

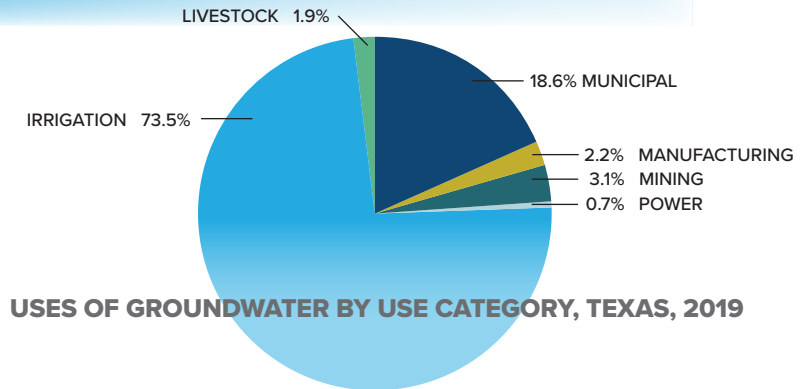
WATER IS GOOD FOR TEXAS

GROUNDWATER

ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF WATER USED THROUGHOUT TEXAS COMES FROM GROUNDWATER.

Texas groundwater is sourced from 31 aquifers, with nine major aquifers holding about 97 percent of all groundwater available in the state.

Groundwater not only serves families and local communities but also businesses and commercial industries. In 2019, nearly 74 percent of groundwater in Texas was used for irrigation purposes — water for plants and crops that feed millions of Texans.



USES OF GROUNDWATER BY USE CATEGORY, TEXAS, 2019

IN 2020, THERE WERE 8.9 MILLION ACRE-FEET PER YEAR OF GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES. IN 2070, HOWEVER, GROUNDWATER LEVELS ARE EXPECTED TO DECLINE TO 6 MILLION ACRE-FEET DUE TO INCREASED DEMAND FROM A GROWING POPULATION.

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION

Texas is home to 98 groundwater conservation districts (GCDs), each of which locally develops groundwater management plans to protect groundwater. GCD management plans are submitted to and approved by the TWDB. Roughly 70 percent of the state is represented by GCDs, including 72 percent of the state's aquifers.

EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY

The Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) is a regional GCD created in 1993 as a direct result of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Act.

THE EAA ESTIMATES THAT 2.6 MILLION ACRE-FEET THAT COULD HAVE BEEN PUMPED FROM THE EDWARDS FROM 1997 TO 2014 WAS PRESERVED AS A RESULT OF ITS REGULATORY MEASURES.

A significant portion of the EAA budget is reinvested into the greater San Antonio region through water quality control, aquifer protection and research, abandoned well awareness and education programs.

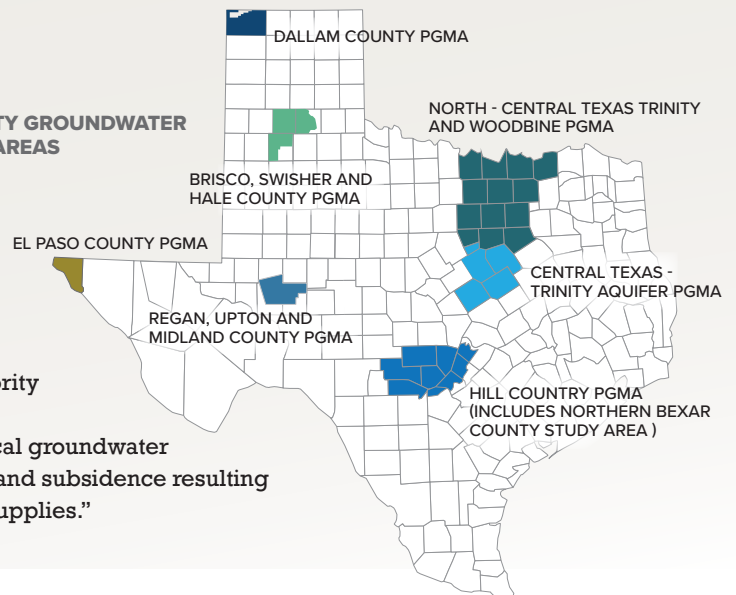
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREAS

Groundwater management areas (GMAs) are geographical regions designated to “provide for the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging and prevention of waste of the groundwater and of groundwater reservoirs.” There are 16 GMAs in Texas, each of which includes at least one GCD.

PRIORITY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREAS

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality designates Priority Groundwater Management Areas (PGMAs) as geographic areas “experiencing, or expecting to experience, within 50 years, critical groundwater problems including shortages of surface water or groundwater, land subsidence resulting from groundwater withdrawal or contamination of groundwater supplies.”

MAP OF PRIORITY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREAS



Source: Texas Water Development Board

Glenn Hegar

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

THIS IS ONE IN A SERIES OF REPORTS THE COMPTROLLER HAS PREPARED ON WATER IN TEXAS

TO SEE MORE INFORMATION ON WATER ISSUES AND THE TEXAS ECONOMY: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/economic-data/water/>

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