_____ Additional Co-Applicant Signatures	_____ Signed Water Supply Contract
_____ Written Evidence of Signature Authority	_____ Worksheet 3.1
_____ USGS Map (or equivalent)	_____ Worksheet 4.0
_____ Worksheet 1.0	_____ Worksheet 5.0
_____ Recorded Deeds for Irrigated Land	_____ Accounting Plan
_____ Consent for Irrigated Land	_____ Worksheet 6.0
_____ Worksheet 1.1	_____ Fees
_____ Worksheet 2.0	
_____ Additional W.S. 2.0 for each Point	
_____ Recorded Deeds for Diversion Point(s)	
_____ Consent for Diversion Access	

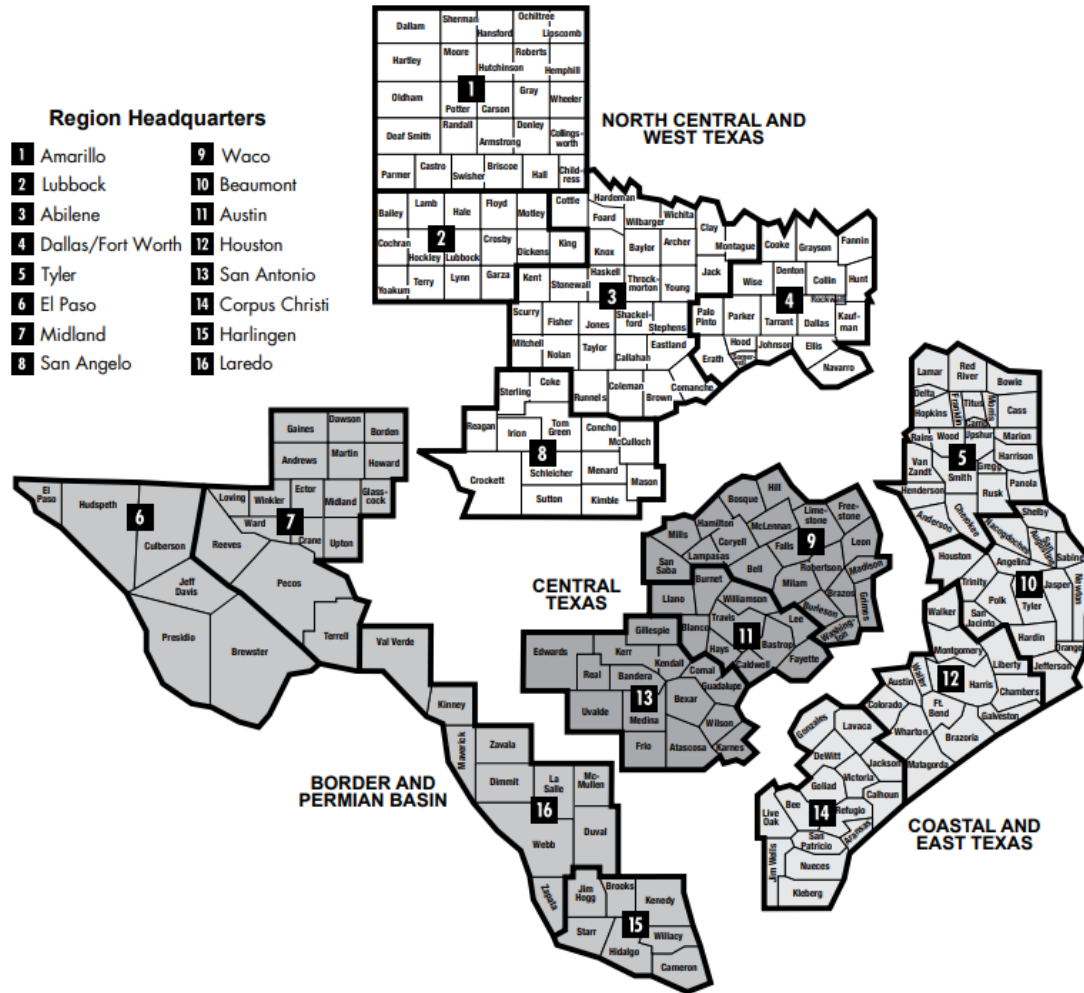


Watermaster Information

- The Watermasters page houses links to information on all four watermaster areas in the state



Finding Your Regional Office



Which TCEQ Region is My County In?

View an alphabetical list of counties with their corresponding TCEQ regions.

A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K |
L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z

A

Anderson, Region 5, Tyler

Andrews, Region 7, Midland

Angelina, Region 10, Beaumont

Aransas, Region 14, Corpus Christi

Archer, Region 3, Abilene

Armstrong, Region 1, Amarillo

Atascosa, Region 13, San Antonio

Austin, Region 12, Houston

Region Directory

By area:

Border and Permian Basin: Region 6, El Paso | Region 7, Midland | Region 15, Harlingen | Region 16, Laredo

Central Texas: Region 9, Waco | Region 11, Austin | Region 13, San Antonio

Coastal and East Texas: Region 5, Tyler | Region 10, Beaumont | Region 12, Houston | Region 14, Corpus Christi

North Central and West Texas: Region 1, Amarillo | Region 2, Lubbock | Region 3, Abilene | Region 4, Dallas/Fort Worth | Region 8, San Angelo

By region number:

Region 1, Amarillo | Region 2, Lubbock | Region 3, Abilene | Region 4, Dallas/Fort Worth | Region 5, Tyler

Region 6, El Paso | Region 7, Midland | Region 8, San Angelo | Region 9, Waco | Region 10, Beaumont | Region 11, Austin

Region 12, Houston | Region 13, San Antonio | Region 14, Corpus Christi | Region 15, Harlingen | Region 16, Laredo



Submitting a Water Rights Application

Water Right applications should be submitted in two parts:

1. An **electronic copy** should be submitted directly to WRPT@tceq.texas.gov
2. One **hard copy** should be submitted to the TCEQ Central Office, Mail Code 160 with the required payment.

If the files are too large to be submitted via e-mail, TCEQ's FTP may be utilized.

Submitting a Water Supply Contract

- Submit the following information:
 - Vicinity map(s) showing the diversion point and place of use
 - A signed water supply contract that includes:
 - Base water right number
 - Seller and buyer
 - Contract begin and end dates
 - Annual quantity being used (acre-feet)
 - Type of use
 - Contract price
- Send to WRWSContract@tceq.texas.gov

Submitting a Change of Ownership Application

- Change of Ownership requests may be submitted directly to WRCOO@tceq.texas.gov. If your files are too large to be submitted via e-mail, TCEQ's FTP may be utilized.
- A complete application package includes:
 - Completed, signed *Change of Ownership Form (TCEQ-10204)*.
 - Complete, recorded chain of title documents.
 - \$100 recording fee by payable checks or ePay.

Pending Applications

Brazos	▼
Brazos - Colorado	▼
Canadian	▼
Colorado	▼
Colorado - Lavaca	▼
Cypress Creek	▼
Guadalupe	▼
Lavaca	▼
Lavaca - Guadalupe	▼
Neches	▼
Neches - Trinity	▼
Nueces	▼



Water Use Reporting

Home / Permits, Registrations, and Reporting /
Surface Water Rights and Availability / Water Rights: Permits /
Water Rights Permits: Annual Water Use Reporting

Water Rights Permits: Annual Water Use Reporting

Report forms and guidance to help water right holders submit an annual water use report.

On this page:

- [Who needs to submit an annual Water Use Report \(WUR\)?](#)
- [Where do I get an annual WUR form and can I fill it out online?](#)
- [Can I upload WUR data using TCEQ Excel Spreadsheet templates?](#)
- [When are reports due?](#)
- [If I am unable to submit my reports online, where do I send my report?](#)
- [What if I have sold, purchased, or obtained property with a water right?](#)
- [What should I do if I would like to abandon my water right?](#)
- [Where may I find more information?](#)
- [Who should I contact if I have more questions?](#)

Where do I get an annual WUR form and can I fill it out online?

The TCEQ mails Water Use Report (WUR) forms to Water Right holders in January of each year. Each individualized form is sent to Water Right holders based upon the authorized use(s) listed in the permit. If you have not received yours, please contact the Water Rights Compliance Assurance Team at the [contact information](#) below.

WUR forms can now be filled out and submitted online through the Surface Water Rights Data (SWRD) module of SUNSS (Single-Use Non-CROMERR Submission System).

To submit your Water Use Report online, go to the [SUNSS login page](#). In order to enter data for a WUR, the user will need to provide a Form Identification Code that is specific for each WUR. The Form ID code will be printed on the back of the WUR forms that are mailed out to Water Right holders every January for annual reporting. Note: The new online system is only available for non-Watermaster areas.

►  [Instructions for Filling Out Water Use Reports Online and Submitting Electronically](#)



Water Conservation Plans

[Water Rights: Technical Resources Home](#)

[Water Availability Models](#)

[Water Conservation Plans and Reports](#)

[Drought Contingency Plans](#)

[Environmental Flows](#)

[Instream Uses Program](#)



How are we doing? Take our customer satisfaction survey

[Home](#) / [Permits, Registrations, and Reporting](#) / [Surface Water Rights and Availability](#) / [Water Rights: Technical Resources](#) / [Water Conservation Plans and Water Conservation Implementation Reports](#)

Water Conservation Plans and Water Conservation Implementation Reports

Who must prepare a water conservation plan, deadlines, requirements, and forms.

On this page:

- [Rules and Statutes Relevant to WCPs](#)
- [Submittal Requirements](#)
 - [What/When to Submit](#)
 - [WCP Model Plans](#)
 - [WCIR Form](#)
- [Additional Guidance for WCPs](#)
- [Where to Submit WCPs and WCIRs](#)
- [Guidance for Conserving and Reporting on Water Use](#)
- [Other Resources](#)
- [For More Information](#)

Questions or Comments:
wcp@tceq.texas.gov

Related Content

- [Assistance for Small Business and Local Government](#)
- [Compacts with Other States](#)
- [Dam Safety](#)
- [Groundwater](#)
- [Irrigation](#)
- [TCEQ Regional Offices](#)



Drought Contingency Plans

Drought Contingency Plans

Who must prepare a drought contingency plan, deadlines, requirements and forms.

Drought Contingency Plans (DCP) are required by law for certain entities. This page includes an explanation of when submittal of a DCP is required as well as details for submission of plans including: deadlines, requirements, and model plans and forms.

On this page:

- **Rules and Statutes Relevant to DCPs**
- **Submittal Requirements**
 - **What/When to Submit**
 - **What to Include-DCP Model Plans**
 - **Additional Guidance for DCPs**
 - **Where to Submit DCPs**
- **Required Reporting of Mandatory DCP Implementation**
- **For More Information**

 **Frequently Asked Questions: Drought Contingency Plans**

Drought

Related Content


- [Drought in Texas](#)
- [Advisory Groups](#)
- [Dam Safety](#)
- [Compacts with Other States](#)



Drought in Texas

Weather patterns and demand on water supplies vary dramatically across the state. When dry conditions are prolonged, it can put a strain on all uses. Here is information to help you make better decisions about water use, including surface and groundwater regulations, and emergency procedures.

[Governor Greg Abbotts Drought Disaster Proclamations](#)

 **Email and Text Alerts.** Subscribe to receive an email or text whenever new drought information is posted.

Current Priority Calls, Alerts, and Actions

- See statewide and river basin specific information if drought actions are taken.
 - [Statewide](#)
 - [Colorado River Basin](#)
 - [Guadalupe River Basin](#)
 - [Nueces River Basin](#)
 - [Rio Grande Basin](#)
 - [San Antonio River Basin](#)

- [See actions from past droughts](#)

Water Rights During Drought

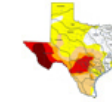
- [Water rights management during drought](#)
See information about priority dates, senior water rights, groundwater production and use, watermasters, and links to webpages about how to make a priority call or water-right complaint.

Priority Calls: How to Claim Water Rights

- [How to make a priority call](#) for water rights during drought.

Current Conditions

Map of [Drought Impact on Texas Surface Water](#)
Posted February 18, 2025



[Map of Texas Vegetation Conditions](#) (National Drought Mitigation Center)

[Map of Drought Conditions](#) (U.S. Drought Monitor)

How TCEQ Responds During Drought

- You can call the public drought-information hot line during business hours: 800-447-2827
- [See what actions TCEQ takes during drier-than-normal conditions.](#)

Water Conservation

- [Learn how you can conserve](#) and what's happening around Texas.

Other Resources

- [Texas Department of Agriculture's Water Source](#)
- [Texas Water Development Board's Drought in Texas](#)
- [Drought Resources from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension](#)

Water Rights Adjudication Maps

Water Rights Adjudication Maps

Water Rights Adjudication Maps listed by basin.

Maps which contain the physical location of diversion points and reservoirs in the Certificates of Adjudication.

Brazos	^
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•  Lower Leon River Segment•  Middle Leon River Segment•  Upper Leon River Segment•  Salt Fork and Double Mountain Fork Watersheds	
Brazos - Colorado	∨
Canadian	∨
Colorado	∨
Colorado - Lavaca	∨
Cypress Creek	∨
Guadalupe	∨

Water Availability Models


Water Availability Models

Water Conservation Plans and Reports

Drought Contingency Plans

Environmental Flows

Instream Uses Program

 **How are we doing? Take our customer satisfaction survey**

Water Availability Models

Information about the Water Availability Model (WAM) and the Water Rights Analysis Package (WRAP). Explanation of various river basin input and GIS files. WRAP input files for running the water availability models.


On this page:

- [What is a water availability model?](#)
- [How are these models used?](#)
- [WRAP modeling program](#)
- [Which input files do I need?](#)
- [What do I get with the files?](#)
- [WRAP input files by river basin](#)

HOT The Sunset Advisory Commission directed TCEQ to create a report on the status of its water availability models (WAMs), including the development and structure of WAMs, information on ongoing WAM updates, prioritization for other WAM dataset updates, and estimated cost for the prioritized updates. (Recommendation 3.3).

 [Water Availability Model Status Report](#)

Input Files

- [WRAP Input files](#) for river basins.
- For copies of water availability reports, visit the [Texas Digital Library](#) 

Questions?

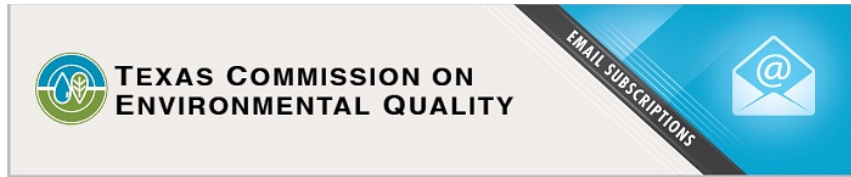
Contact the Surface Water Availability Team at 512-239-4600 or email: wrap@tceq.texas.gov

Get Updates

Sign up for email or text updates

- Enter and confirm your email address or phone number.
 - Under "Water Rights and Availability", select "Water Availability Modeling".
 - Add any other subscriptions that you wish.
 - Click "Save."

Mailing List



Email and Text Updates

Please enter your email address or wireless number below to:

- sign up for updates
- change your subscriptions
- unsubscribe

You will only receive updates on items you choose from our list. And it's easy to change your subscriptions or unsubscribe at any time.


Subscription Type


Email


E-mail Address


*


☐ Water Rights & Availability

☐ Pending Water Right Applications 

☐ Evaluating Basins for Possible Watermaster Programs 

☐ Water Availability Modeling 

☐ Water Rights Advisory Work Group 

☐ Oil and Gas Activity Updates 

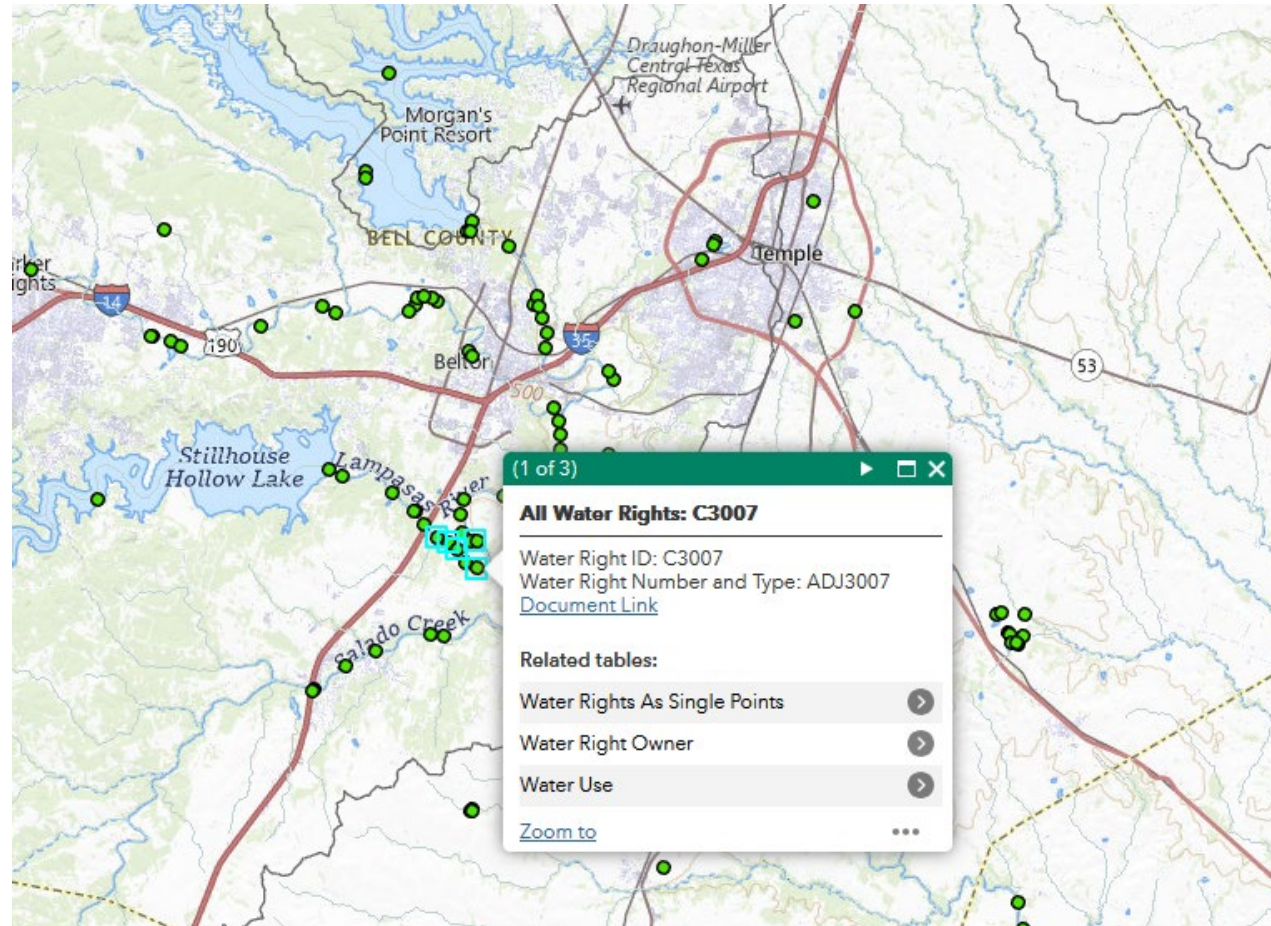
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXTCEQ/subscriber/new>



Texas Water Rights Viewer

- The TCEQ Water Rights Viewer includes information about water rights authorizations and other water related information.
- A user can find information about the location of authorized water rights points, a copy of the water right and the Adjudication Final Determination, current ownership of the water right, recent water use data, and TCEQ's adopted environmental flow standards.

TCEQ Water Rights Viewer Demo



<https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=44adc80d90b749cb85cf39e04027dbdc>

Contact Information for Texas Water Rights Viewer and Water Availability Model (WAM) Inquiries

Kathy Alexander, Ph.D
Senior Policy and Technical Analyst
Water Availability Division

E-mail: kathy.alexander@tceq.texas.gov

Phone: 512-239-0778

Additional Contact Information

Water Availability Division
Water Rights Permitting & Availability Section

Email: WRAS@tceq.texas.gov

Phone: 512-239-4600