



# Renewing Texas Infrastructure

## 2012 Texas Infrastructure Report Card

### Texas Section – American Society of Civil Engineers



## Wastewater Fact Sheet

### Key Infrastructure Facts: Existing Condition and Performance

- Based on the Texas Integrated Report for Clean Water Act Sections 305(b) and 303(d), 43 percent of assessed river miles and 38 percent of assessed reservoir acres in Texas are designated as having impaired water quality. Of the total square miles of estuaries and bays assessed, 28 percent do not fully support shellfish harvesting and 15 percent do not fully support aquatic life.
- For the 2010 Texas swimming season, 1.5% of beach days were affected by notification actions across 56 monitored beaches.
- The leading sources of water pollution in the state include agriculture, municipal sewage treatment plants, agricultural runoff, urban runoff, atmospheric deposition, and unspecified point and nonpoint sources.

### Anticipated Growth and Other Future Needs

- The population of Texas is expected to increase in excess of 80% in the next 50 years, from 25.5 million to more than 46 million.
- Growth will continue to focus primarily around urban centers and will create issues between rural and urban areas.
- The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) encourage the regionalization of water and wastewater systems.

### Adequacy of Current Funding and Need for Expanded Funding

- Texas must invest an estimated \$11.15 billion over the next 20 years to upgrade its wastewater treatment facilities.
- The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) is a federal loan program that finances local wastewater infrastructure projects, and is America's largest water quality financing source. It specifically targets municipal wastewater treatment and urban and rural runoff projects.
- The TWDB reviews proposed wastewater projects and the TWDB processes and approves loan applications. Since the inception of the CWSRF Program, TWDB has issued 708 funding commitments for a total of \$6.15 billion.
- Every regional plan emphasizes the need for an expanded State role in financing infrastructure and water supply improvements.
- There is a growing need for State assistance programs to provide cost-effective regional wastewater systems.
- The State should dedicate additional funding sources to enhance the State's ability to assist local governments in implementing wastewater infrastructure projects and meet the needs of the State's growing population.
- The State must make up some of the funding lost from the projected cuts in the CWSRF.

- The State should create additional funding programs to support disadvantaged and fixed low-income communities with failing septic systems to develop centralized wastewater collection and treatment.
- Other than low-interest loan programs, the State does not directly contribute to funding local wastewater infrastructure or maintenance except in some economically disadvantaged areas.

## Sources

- *Water for Texas 2012*, Texas Water Development Board
- Texas Water Development Board website ([www.twdb.state.tx.us](http://www.twdb.state.tx.us))
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development website ([www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov))
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website ([www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov))
- Input from TWDB and TCEQ staff, March 2012