

Texas Water Development Board

Agricultural Water Conservation and the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT)



Cameron Turner
April 17, 2014

Agricultural Water Conservation at TWDB

- *Education, Outreach, & Technical Assistance*
- \$78.8 Million for 97 low-interest loans
- \$11.8 Million for 2 long-term demonstrations
- \$7.3 Million for 340 various grant projects



Ag Water Conservation Loans

- available to eligible political subdivisions; they may provide low-interest loans to producers
- upgrades to on-farm irrigation systems and/or irrigation district infrastructure



Ag Water Conservation Grants

Examples:

- *Metering Equipment and Volumetric Measurement*
- *Irrigation System Improvements*
- *Evapotranspiration Network Studies*
- *Education and Research*
- *Demonstration Projects*



Citrus Demonstrations

Texas A&M University - Kingsville

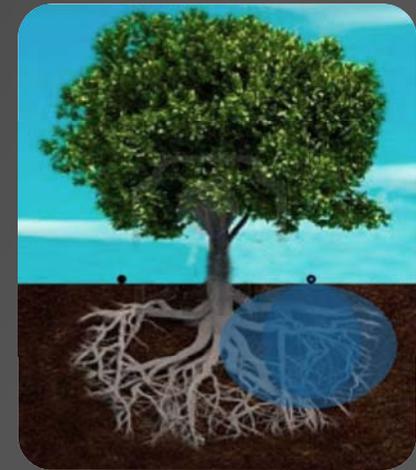
narrow-border flood

- 33% less water applied
- higher profitability



partial root-zone drying

- 40% less water applied
- maintains yield and fruit quality



Texas Alliance for Water Conservation

*Texas Tech University along with
AgriLife, High Plains UWCD, private industry,
consultants, & producers*

*“to conserve water with practices and technologies that reduce
depletion of groundwater while enhancing economic opportunities”*

→ on-farm research and demonstrations in the Texas High Plains



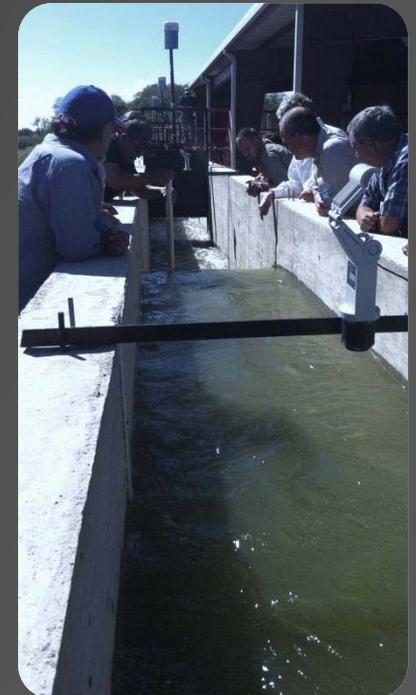
www.tawc.us

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Texas Project for Ag Water Efficiency

*Harlingen Irrigation District along with
AgriLife, A&M-Kingsville, private industry,
consultants, & producers*

- on-farm demonstrations & in-district improvements in the Lower Rio Grande Valley
- flowmeter calibration & training facility



www.texasawe.org

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The State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT)



History of TWDB: Legislative Response to Drought

- Early 1950s: Drought of Record
 - *1957: Creation of TWDB*
- Late 1990s: Several Years of Drought
 - *1997 & 2001:*
 - *Implementation of SB 1 & 2 which created & refined regional water planning*
- 2011: Extreme Drought Year
 - *2013: passage of SWIFT*



What's in the **LEGISLATION?**



What's in the legislation?

The SWIFT was created and funded by:

- House Bill 4,
- Senate Joint Resolution 1,
- House Bill 1025, and
- Proposition 6

What's in the legislation?

At least 20 percent of SWIFT to support water conservation and reuse projects including irrigation conservation.

At least 10 percent of SWIFT to support projects serving rural communities and Texas farmers.

What will the SWIFT fund?



The **SWIFT** was
exclusively created
to support projects in
the **state water plan.**

Regional Water Planning

Statutory Representation:

- Public
- Counties
- Municipalities
- Industries
- Agriculture
- Environment
- Small businesses
- Electric-generating utilities
- River authorities
- Water districts
- Water utilities
- Groundwater management areas

Regional Water Planning

- Population and water demand projections
- Quantify existing and future water supplies
- Identify surpluses and needs
- Evaluate and recommend water management strategies
- Make policy recommendations



Irrigation Conservation Strategies

Examples:

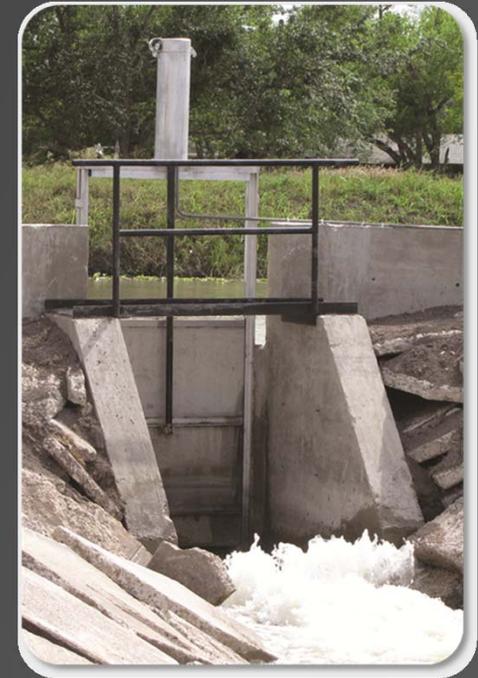
- Canal Lining
- Irrigation Scheduling
- Crop Changes
- Conversion to Dryland
- Efficiency Improvements to Irrigation Equipment
- Soil Management Practices



SWIFT and Ag Projects

- Low interest Loans
- Longer Repayment period

The TWDB can only loan money to Political Subdivisions of the State of Texas.

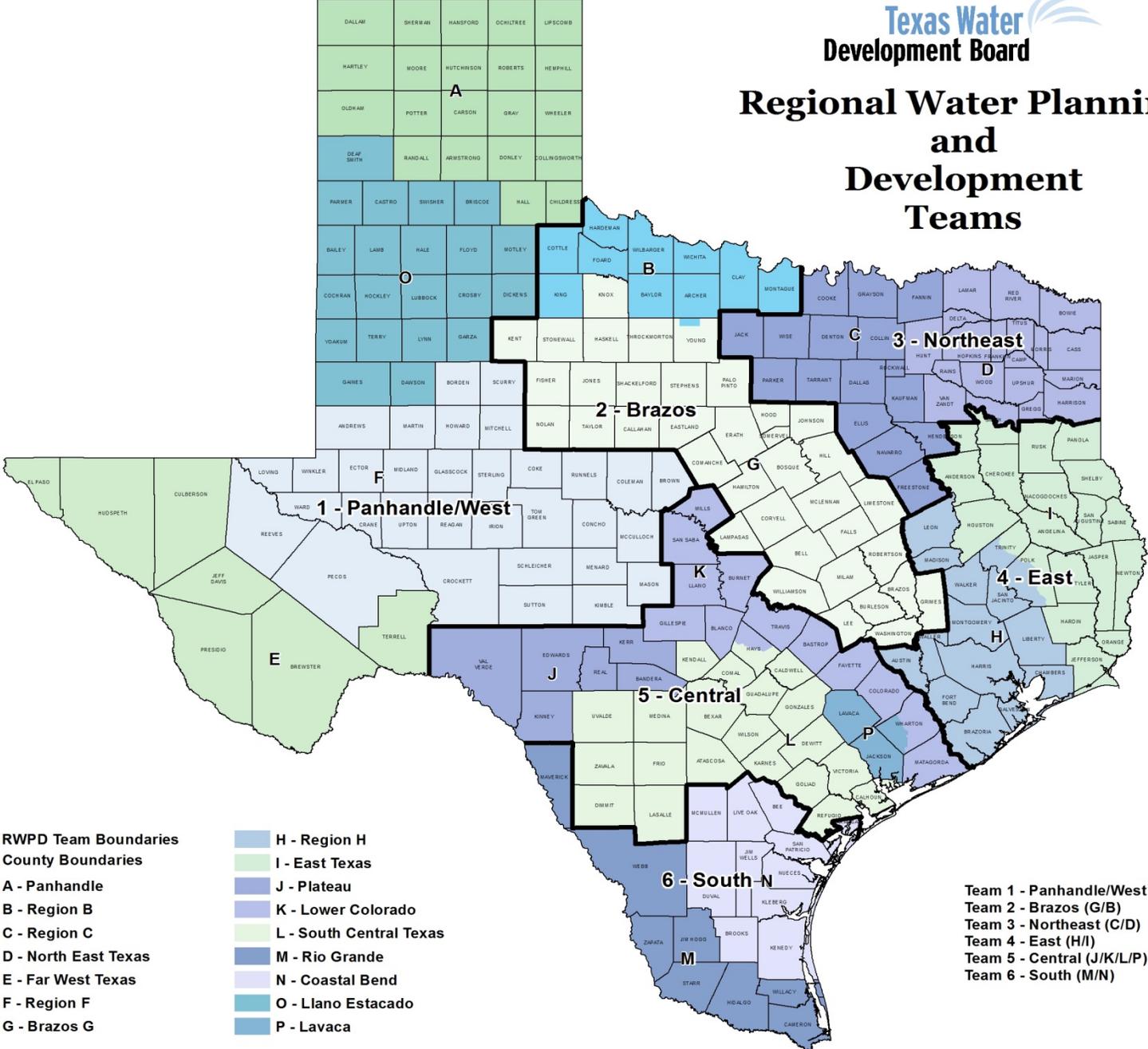


How is TWDB supporting SWIFT?

Agency Changes:

- Full-time Board
- Six planning and development teams
 - Organized by geographic areas
 - Provides for better customer service
- Ag & Rural Ombudsman
- Public rulemaking process

Regional Water Planning and Development Teams



- RWPD Team Boundaries
- County Boundaries
- A - Panhandle
- B - Region B
- C - Region C
- D - North East Texas
- E - Far West Texas
- F - Region F
- G - Brazos G

- H - Region H
- I - East Texas
- J - Plateau
- K - Lower Colorado
- L - South Central Texas
- M - Rio Grande
- N - Coastal Bend
- O - Llano Estacado
- P - Lavaca

- Team 1 - Panhandle/West (A/O/E/F)
- Team 2 - Brazos (G/B)
- Team 3 - Northeast (C/D)
- Team 4 - East (H/I)
- Team 5 - Central (J/K/L/P)
- Team 6 - South (M/N)

Rulemaking Process

June 2014 – TWDB to Propose Draft Rules

December 2014 – TWDB to adopt Final Rules

Submit Written Comments:

www.twdb.texas.gov/swift/

Public Comment Opportunities

Stakeholder meetings in Austin, TX

January 31, February 19, March 6

Work Sessions:

February 11 – Conroe, TX

February 24 – Lubbock, TX

March 24 – Harlingen, TX

April 17 – Austin, TX

May 29 – El Paso, TX

www.twdb.texas.gov/swift/

Agriculture and Rural Ombudsman

- Outreach to Rural Texas
- Ensure our Board members are aware of Rural and Ag stakeholders concerns
- Help to engage Rural entities in the Planning process.

Questions, Comments, & Concerns

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