

FOREWORD

Just as an infinite number of possibilities exist for the utilization of water, so are there virtually countless approaches to water resources planning unless general guidance is outlined in advance. The democratic process charges the public with the ultimate responsibility for establishing these policy guidelines, which in turn are translated into specific objectives, thus giving the planning process the direction and momentum necessary to resolve identified problems.

To accomplish selected goals, rules are typically delineated through a series of legislative or administrative policy decisions. Such basic public policies are already set forth in some detail in existing law, primarily having come about in response to previously identified needs. However, planning for the future requires anticipating future problems, while at the same time realizing that problems can occur in the present. Recognition and resolution of major policy issues at the onset of detailed planning allows the planning process to concentrate on the preparation of alternatives which satisfy the goals and objectives in an acceptable fashion.

The Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan is designed to accomplish the water-related goals of the State of Oklahoma by setting forth for consideration by the Governor, the Legislature and the people of Oklahoma a strategy for the orderly control, protection, conservation, development and utilization of the state's water resources.

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OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

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The Honorable George Nigh
Governor of Oklahoma

Members of the Legislature
State of Oklahoma

Citizens of Oklahoma

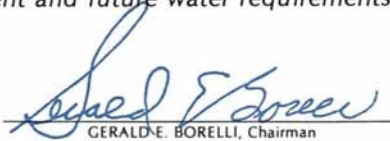
It is with pleasure that the Oklahoma Water Resources Board submits for your consideration the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan, an orderly, long-range strategy for managing the state's water resources.

Today Oklahoma is faced with the immense task of making critical decisions regarding the wisest use of its most precious natural resource, water. The Board, recognizing the importance of water to our state now and in the future, urges all governmental agencies to consider the construction of additional dams and lakes for the purposes of water storage, flood protection and hydroelectric power generation wherever feasible and practical.

The Board, also cognizant of its responsibility to the environment, urges the solemn stewardship of the state's water resources and the enhancement of the total environment for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

The Board concurs with the concern of many Oklahomans that eastern Oklahoma be assured an adequate water supply for industry, agriculture and human consumption, not only for the present, but also for the near and distant future. Such concerns played a pivotal role in the Plan's formulation.

In discharging its responsibility to plan for the development and protection of the state's waters, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board adopted the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan on January 8, 1980. The Board urges the adoption of the Plan and implementation of the recommendations therein as a means of fulfilling all of Oklahoma's present and future water requirements through the year 2040.


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