



## OKLAHOMA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE AND QUALITY OF LIFE DEPEND ON ITS WATER.

The mission of the OWRB is to manage, protect and improve Oklahoma's water resources to meet long-term water supply, water quality, flood mitigation, and infrastructure needs. Since 1957, the OWRB has focused on fair water appropriation, water infrastructure financing, long-range water planning, and robust technical data collection to inform state and local policy and planning.

# Water Means Business

The OWRB permits water and provides essential services to support the following industries in every corner of the state:\*

## Agriculture Production

3.1 billion gallons per day are permitted to support the production of nearly **\$5.6 billion** worth of crops per year.

## Municipal Development

2.1 billion gallons of water per day are permitted to fuel and sustain local population and economic growth, providing water supply for nearly **4 million** citizens as well as manufacturing and industry.

## Tourism and Recreation

1,400 square miles of surface water provide the foundation for Oklahoma's **\$8.6 billion** per year tourism and recreation industry.

## Oil and Gas Production

334,989 acre-feet of water per year permitted to support the production of an estimated **\$15.4 billion** in products each year, employing nearly 150,000 Oklahomans.

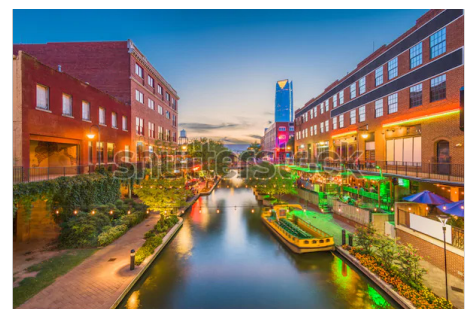
## Navigation

10 million tons of products valuing over **\$3.65 billion** per year are shipped on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System.

## Hydropower

584 megawatts of hydropower produced by Oklahoma dams provides electricity for more than **2 million** end users in Oklahoma and surrounding states.

\*Sources include the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (2022); Oklahoma State Chamber (2016); Oklahoma Department of Transportation Waterways Branch (2015); US Army Corps of Engineers; Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation (2015); and US Census Bureau (2020).



## RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

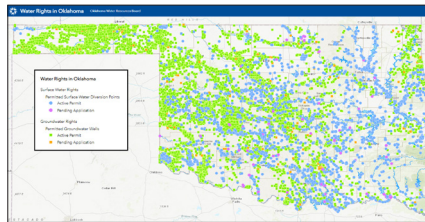
- Maintained AAA bond ratings for OWRB financial assistance loan and grant programs. Approved 102 loans and grants during FY2023 for \$738 million, surpassing a total of \$6.3 billion in water and wastewater infrastructure financing.
- Exceeded \$14 million in grants for rehabilitation plans and studies on 18 high hazard-potential dams.
- Launched the agency's monitoring data portal, containing water quality and quantity data collected over 20 years on lakes, streams and groundwater. The portal is now utilized by water suppliers, ag producers, businesses, government agencies, academic institutions, and the public.
- Published hydrologic investigation reports on the Ogallala in Roger Mills County, Cimarron River alluvial, and reaches 3-4 of the Washita River alluvial aquifers to guide future allocations of groundwater for beneficial use. Collaborated on the completion of the Upper Red River Basin Study, published by the US Bureau of Reclamation, which provides new models and scenarios for future surface water management in southwest Oklahoma.
- Initiated an intent-to-drill permit system for non-domestic groundwater wells to ensure compliance with well spacing requirements and construction standards, preventing waste and contamination of groundwater resources for generations to come.
- Achieved FEMA's Advanced Tier rating for Oklahoma's Floodplain Management program, focusing on community engagement, technical assistance, and training. Completed Phase 1 of Oklahoma's first State Flood Plan.
- Completed lake floor mapping projects for Cedar, Spavinaw, and Stigler lakes, which will allow stakeholders to evaluate storage capacity, rate of aging, and water quality, all of which are critical for determining additional water resource and infrastructure needs for communities.
- Recognized as a Top Workplace by the Oklahoman for 2023. The OWRB was one of only 2 state agencies out of 2,800 participating companies to make the list. Employees noted that they feel valued and appreciated by the agency, and believe their work makes a difference.



## OWRB Programs

### 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 13,300 active permits for over 6 billion gallons per day. Approximately 600 provisional

temporary permits are issued each year, primarily for oil and gas activity, but also for public water supply, irrigation, agriculture, and other uses. To support water rights administration, the agency conducts surface water allocation modeling and availability analyses, coordinates statewide water use reporting, and responds to public complaints.

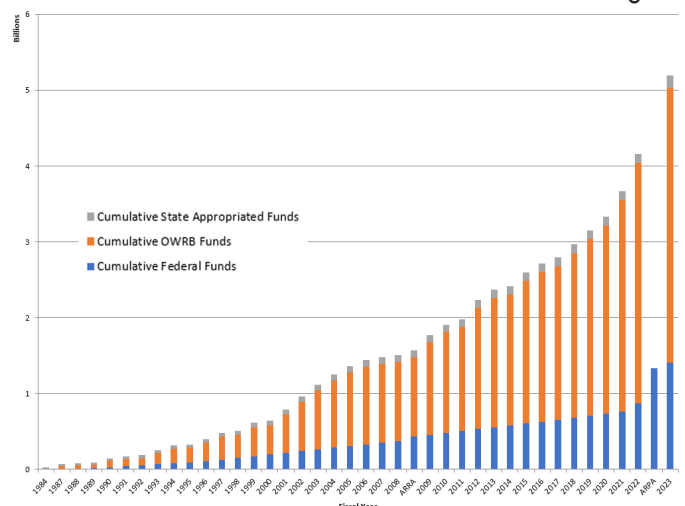
### WATER & WASTEWATER SYSTEM FINANCING

As the State's primary water and wastewater infrastructure financing agency, the OWRB has provided over \$6.3 billion in financing to Oklahoma communities, rural water districts,



schools, and other authorities at an estimated savings of approximately \$2 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 for safe drinking water supplies and wastewater treatment.

Cumulative Investments in OWRB Infrastructure Financing



Cumulative investments in OWRB infrastructure financing exceed \$5.1 billion. Since 1984 the OWRB has leveraged approximately \$1.4 billion in federal funding and \$158 million in state funding to issue over \$3.6 billion in bonds in order to expand available financing for infrastructure projects in Oklahoma communities.

# OWRB Programs

## 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. The OWRB is statutorily required to conduct

surface water investigations to determine if water supply within a stream system can adequately meet beneficial use needs within the area of origin.

## 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 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 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.

## INTERSTATE STREAM COMPACT COMMISSIONS

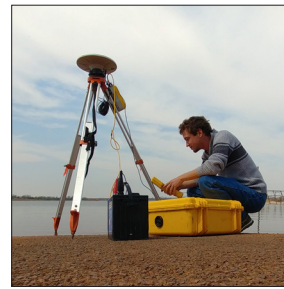
The OWRB represents Oklahoma's interests on four interstate stream compact commissions regarding surface waters that flow into or out of Oklahoma. The compacts



are written agreements with neighboring states that have been approved by the US Congress, enacted in Federal statutes, and enacted in the statutes of each state.

## BENEFICIAL USE MONITORING PROGRAM

Oklahoma statutes direct the OWRB to implement a statewide beneficial use monitoring program for state waters. Monitoring is currently conducted on 81 lakes, 67



stream sites, and more than 1,000 groundwater wells across the state.

The OWRB is designated as the lead agency for administering a statewide program to assess, monitor, study, and restore Oklahoma lakes.

## COOPERATIVE STREAM GAGING PROGRAM



The OWRB partners with the US Geological Survey to manage Oklahoma's Cooperative Stream Gaging program, which provides data to meet compliance for interstate stream compact agreements and critical information for public water systems, flood and drought

planning, early warnings, and emergency operations.

## LAKE STORAGE CAPACITY MAPPING

The OWRB cooperates with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and water systems across the state to determine lake storage capacity through bathymetric

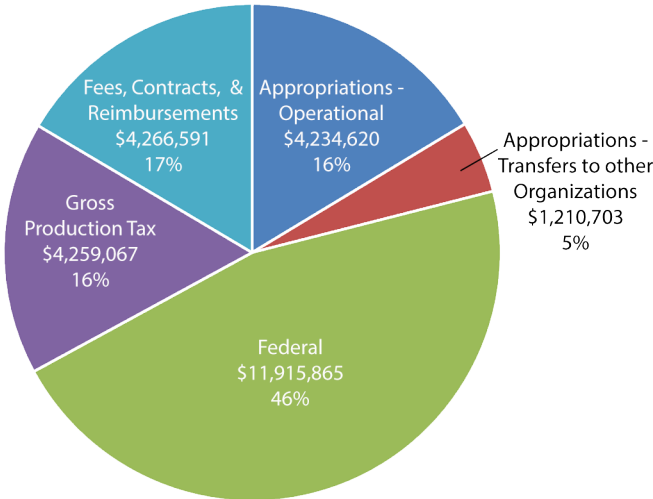


surveys. The surveys are utilized by state and federal agencies to determine TMDLs and for dam breach analyses. Surveys include lake yield, which is necessary for administering water rights. Researchers and fisheries managers rely on the maps as well.

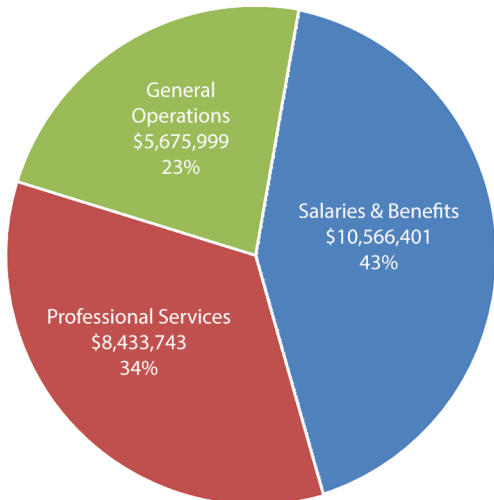
# Fiscal Year 2024 Funding

The OWRB obtains funding from a variety of sources to meet statutory requirements and accomplish its mission of managing and monitoring the state's water resources and planning for water infrastructure needs for long-term water resiliency. Federal and local funding partnerships for state programs are leveraged to continue implementation of Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan recommendations.

FY2024 OWRB Operational Sources



FY2024 OWRB Budgeted Uses



# OKLAHOMA COMPREHENSIVE WATER PLAN

## Planning for Future Water Needs

State statutes direct the OWRB to forecast long-term water needs through the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan (OCWP), providing local planners and lawmakers with the data critical to ensure safe and reliable water for all Oklahomans.

In addition to extensive supply/demand studies across 82 basins, the 2012 OCWP Update employed an unprecedented multi-year citizen engagement effort to identify issues and solutions. Twenty-one water policy and funding recommendations emerged from 83 public meetings across the state resulting in over 2,300 public comments. These recommendations are now being implemented through numerous legislative actions.

The planning team is currently conducting detailed assessments of physical and legal water availability to determine water supply and demand in each of the state's 82 planning basins and water quality in the 13 planning regions. To build on findings of the 2012 OCWP update, the 2025 update is specifically focusing on water infrastructure with an emphasis on the need for water investment mechanisms.

Planning strategies include traditional and non-traditional approaches to meeting water supply needs, such as expanding reclaimed water use, reservoir storage, and stormwater capture and use. Focus group data and online surveys have provided planners with critical information from stakeholders, and the team is wrapping up a second round of public input meetings around the state where citizens have been voicing their concerns and recommendations.

The State Flood Plan (SB1269), authored by Senator Dave Rader and Representative Lonnie Sims, received overwhelming support by the 2020 Legislature. The legislation directs the OWRB to develop the first ever statewide flood resiliency plan, which will integrate into the OCWP for a more holistic approach to water resources management.



**OKLAHOMA**  
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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. Recommendations by the resulting Water for 2060 Advisory Council are being implemented around the state, including the annual Water for 2060 Excellence Awards, now in their seventh year.

