Gross Production Tax Allocation Extension: $2.6 million annually

Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request

- OWRB Request: Extend GPT funding through 2023 for the following priorities:
  - Completing remaining statutorily required groundwater basin allocation studies;
  - Continued implementation of Water for 2060, including “marginal” water development, incentives for system/agriculture water loss reduction, and mapping;
  - Beginning OCWP 2025 Update; and
  - Continued leveraging of federal, tribal, and local dollars.

The Oklahoma Legislature extended funding for implementation of the OCWP through 2019. In addition to supply/demand studies across 82 basins, the 2012 update employed an unprecedented multi-year citizen engagement effort to identify diverse issues and solutions. Eight priority policy recommendations emerged from 83 public meetings across the state resulting in over 2,300 public comments.

OCWP Implementation of the public’s recommendations is funded through a portion of state Gross Production Tax revenues, such as:
- Completing groundwater basin yield studies required by statute to measure and determine water available for allocation;
- Saving fresh water resources through the development of rules for the use of untapped marginal sources of water, such as reclaimed treated municipal wastewater and brackish groundwater sources;
- Leveraging over $3 million in matching federal funding for specific investigations through partnerships with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Geological Survey, Department of Interior, and Department of Energy, including the following:
  - Regional planning and drought contingency studies;
  - Water for 2060 Advisory Council recommendations to expand conservation;
  - Produced water assessment and feasibility analyses; and
  - Water availability analyses for small municipal water supply lakes.

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. An Advisory Council was created in 2013 by the Governor, Speaker of the House, and Senate President Pro Tempore to make recommendations for meeting the Water for 2060 goal. The Advisory Council’s final report was published in 2015. Learn more at www.owrb.ok.gov/2060.
**Modernization and Efficiency Priorities**

The OWRB prioritizes its efforts to improve agency services by updating technology, streamlining application processes, and increasing partnerships to increase customer outreach.

**DOCUMENT IMAGING**
Nearly 100% of agency documents have been digitized and stored in an electronic filing system, improving staff productivity by streamlining workflows, and saving money by minimizing equipment needs and office space requirements.

**PERMITTING AND LICENSING APPLICATIONS**
An online application system allows the OWRB to expedite temporary water use permits for energy production and other short-term uses. Web-based applications are under development that will allow well drillers and pump installers to apply for or renew their licenses and water rights holders to file annual water use reports.

**INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING SOFTWARE**
The Oklahoma Advantages Assessment and Scoring for Infrastructure Solutions (OASSIS) tool helps municipalities plan and communicate their community’s future infrastructure investment needs to constituents and decision-makers. Infrastructure Financing Software (IFS) tracks the agency’s complex funding system, including more than $4.1 billion in approved projects to date.

**GIS-BASED DATA COLLECTION**
Field personnel are able to perform investigations more efficiently and accurately with GIS-based applications and tools.

**WATER QUALITY DATABASES**
The Ambient Water Quality Management System (AWQMS) and Aquarius databases allow the OWRB to provide accurate historical water quality and quantity data. Direct public access to the data is under development, which will reduce staff time and provide greater transparency. The databases are used by several other environmental agencies, which saves money and facilitates exchange of data while potentially reducing duplicative data collection efforts.

**CUSTOMIZED MAP VIEWERS**
Online mapping tools provide customers with mobile-friendly map viewers and downloadable data.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE & PUBLIC OUTREACH**
Numerous focus groups and public meetings held by the OWRB through partnerships with public and private interest groups have improved customer service.

**SAVINGS THROUGH WEB-BASED TRAINING**
Free and low-cost online training opportunities have saved the OWRB money on travel expenses. The OWRB now hosts online webinars to educate the public on specific programs, which has improved customer service.

**WATER & WASTEWATER SYSTEM FINANCING**
As the State’s primary water and wastewater infrastructure financing agency, the OWRB has provided over $4.1 billion in financing to Oklahoma communities, rural water districts, schools, and other authorities at an estimated savings of $1.3 billion over conventional bond financing. This is due, in part, to the continued achievement of AAA bond ratings, an extremely strong loss coverage score, management and oversight of the program, and a long history of borrower repayment. The programs protect the health and safety of Oklahomans by providing funding to meet the critical need for safe drinking water supplies and adequate wastewater treatment.

**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.

**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 6,100 million gallons per day. Approximately 1,500 provisional temporary permits are also issued each year for oil and gas producers and other businesses in need of a temporary source of water. Additionally, the agency conducts surface water allocation modeling and availability analyses, coordinates statewide water use reporting, and responds to public complaints.

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**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 State Floodplain Board and 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 from contamination 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. More than 190,000 well logs are available to the public on the OWRB’s website.

**INTERSTATE STREAM COMPACT COMMISSIONS**
The OWRB represents Oklahoma’s interests on four separate interstate stream compact commissions involving all the surface waters that flow into or out of the state. The compacts are written agreements among or between Oklahoma’s neighboring states that have been approved by the US Congress, enacted in Federal statutes, and enacted in the statutes of each state.

**WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**
The OWRB is designated by Oklahoma statute as the agency responsible for promulgating Oklahoma’s Water Quality Standards (WQS), which have been developed in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act. The OWRB is also charged with assisting in the implementation of the WQS in other state agencies.

**WATER MONITORING & LAKE RESTORATION**
Oklahoma statutes direct the OWRB to implement a statewide beneficial use monitoring program for waters of the state and designate the OWRB as the lead agency for administering a statewide program for assessing, monitoring, studying, and restoring Oklahoma lakes. The OWRB is further directed to submit a biennial report to the Oklahoma Legislature discussing the status of water quality monitoring in Oklahoma. Monitoring is currently conducted on 40 Oklahoma lakes, 84 stream sites, and more than 1,000 groundwater wells across the state. The OWRB partners with the US Geological Survey to manage Oklahoma’s Cooperative Stream Gaging program; these data are used to meet compliance with four federal interstate stream compact agreements and to guide the management of local and regional public water suppliers, including flood and drought planning, early warnings, and emergency operations.
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LEVERAGING FUNDS

The OWRB leverages federal and local funding partnerships for state programs to continue implementation of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan recommendations. Funding partners include EPA, USGS, USDA NRCS, Bureau of Reclamation, Corps of Engineers, FEMA, Groundwater Protection Council, OSDA, Conservation Commission, Grand River Dam Authority, multiple Tribal partners, and many others.

OWRB Programs

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DAM SAFETY

The Oklahoma Dam Safety Act directs the OWRB to ensure the safety of more than 1,700 dams across the state. Dam safety programs include the licensing of dam operators, development of state-wide beneficial use monitoring programs, and potential dams, and provide public outreach and training.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

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Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request

- The Oklahoma Legislature extended funding for implementation of the OCWP through 2019.
- GPT funded the 2012 Update of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan (audited total: $9.3 million).
- Continued implementation of Water for 2060, including "marginal" water development, incentives for system/basin allocation studies; and
- Produced water assessment and feasibility studies; and
- Water availability analyses for small municipal water supply lakes.

Oklahoma's water resources support agriculture production, municipal development, business and industry, and recreation, while providing critical habitats for wildlife.

In 2018, the OWRB received its seventh consecutive Top Workplaces Award (based on anonymous employee surveys) and third consecutive Certified Healthy Business Award.

Oklahoma is a National Leader

State leaders in Oklahoma have recognized the critical need for investment in our water resources, and today we are national leaders in water resources management:
- Fourth highest number of dams in the nation, which provide the capacity to store millions of gallons in times of drought and flooding
- Largest inland ports in the nation along the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, which ship millions of tons of products each year valuing billions of dollars
- Home to the world-renowned Oklahoma Mesonet network of 110 automated environmental monitoring stations and the most comprehensive water monitoring network in the region
- Nationally recognized Comprehensive Water Plan, which serves as a roadmap for public policy input and technical studies
- First state to adopt a water-neutral use goal through the 2012 Water for 2060 Act, which focuses on growing the economy while encouraging conservation, efficiency, and use of new sources
- Oklahoma's State Revolving Fund (SRF) low-interest loan program was selected by the EPA to create a template marketing plan for the nation

With passage of the Water For 2060 Act in 2012, Oklahoma established a state-wide goal of consuming no more fresh water in 2060 than was consumed in 2010. An Advisory Council was created in 2013 by the Governor, Speaker of the House, and Senate President Pro Tempore to make recommendations for meeting the Water for 2060 goal. The Advisory Council’s final report was published in 2015. Learn more at www.owrb.ok.gov/2060.

OKLAHOMA COMPREHENSIVE WATER PLAN
Planning for Future Water Needs

Oklahoma statutes direct the OWRB to forecast long-term water needs through decennial updates to the OCWP, providing local planners and lawmakers with the data critical to ensure safe and reliable water for all Oklahomans. In addition to supply/demand studies across 82 basins, the 2012 update employed an unprecedented multi-year citizen engagement effort to identify divergent issues and solutions. Eight priority/policy recommendations emerged from 83 public meetings across the state resulting in over 2,300 public comments.

OCWP Implementation of the public’s recommendations is funded through a portion of state General Production Tax revenues, such as:
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