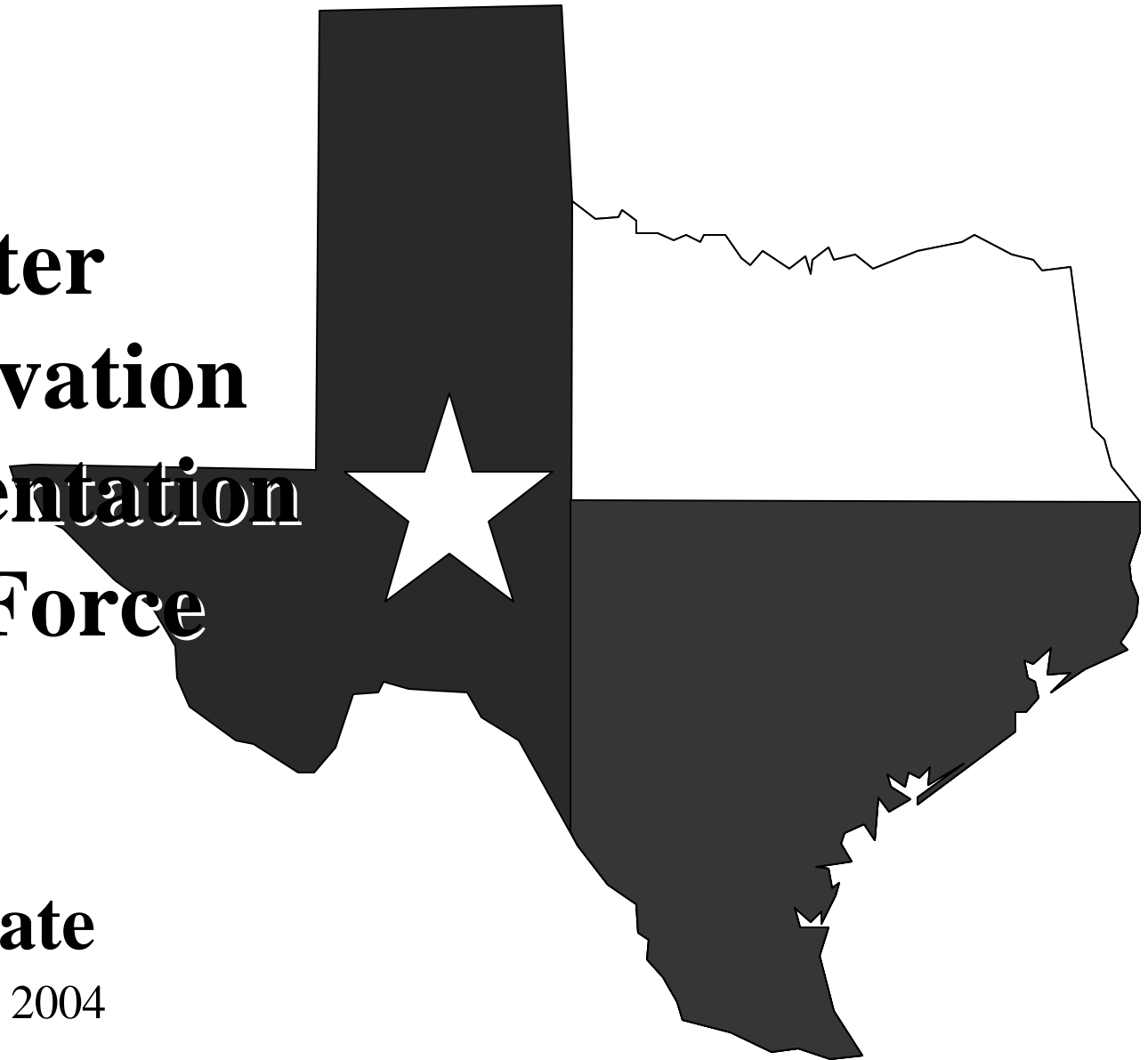


**Water
Conservation
Implementation
Task Force**

Update

Aug 12, 2004



Two draft documents

■ **BMP Guide**

- TASK 1 - BEST-MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

■ **Report to the Legislature**

- TASK 2 - EVALUATION OF IMPACTS OF CONSERVATION STRATEGIES ON REGIONAL WATER PLANS
- TASK 3 - STATEWIDE PUBLIC-AWARENESS PROGRAM
- TASK 4 - STATE FUNDING OF INCENTIVE PROGRAMS
- TASK 5 - PER-CAPITA WATER USE, TARGETS AND GOALS
- TASK 6 - STATE OVERSIGHT AND SUPPORT OF CONSERVATION
- ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Comments due by Monday, August 23.

Task 2 - Evaluation of Regional Implementation of Water Conservation Strategies

Water conservation and water-reuse strategies:

- Are practical and cost-effective
- Need exists for implementation
- Lack of adequate funding poses a implementation barrier

Task 3 - Statewide Public-Awareness Program

- Statewide Public Awareness Program recommended
- The Task Force secured \$150,000 from multiple agencies in the amount for initial market research
- Funds channeled through TWDB

Task 4 - State Funding of Incentive Programs

The Task Force recommends the Texas Legislature consider:

- Authorizing 16 Regional Conservation Coordinator positions at TWDB to work with Planning Groups and water-supply entities
- Implementing a state and regional awards program
- Funding for implementation and increased knowledge of innovative water conservation initiatives
- Funding cost-share program through the Soil Board to promote development and implementation of water conservation plans for irrigated agriculture
- Continued funding of the State Brush Control Program

Task 5 - Targets and Goals for Per-Capita Water Use

- Differences in climate, geography, service and population profiles create differences in per capita water use and corresponding difficulty in comparison between entities
- Recommend standardized methodology for **Total gpcd** water use and **Residential gpcd** water use
- gpcd values are for tracking trends within individual entities and to internally evaluate effectiveness of conservation measures
- TWDB to modify Annual Water-Use Survey for better data

Task 5 - Targets and Goals for Per-Capita Water Use

- All retail public water suppliers should establish per-capita water-use targets and goals using appropriate BMP's
- An entity may consider the following guidelines, including local climate and demographics, in establishing its targets and goals:
 - Residential indoor use of 50 gpcd and a total gpcd of 125
 - Minimum average annual reduction of 1 percent in total gpcd
 - Entities with an average annual total gpcd of 125 and residential indoor use of 50 gpcd or less may establish alternative targets and goals
 - Any guidelines that may be adopted by a local Regional Water Planning Group

Task 6 - State Oversight and Support of Conservation

Task Force recommends Legislature consider requiring:

- Suppliers serving a population of 3,300+ to develop a water conservation plan with specific targets and goals and utilizing BMP's
- Submittal of water conservation plans to TWDB for review and approval and annually reporting the progress to TWDB
- TWDB to refer noncompliance to TCEQ and authorize TCEQ to institute administrative remedies
- TWDB to give priority for loans/grants to entities that have demonstrated significant water conservation savings or through implementation of the proposed project will achieve significant conservation savings. Applicants must demonstrate that they have implemented the conservation portions of the State Water Plan as part of any application for state funds.

Task 6 - State Oversight and Support of Conservation

Task Force recommends Legislature consider creating a standing Water Conservation Advisory Council to advise the Texas Legislature and state agencies on matters regarding water conservation, including:

- trends in water conservation implementation
- new technologies
- changes in the BMP Guide
- effectiveness of the statewide public-awareness program and associated local involvement
- development of a State Water Management Resource Library
- effectiveness of public recognition programs
- methods to encourage and facilitate implementation of water conservation strategies
- target and goal guidelines to be considered by TCEQ and TWDB

Additional Recommendations

- Toilet Performance Standard – legislate performance standards for toilets sold in the state that cannot be retrofitted to waste water
- Creation of State Water Management Resource Library
- Continued Funding of State Conservation Programs
- Continued Funding of Conservation Research and Education Program through the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas Cooperative Extension, and state universities
- Endorse land stewardship as a conservation strategy and recognizes watershed management as an important and significant long-term water management strategy
- Recommend establishing an interim study to examine the impacts, if any, of “take or pay” contracts on efforts to achieve water conservation

Additional Recommendations

- Expanded funding of TAMU weather station network
- Coordinate water conservation goals with the variance process for establishing alternative minimum pumping capacity of distribution systems (TCEQ 0.6 gpm rule)
- Water right protection from cancellation due to nonuse of that portion associated with water saved by implementation of water conservation
- Conducting “end-use” studies to provide more accurate data about the current residential water demand in various regions of the state

Two Documents for Review



Comments Due August 23

