

Nine Programs Comprise OWRB's Highest Priorities

The OWRB's Strategic Plan contemplates the following agency High Priority Programs for FY-2005.

Comprehensive Water Plan

The 10-year revision of the *Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan*, mandated by the State Legislature, is due in 2005. In conjunction with the Bureau of Reclamation, the OWRB has already completed updated population projections, which will be used to formulate estimates of future water use throughout the state. These estimates will provide critical information on Oklahoma's future water supply infrastructure needs. The state's most pressing water policy issues will also be reevaluated.

Special Water Resource Studies

The OWRB's existing water management authority and technical capabilities place the agency in a unique position to answer important questions related to Oklahoma water quality and quantity. As a result, the agency is often called upon to design, direct and/or participate in various local, state, and federal studies of Oklahoma's water resources and issues related to water management. While the impetus for many of these studies is due to intense, and often unanticipated, public interest—such as the deterioration of water quality near the Arkansas border due to increased nutrient loadings and the recently proposed groundwater transfer from the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer to central Oklahoma—the OWRB will strive to identify additional investigations and appurtenant funding that will



OWRB geologist Bob Fabian takes GPS location readings at a well near Dougherty, Oklahoma, as part of the agency's Arbuckle-Simpson Hydrology Study.

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be required to allocate and preserve the state's water resources more fairly and efficiently .

Statewide Water Development Revolving Fund Capitalization

In response to Oklahoma's anticipated \$2 billion demand for water and wastewater infrastructure financing through FY 2010, it is critical that the OWRB identify and obtain additional external revenue sources to support its financing activities. A \$40 million initial investment in the OWRB's financial assistance programs has generated a perpetual asset base of almost \$350 million while providing \$1.35 billion in water and wastewater loans and grants to Oklahoma communities. These funds have resulted in a total savings of more than \$415 million to cities, towns, and rural water districts throughout the state.

Water Quality/Quantity Monitoring

While the OWRB's Beneficial Use Monitoring Program continues to provide definitive benchmark data vital to the protection of Oklahoma's surface water quality, particularly in determining where Oklahoma's most pressing water quality problems are occurring, Oklahoma lacks a comprehensive groundwater monitoring strategy. If equipped with an appropriate long-term source of funding, BUMP is the logical vehicle for such an effort, as well as to support ongoing initiatives related to biological monitoring, streamgaging, and citizen volunteer monitoring.

Water Quality Standards and Implementation

Oklahoma's Water Quality Standards, the cornerstone of state water quality management and protection efforts, will continue to evolve to reflect changing federal and state priorities and regulations. Foremost among standards-related issues are development of standards to protect Oklahoma's groundwater resources; development of Standards implementation procedures by the state's environmental agencies; integrating quality and quantity issues into the Standards; improvement of use support

assessment protocol procedures, including those pertaining to biological thresholds of water quality protection; and development of nutrient criteria.

Data Management and Dissemination

As Oklahoma's water agency, the OWRB will strive to maintain a technical infrastructure—including network environment, databases and data storage, in-house and online applications, and mapping capabilities—that allows the agency to provide accurate and expedited water-related information and services to the public, State Legislature, Congress, and other customers.

Public Outreach

The OWRB will continue to further public knowledge of agency objectives and water management/protection programs, as well as the general importance of Oklahoma's most valuable natural resource.

Resolution of Tribal Water Claims

In addition to previous claims involving water quantity, several Indian tribal governments in Oklahoma are currently seeking treatment as a state authority to administer water quality programs, particularly water quality standards. To resolve Indian tribal claims to water resources in Oklahoma, the OWRB plans to provide administrative support to the Oklahoma Secretary of Environment, Governor, and Legislature; facilitate meetings between state and tribal officials; review claims; prepare informational materials; and complete other tasks that encourage resolution of claims.

Review of Oklahoma Water Law

OWRB staff will conduct appropriate research—including review of appropriate statutes and cases—and prepare initial written summaries of the principles of Oklahoma's water laws. It is envisioned that the agency and/or Legislature will bring together representatives of large water users, academics, attorneys, and others to review principles of law and suggest updates and changes to members of the State Legislature.

Fiscal Year 2004 EXPENDITURES

Oklahoma Water Resources Board

<u>Fund Description</u>	<u>FY-01</u>	<u>FY-02</u>	<u>FY-03</u>	<u>FY-04</u>
Constitutional Reserve	49,809	0	0	0
State Appropriations	3,534,986	3,580,729	3,289,614	3,817,113
Carryover	283,714	75,143	67,432	376,887
Weather Modification	1,087,787	0	0	0
Drillers & Pump Installers	23,711	8,282	24,303	-22
Rural Economic Action Plan	1,055,503	1,177,606	1,643,265	473,170
OWR Revolving Fund	282,896	278,353	261,822	292,412
Drillers & Installers Regulation Fund	0	8,799	17,313	41,856
USGS Cooperators	129,680	118,435	223,885	251,650
Reimbursement	1,141,932	1,289,555	1,157,333	1,296,970
Drinking Water Loan Administration Fund	353	12,369	171,363	143,999
Wastewater Facility Construction Fund	490,343	464,641	588,111	693,938
State Revolving Fund - Operations	<u>220,546</u>	<u>141,035</u>	<u>128,365</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Revolving Funds	4,432,751	3,499,075	4,215,760	3,193,973
Federal Funds	476,126	1,064,723	1,071,802	1,600,951
Federal Water Quality Management Funds	3,756,478	3,343,020	4,034,206	7,422,924
Expenditure Totals	12,533,864	11,562,690	12,678,814	16,411,848
<u>Activity</u>				
Administration	1,991,875	2,398,540	2,073,221	2,198,420
Water Quality	1,827,910	2,027,235	2,166,694	2,482,280
Financial Assistance	1,358,849	1,298,484	1,675,741	1,395,711
Planning & Management	2,136,693	2,328,164	2,576,367	2,755,600
Weather Modification	1,087,787	0	0	0
Secretary of Environment	<u>4,130,750</u>	<u>3,510,267</u>	<u>4,186,791</u>	<u>7,579,837</u>
TOTAL	12,533,864	11,562,690	12,678,814	16,411,848