

The Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce 2009 Position Statement

Water

POSITION

The Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce supports the Texas' 2007 State Water Plan. Dallas-Fort Worth lies in Region C, one of the state's 16 water planning regions. Although The Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area accounts for only 8% of the state water usage, the area produces over 33% of the state's Gross Domestic Product and claims more than 26% of the state's population. The Region C Water Plan is a balanced and cost effective plan that includes a broad based range of water management strategies such as increased conservation, reuse, connection of existing supplies and the development of potential reservoirs as new sources of water. The Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce supports:

- Protecting designated reservoir sites of unique value for the construction of reservoirs under Texas Water Code, Section 16.05 (g) as provided for in SB3 that was passed in the 80th legislative session and are identified by the Texas Water Development Board and planning groups in the 2007 State Water Plan; and
- Preserving reuse as a water management strategy when taking any action in protecting environmental flows; and
- The chamber would ask the legislature to amend Section 11.085 of the Texas Water Code to facilitate permitting of interbasin transfers; and
- Provide for a targeted public information campaign at the local level, addressing public awareness of water issues, the benefits of conservation and reuse, and the public's responsibilities relating to water.
- The Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce will oppose any legislation that would unreasonably prevent the State or water providers from exercising their ability to follow water management strategies in the Texas 2007 State Water Plan.

BACKGROUND

Texas prepared the 2007 State Water Plan by creating 16 regional water planning groups. With population projected to double in Texas by 2050, each region has been tasked with the continuous process of developing a balanced plan every five years, responding to changing climate, environmental, socioeconomic and demographic conditions.

Current water supply in this region is inadequate to serve significant portions of the region's population over the long term (existing supplies are expected to decrease from about 18 million acre-feet in 2010 to about 15 million acre-feet in 2060), even with strenuous conservation measures. Failure to provide an adequate water supply could

reduce this region's projected 2060 population by 7.7% or our projected 2060 employment by 17%. Recent drought conditions in North Texas reinforced the importance of water to the economic future of our region and state.

Adopted by the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee on this the 20th day of November, 2008.

Ben Loughry
Chairman of the Board

William J. Thornton
President & CEO