



## OKLAHOMA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE AND QUALITY OF LIFE DEPEND ON ITS WATER.

The mission of the OWRB is to manage, protect and improve Oklahoma's water resources to meet long-term water supply, water quality, flood mitigation, and infrastructure needs. Since 1957, the OWRB has focused on fair water appropriation, water infrastructure financing, long-range water planning, and robust technical data collection to inform state and local policy and planning.

# WATER MEANS BUSINESS

### Agriculture Production

3.1 billion gallons per day are permitted to support the production of nearly **\$5.6 billion** worth of crops per year.

### Municipal Development

2.1 billion gallons of water per day are permitted to fuel and sustain local population and economic growth, providing water supply for nearly **4 million** citizens as well as manufacturing and industry.

### Tourism and Recreation

1,400 square miles of surface water provide the foundation for Oklahoma's **\$8.6 billion** per year tourism and recreation industry.

### Oil and Gas Production

334,989 acre-feet of water per year permitted to support the production of an estimated **\$15.4 billion** in products each year, employing nearly 150,000 Oklahomans.

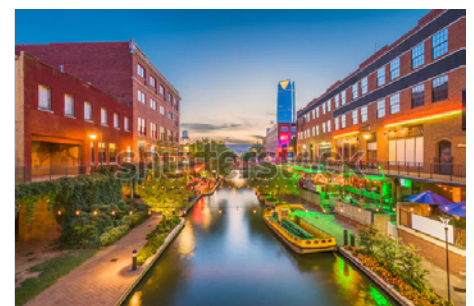
### Navigation

10 million tons of products valuing over **\$3.65 billion** per year are shipped on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System.

### Hydropower

584 megawatts of hydropower produced by Oklahoma dams provides electricity for more than **2 million** end users in Oklahoma and surrounding states.

\*Sources include the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (2022); Oklahoma State Chamber (2016); Oklahoma Department of Transportation Waterways Branch (2015); US Army Corps of Engineers; Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation (2015); and US Census Bureau (2020).



## KEY LEGISLATION

- HB 2197 added flexibility for oil & gas permitting, excused non-use of water, improved water use reporting, and expedited protection of water right holders from unauthorized or illegal use from another party.
- \$1.7 million in funding to modernize water rights administration, online customer platforms, water information network, and protect private property.
- \$26.7 million investment in water infrastructure, allowing the OWRB to leverage an additional \$75

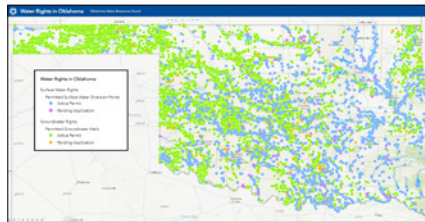
## RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Maintained AAA bond ratings for OWRB financial assistance loan and grant programs. Approved \$1.17 billion in water and wastewater infrastructure financing for 173 communities.
- Completed robust regional stakeholder engagement to develop supply forecasting and an 82-basin strategy for the 2025 Update of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan.
- Modernized the H2O Tool, a watershed-based water forecasting platform.
- Deployed 49 real-time monitoring stations in the Ogallala, Rush Springs, and other aquifers.
- Partnered with OSU, OU, NOAA, and USDA to stand up the Oklahoma Hydronet, a world-class water monitoring information hub to inform drought and flood management.
- Developed the Oklahoma Flood & Drought Task Force.
- Launched the State Flood Plan dashboard, which geolocates mitigation projects and regional coordination.
- Assisted a record-breaking number of communities in accessing affordable flood insurance and reducing flood risk.
- Recognized as a Top Workplace by the Oklahoman for 2024. Employees noted that they feel valued and appreciated by the agency, and believe their work makes a difference.

## OWRB Programs

### WATER RIGHTS ADMINISTRATION

Appropriation of Oklahoma's fresh water resources is administered by the OWRB as directed by Oklahoma



statutes. Currently, there are more than 13,000 active permits for over 6 billion gallons per day. Approximately 600 provisional

temporary permits are issued each year, primarily for oil and gas activity, but also for public water supply, irrigation, agriculture, and other uses. To support water rights administration, the agency conducts surface water allocation modeling and availability analyses, coordinates statewide water use reporting, and responds to public complaints.

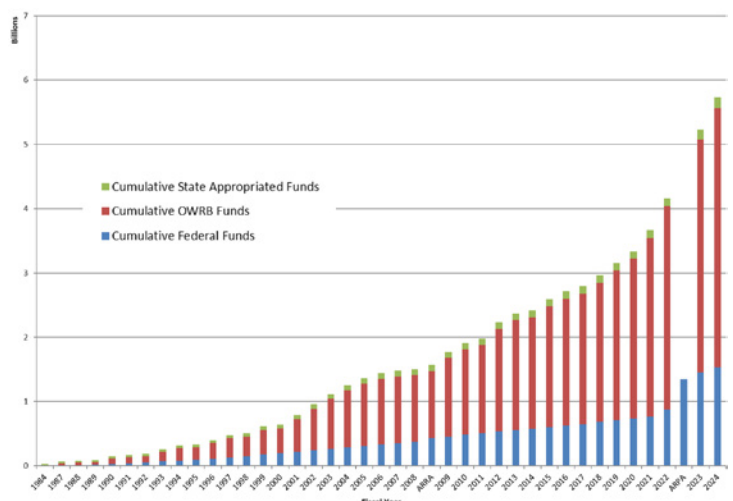
### WATER & WASTEWATER SYSTEM FINANCING

As the State's primary water and wastewater infrastructure financing agency, the OWRB has provided over \$7.7 billion in financing to Oklahoma communities, rural water districts,



schools, and other authorities at an estimated savings of approximately \$2.5 billion over conventional bond financing. This is due, in part, to AAA bond ratings, a strong loss coverage score, expert management and oversight, and a long history of borrower repayment.

Cumulative Investments in OWRB Infrastructure Financing



Cumulative investments in OWRB infrastructure financing exceed \$5.7 billion. Since 1984 the OWRB has leveraged approximately \$1.5 billion in federal funding and \$168 million in state funding to issue approximately \$3.9 billion in bonds in order to expand available financing for infrastructure projects in Oklahoma communities.



# OWRB Programs

## HYDROLOGIC INVESTIGATIONS

Oklahoma statutes direct the OWRB to conduct hydrologic investigations to determine the amount of fresh groundwater available for appropriation.



Staff hydrogeologists, modelers, engineering consultants, and federal agencies assist in characterizing hydrologic properties of aquifers such as recharge, effects of pumping, and water demand. The OWRB is statutorily required to conduct

surface water investigations to determine if water supply within a stream system can adequately meet beneficial use needs within the area of origin.

## DAM SAFETY

The Oklahoma Dam Safety Act directs the OWRB to ensure the safety of more than 4,700 dams across the state.



OWRB staff maintain Oklahoma's portion of the National Inventory of Dams, oversee approval for construction or modification of structures, coordinate breach inundation mapping, inspect low hazard-potential dams, and provide public outreach and training.

## FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT



Through the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act, the OWRB is directed to act as the National Flood Insurance Program coordinating agency. The agency assists communities in reducing costly flooding risks to life and property by updating flood maps through FEMA programs and

providing opportunities for training and accreditation of local floodplain administrators.

## WELL DRILLER & PUMP INSTALLER LICENSING



Oklahoma statutes direct the OWRB to protect Oklahoma's groundwater by ensuring the integrity of water well construction through the licensing of well drillers and pump installers. The OWRB also assists drillers with required well log reporting.

## INTERSTATE STREAM COMPACT COMMISSIONS

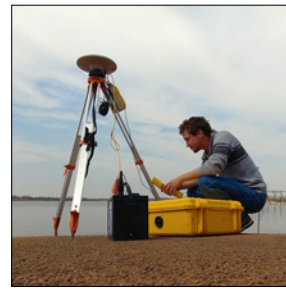
The OWRB represents Oklahoma's interests on four interstate stream compact commissions regarding surface waters that flow into or out of Oklahoma. The compacts



are written agreements with neighboring states that have been approved by the US Congress, enacted in Federal statutes, and enacted in the statutes of each state.

## WATER RESOURCES MONITORING PROGRAM

The OWRB collects water quality and quantity data to determine trends and support water planning and management activities. Currently monitored sites include



81 lakes, 67 stream segments, and more than 1,000 groundwater wells across the state. Data collections are available online and utilized by businesses, academia, public entities, federal programs, and other state agencies.

## COOPERATIVE STREAM GAGING PROGRAM



The OWRB partners with the US Geological Survey to manage Oklahoma's Cooperative Stream Gaging program, which provides data to meet compliance for interstate stream compact agreements and critical information for public water systems, flood and drought

planning, early warnings, and emergency operations.

## LAKE STORAGE CAPACITY MAPPING

The OWRB cooperates with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and water systems across the state to determine lake storage capacity through bathymetric

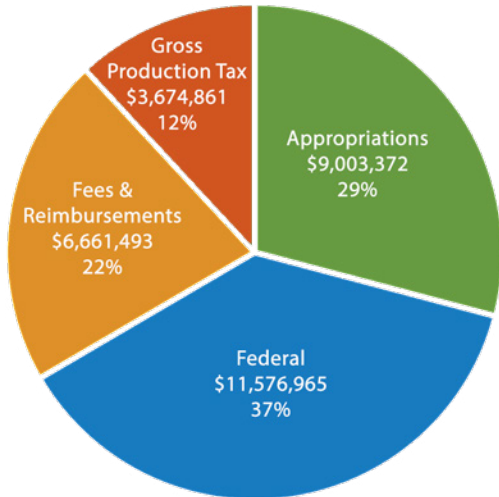


surveys. The surveys are utilized by state and federal agencies to determine TMDLs and for dam breach analyses. Surveys include lake yield, which is necessary for administering water rights. Researchers and fisheries managers rely on the maps as well.

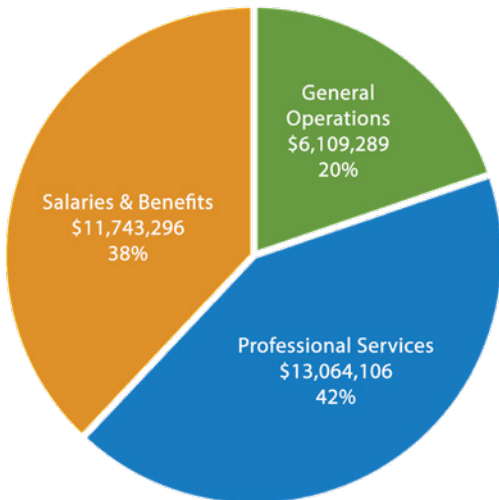
# Fiscal Year 2025 Funding

The OWRB obtains funding from a variety of sources to meet statutory requirements and accomplish its mission of managing and monitoring the state's water resources and planning for water infrastructure needs for long-term water resiliency. Federal and local funding partnerships for state programs are leveraged to continue implementation of Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan recommendations.

FY2025 OWRB Operational Sources



FY2025 OWRB Budgeted Uses



# OKLAHOMA COMPREHENSIVE WATER PLAN

## Planning for Future Water Needs

State statutes direct the OWRB to forecast long-term water needs through the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan (OCWP), providing local planners and lawmakers with the data critical to ensure safe and reliable water for all Oklahomans. In addition to extensive supply/demand studies across 82 basins, the 2012 OCWP Update employed an unprecedented multi-year citizen engagement effort to identify issues and solutions. Twenty-one water policy and funding recommendations emerged from 83 public meetings across the state resulting in over 2,300 public comments. These recommendations are now being implemented through numerous legislative actions and investment by Oklahoma's legislature and governor.

The OWRB is currently working with multiple agencies, companies from all economic sectors, and the public to produce the 2025 Plan and priority policy recommendations. In 2025 the OWRB will roll out an online water supply planning and forecasting tool for determining physical and legal water supply availability and gaps, as well as statewide water quality trends used by local planners in evaluating potential water sources to meet long-term demands from a water treatment cost perspective.

To build on findings of the 2012 OCWP update, the 2025 update will focus on quantifying and meeting the infrastructure needs of Oklahoma communities and rural districts, currently at \$24.2 billion in identified projects, as they need to repair and upgrade aging systems, as well as long-range financing mechanisms that could be deployed to meet the need. It will also emphasize the need of small communities for access to business management and capital improvements planning and technical assistance, as well as incentives for comprehensive planning and design solutions.

Planning strategies will include identifying the remaining life of existing water supply reservoirs across the state, expanding new water supplies, and vital water storage opportunities such as untapped marginal water sources and reclaimed water use, aquifer storage and recovery, and stormwater capture and use. It will also focus on agricultural water demands and efficiency, source water protection, water data and information needs, and well driller and system operators workforce development. Focus group data and online surveys have provided planners with critical insight into immediate and long-term regional needs and solutions and a fifth and final round of public meetings will be held to gain input on draft 2025 recommendations.



**OKLAHOMA**  
Water Resources Board

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With passage of the Water for 2060 Act in 2012, Oklahoma established a statewide goal of consuming no more fresh water in 2060 than was consumed in 2010. Recommendations by the resulting Water for 2060 Advisory Council are being implemented around the state, including the annual Water for 2060 Excellence Awards, now in their eighth year.

