

88th TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION OUTCOMES

Heather Cooke, Chief Administrative Officer
Water & Wastewater Commission | October 11, 2023



New Water Funding

SB 28 / SJR 75: \$1B new funding

💧 New Water Supply for Texas Fund (minimum \$250 Million)

- 7 million acre-feet new water supplies by 2033
- Desalination, produced water, aquifer storage & recovery

💧 Texas Water Fund (umbrella fund)

- Enables TWDB to move money across different funds

AW NEXT STEPS:

- Potential new loans for ASR and infrastructure projects
- AW will monitor TWDB funding opportunities

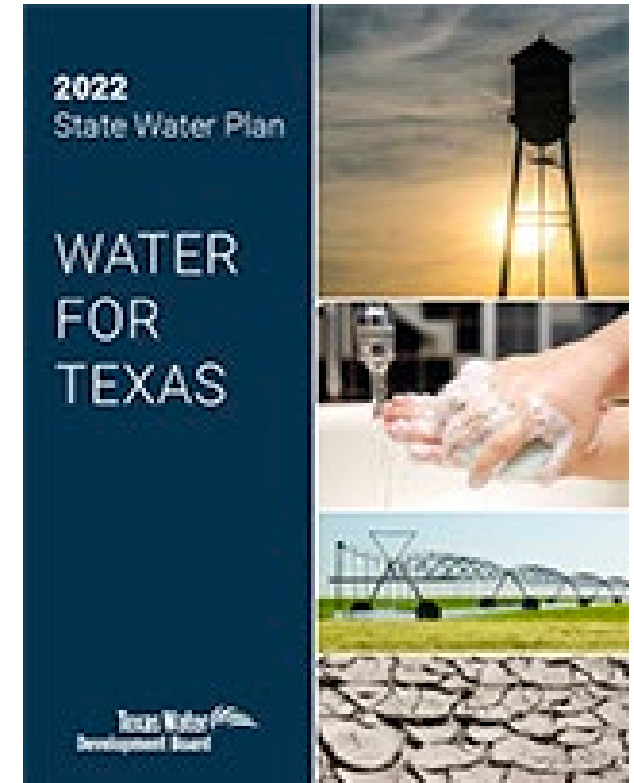


Additional Infrastructure Funding

- \$125 million for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and Clean Water State Revolving Fund matches
- \$625 million for State Flood Infrastructure Fund

AW NEXT STEPS:

- Potential new loans from TWDB



State Agency Sunset Reviews



- ◆ **SB 1397:** Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
 - Permit applications posted online for heightened transparency
 - Maximum penalties increased from \$25,000 per day to \$40,000 for severe violations
- ◆ **HB 1565:** Texas Water Development Board
 - Allows regional planning to use drought worse than Drought of Record for plan development
 - Requires implementation updates for large projects in regional water plans
- ◆ **HB 1500:** Texas Public Utility Commission
 - PUC directed to conduct comprehensive review of water and wastewater rules, processes, guidance and data

AW NEXT STEPS:

- Monitor agency rulemaking for details
- AW projects in regional plans will include implementation updates

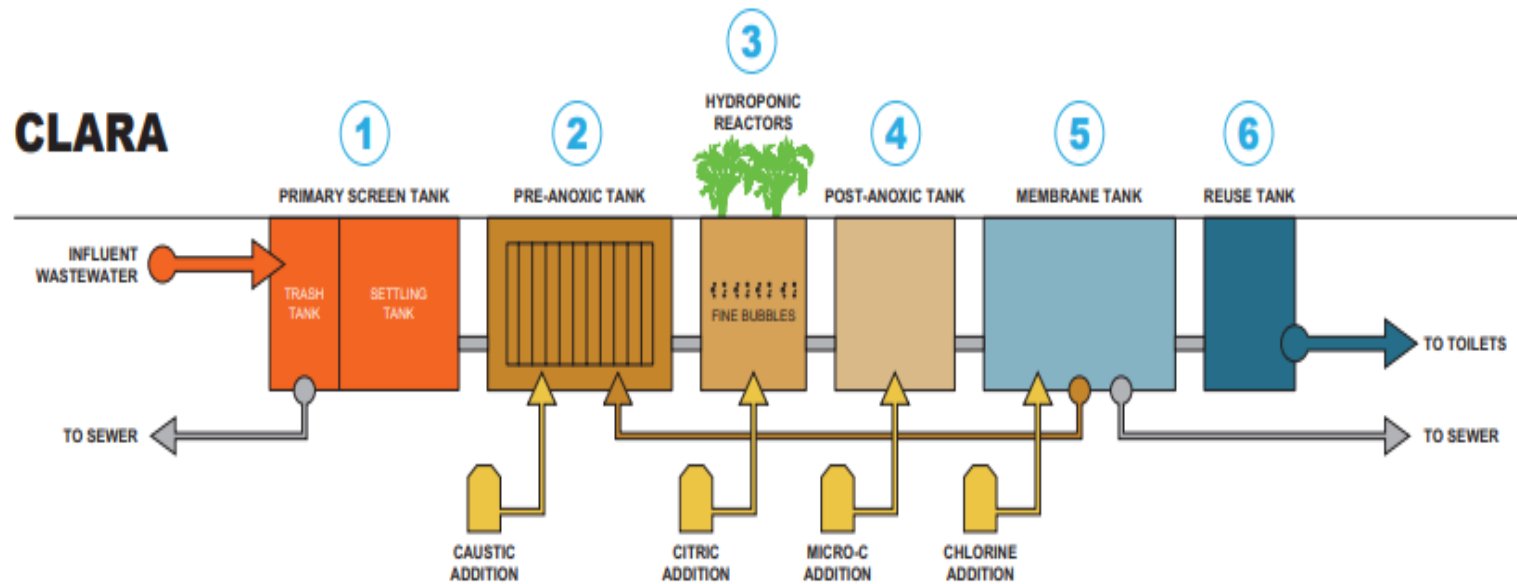


Blackwater Onsite Reuse

- 💧 **SB 1289:** TCEQ rule revisions for blackwater onsite reuse permits

AW NEXT STEPS:

- Private sector can obtain TCEQ permits without AW being a system co-permittee or co-owner



Outage & Advisory Communications

- 💧 **HB 3810:** Notice to TCEQ regarding outage or water advisory (Boil Water Notice)

AW NEXT STEPS:

- Process implemented for notification via online form
- Monitor for further guidance from TCEQ



Occupational Licensing

- 💧 **HB 1845:** Water and wastewater operator provisional D License without high school diploma or GED

AW NEXT STEPS:

- Assessing ways provisional license may be utilized



TEXAS STATE
BOARD OF
PLUMBING
EXAMINERS



Development Process

- ◆ **HB 14:** Allows third-party reviews of development documents after 15 days past statutory deadlines
- ◆ **HB 3699:** Completeness checks for development reviews
- ◆ **HB 1707:** Development process for open-enrollment charter schools including utility services, planning and permitting

AW NEXT STEPS:

- Coordinating with COA Development Services to implement
- ◆ **HB 2127:** Pre-emption of general municipal and county authority in multiple state codes

NO AW IMPACTS IDENTIFIED AT THIS TIME



Disannexations and ETJ Releases

💧 **HB 3053:** Austin disannexation elections

AW NEXT STEPS:

- No changes for current customers
- Septic systems transfer to Travis County

💧 **SB 2038:** Extraterritorial Jurisdiction releases by petition or election

AW NEXT STEPS:

- Reviewing potential impacts with other City departments



NEXT UP: Third Special Session

- 💧 Limited to Governor's topics
- 💧 Lasts 30 days
- 💧 **October 9, 2023** session includes:
Legislation concerning public safety, security, environmental quality, and property ownership

AW NEXT STEPS:

- TBD pending final bills passed



An aerial photograph of a wastewater treatment plant. In the foreground, there are large circular aeration tanks with metal walkways and railings. Beyond the tanks is a green field and some industrial buildings. In the far background, a dense urban skyline is visible under a cloudy sky. A semi-transparent blue banner is overlaid across the middle of the image.

QUESTIONS

Austinwater.org

