Texas Water Use Estimates
2017 Summary
July 9, 2019

The Texas Water Development Board Water Use Survey program conducts an annual survey of about 4,200 public water systems and 2,000 industrial facilities. The water use survey collects the volume of both ground and surface water used, the source of the water, water sales, and other pertinent data from the users. This data provides an important source of information in helping guide water supply studies as well as regional and state water planning that is dependent upon the accuracy and completeness of the information water users provide.

Of the approximately 6,700 systems/facilities surveyed, 80% submitted their water use survey for 2017 water use. This represents about 98% of the total surveyed water use in the state. For those systems/facilities that did not submit their survey, estimates were carried-over from the most current available year. Estimates are also revised as additional or more accurate data becomes available through survey responses.

2017 Estimated Annual Statewide Water Use

Total estimated water use for 2017 (including reported reuse) was about 13.75 million acre-feet (1 acre-foot = 325,851 gallons) and was down from 2016 which was estimated at about 14.23 million acre-feet. The total 2017 estimated municipal water use slightly decreased to 4.17 million acre-feet compared to 4.41 million acre-feet in 2016. Estimated irrigation water use slightly decreased to 7.49 million acre-feet compared to 7.83 million acre-feet in 2016. Below is a breakdown of the categorical estimated uses for 2017. Irrigation water use (54%) topped the largest water use category in the State in 2017 with an estimated 7.49 million acre-feet. Municipal water use (30%), same as 2016, was the second largest water use category with an estimated 4.17 million acre-feet. Manufacturing (7%), Power (3%), Livestock (2%), and Mining (1%) estimated water use collectively comprised about 2.1 million acre-feet.
Approximately 54% of the 2017 estimated water use in Texas was from **groundwater** sources (about 7.40 million acre-feet) with 43% from **surface water** sources (about 5.93 million acre-feet) and 3% from reuse (a little over a quarter million acre-feet). The two graphs below illustrate the categorical differences in use between surface water and groundwater sources.

Detailed reports of historical water use estimates and historical groundwater pumpage in Texas can be found at:


http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/waterusesurvey/historical-pumpage.asp