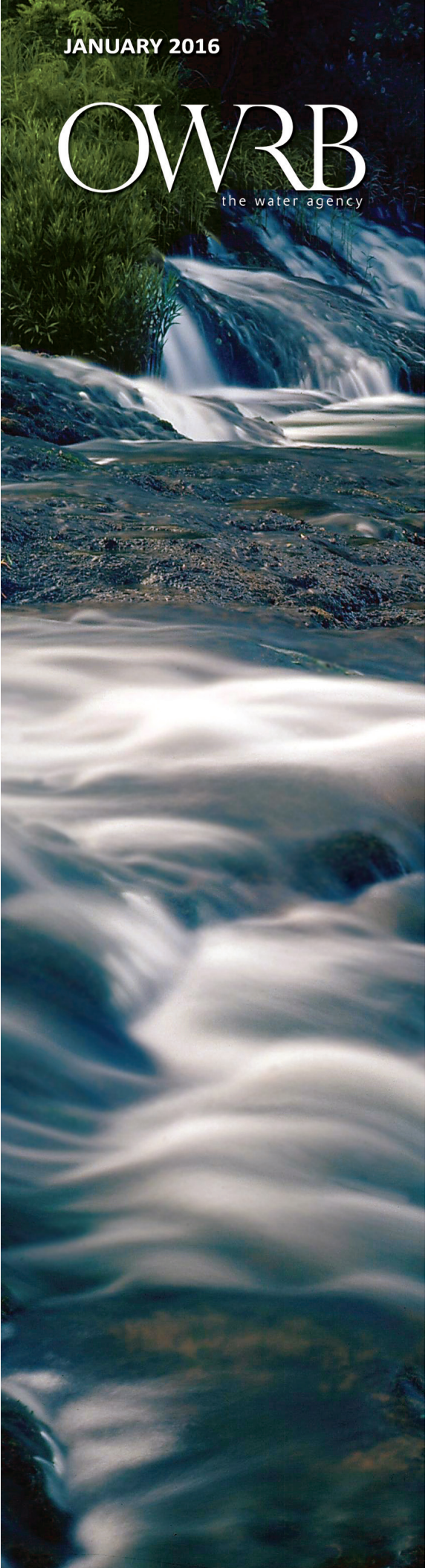

JANUARY 2016

OWRB

the water agency

# Oklahoma Water Resources Board

## STATUS REPORT

## MISSION

The mission of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board is to protect and enhance the quality of life for Oklahomans by managing and improving the state's water resources to ensure clean and reliable water supplies, a strong economy, and a safe and healthy environment.

## GOALS

- Developing, implementing, and promoting sound water policies, programs, and plans to protect lives, property, and Oklahoma's water resources.
- Building partnerships and increasing public awareness to encourage responsible stewardship of Oklahoma's water resources.
- Improving service to the public by maximizing agency efficiency and innovation, and through promotion of a healthy, safe, productive, and inclusive working environment.

## VISION

- Resolving Oklahoma's increasingly complex water issues through leadership, innovation, and sound science.
- Partnering with citizens and other stakeholders in planning and balancing multifaceted, long-range water needs.
- Being the recognized experts in our field and known for our exemplary service to the public.

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**Oklahoma Water Resources Board**

Linda Lambert, Chairman
Ford Drummond, Vice Chairman
Jason Hitch, Secretary
Stephen Allen
Tom Buchanan
Bob Drake
Marilyn Feaver
Ed Fite
Richard Sevenoaks

**Executive Director**

J.D. Strong

- Planning & Management
- Administrative Services
- Financial Assistance
- Water Quality Programs

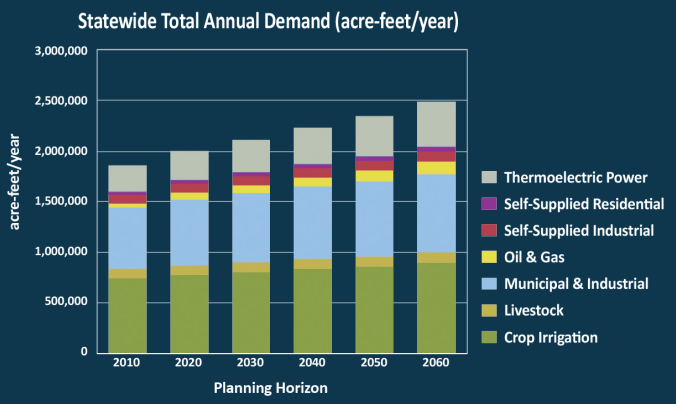
Efficiency • Innovation • Collaboration • Sound Science • Customer Service

## WHAT WE DO

**The primary duties and responsibilities of the OWRB include water appropriation and permitting, water monitoring and establishing standards of quality, financial assistance for water/wastewater systems, dam safety, floodplain management, water supply planning, technical studies, and water resource mapping.**

## PLANNING FOR OKLAHOMA'S WATER FUTURE

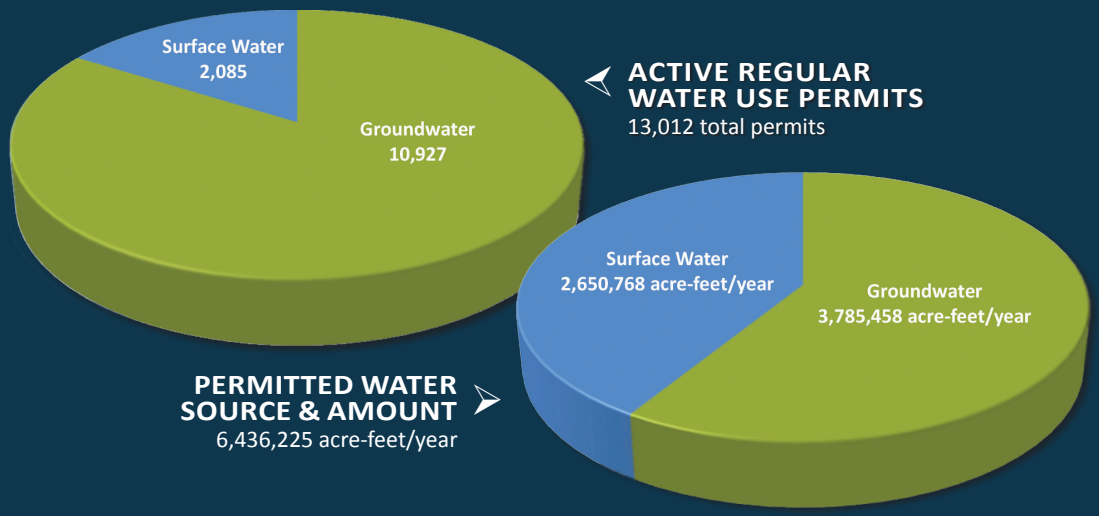
- Ensuring the long-term reliability of water supplies through proactive studies and collaborating with water users, providers, and other partners to develop and implement local and regional plans.
- Assisting in the "Water for 2060" statewide initiative to formulate water conservation practices, incentives, and programs to moderate Oklahoma's water usage while preserving growth and development goals.




*According to the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan (OCWP), at current rates of use statewide water demand will increase by more than 33% from 2010 to 2060. For more information, visit www.owrb.ok.gov/OCWP.*

## MANAGING WATER USE

- Allocating water rights through 13,012 permits for the beneficial use of more than 6.4 million acre-feet of surface and groundwater each year.
- Determining water availability and management options through hydrologic and special studies and a suite of modeling tools.
- Administering four federal stream water compacts to ensure the equitable sharing of water with neighboring states.
- Protecting Oklahomans from loss of life and property through regular maintenance and inspection of more than 4,500 dams and guiding intelligent land use consistent with local floodplain requirements.
- Preventing groundwater pollution through enforcement of regulations governing the responsible drilling, construction, and plugging of water wells.




## MONITORING & PROTECTING WATER QUALITY

- Monitoring water quality at more than 600 lake and stream sites and overseeing Oklahoma's first comprehensive groundwater quality and quantity monitoring network that will eventually comprise as many as 2,000 wells covering every major aquifer in the state.
- Developing and establishing standards to ensure water quality protection across the state.
- Curbing pollution of lakes, rivers, and streams and restoring their water quality benefits.

## FINANCING WATER & WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

- Providing grants and low-interest loans for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements.
- Providing more than $3.3 billion in financial assistance to cities, towns, and rural water districts, saving them more than $1.1 billion over conventional financing options.

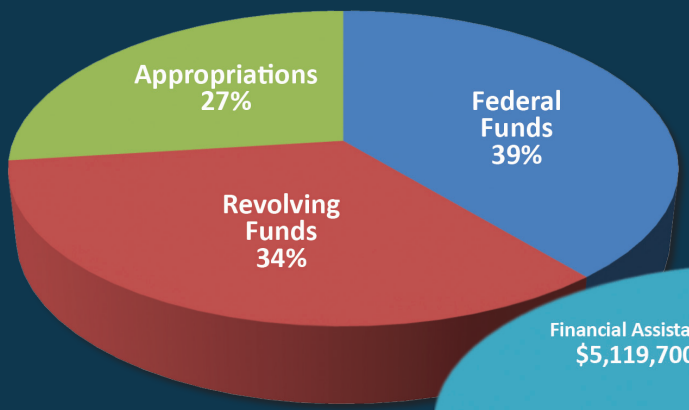
| Type of Funding | Number | Amount |
|---|---|---|
| Financial Assistance Loan | 368 | $958,885,000 |
| Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan | 294 | $1,338,731,092 |
| Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan | 178 | $948,578,300 |
| Emergency Grant | 569 | $33,863,163 |
| REAP Grant | 644 | $57,019,562 |
| Drought Grant | 10 | $1,543,848 |
| Water for 2060 Grant | 4 | $1,500,000 |
| Total Amount Approved | 2,067 | $3,340,120,965 |

**Total Estimated Savings: $1,140,226,149**

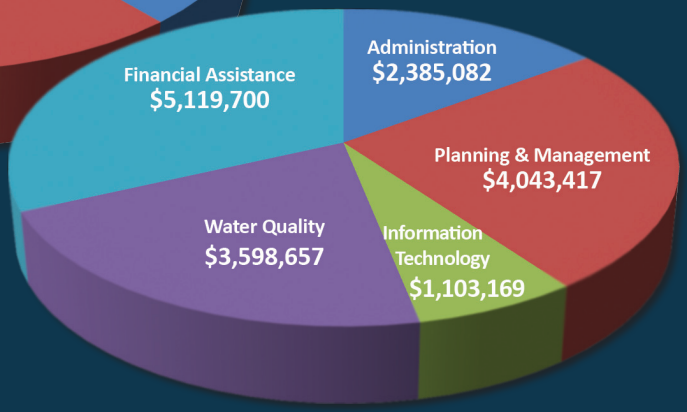
## CUSTOMER SERVICE & EFFICIENCIES

- The OWRB's continuing document imaging initiative has greatly enhanced staff productivity through improved access to critical information, streamlining workflow, and providing significant savings of both time and money. Imaging also helps the agency provide the public with unprecedented access to current and archived agency records and documents through the OWRB's website.
- The OWRB and partners have developed the Oklahoma Advantages Assessment and Scoring for Infrastructure Solutions (OASIS) system, a computer-based model that quantifies the social, economic, and environmental benefits of a community's water and wastewater infrastructure investments. OASIS assists Oklahoma communities in making smarter choices regarding the services that they provide to citizens.
- The OWRB's web-based provisional temporary permit program provides enhanced convenience to Oklahoma water users, supporting the state's energy industry and saving a considerable amount of staff time. Provisional temporary permits, primarily utilized for oil and gas exploration activities, are the most common type of permit administered by the OWRB.
- The OWRB's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) department continues to improve the agency's online mapping tools, including, to date, more than a dozen interactive map viewers with state water resource information that can be customized through a user-friendly graphical interface.

## AGENCY BUDGET




**FY-16 OWRB BUDGETED FUNDING SOURCES**



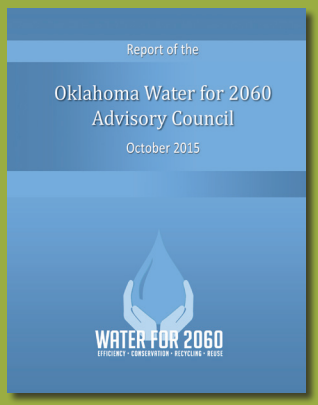

**FY-16 OWRB BUDGET OVERVIEW**

***Through continued modernization and efficiency initiatives, the OWRB refines its business processes to reduce expenditures while maximizing transparency and improving service to citizens and the water user community.***

## WATER FOR 2060

With the Legislature's passage of the Water for 2060 Act in 2012 (prompted by a priority recommendation of the OCWP), Oklahoma has become the first state in the nation to establish a statewide goal of consuming no more fresh water in 2060 than was consumed in 2012. To meet this ambitious goal, the Water for 2060 Advisory Council was convened in 2013 to begin formulating conservation practices, incentives, and educational programs that could accordingly moderate statewide water usage. Chaired by OWRB Executive Director J.D. Strong, the Council included 15 members appointed by the Governor, Speaker, and President Pro Tempore. The members were tasked with studying and recommending appropriate water conservation practices, incentives, and educational programs to moderate statewide water usage while supporting Oklahoma's population growth and economic development goals.

The Water for 2060 Advisory Council Report was submitted to the Governor, Speaker of the House, and President Pro Tempore in late 2015, and is available online at **www.owrb.ok.gov/2060**. The report contains 12 key recommendations—the product of collaborative dialogue with water users across Oklahoma to determine approaches that can effectively promote water efficiency efforts by all Oklahomans.




## 2016 GOALS

The OWRB will continue to focus on "drought-proofing" Oklahoma through implementation of the 2012 Update of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan (OCWP):

- Promoting more widespread adoption of water conservation, reuse and recycling—the cheapest, most feasible alternatives for resolving future water shortages—by seeking adoption of the Water for 2060 Advisory Council's final recommendations and through other efforts;
- Tackling Oklahoma's $82 billion future water and wastewater infrastructure needs through agency Financial Assistance loan programs, providing below-market interest rates to communities by leveraging federal grants and Oklahoma's new Water Infrastructure Credit Enhancement Reserve Fund;
- Allocating and managing water resources more accurately by creating stream water allocation models and reducing the backlog of statutorily required groundwater basin studies and 20-year updates;
- Detecting and assessing threats to Oklahoma's water resources by efficiently operating the state's most comprehensive surface and groundwater monitoring program;
- Considering tourism, recreation, and ecological water needs within Oklahoma's overall water management framework through lessons learned from the Illinois River Instream Flow Pilot Study;
- Encouraging and working closely with local and regional stakeholders to develop and execute long-range water plans to prevent future water shortages;
- Supporting the Governor and Legislature in working to resolve the water rights and needs of Oklahoma-based tribal nations; and
- Improving agency efficiency and transparency through continued development of online applications, forms, databases and mapping tools.

TOP WORK PLACES 2015 THE OKLAHOMAN — OWRB the water agency 2014 2013

The OWRB received its third consecutive "Top Workplaces" award in 2015. The Top Workplaces program recognizes Oklahoma's best employers based entirely on employee opinions gathered through anonymous surveys.

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