Texas Drought Preparedness Council

Updating and Evaluating the Texas Drought Plan
The Drought Preparedness Council was authorized and established by the 76th legislature and signed into law by Governor George W. Bush in the month of May 1999.

Identified the 12 agencies that would become members of the council.

Required that the council develop a comprehensive State Drought Preparedness Plan.
State Drought Preparedness Plan provides for

1. Systematic data collection, analysis, and dissemination of drought-related information

2. An organizational structure that defines the duties and responsibilities and assures information flow among all levels of government

3. An inventory of state and federal programs related to drought emergencies
State Drought Preparedness Plan

4. A mechanism to improve the timely and accurate assessment of drought impact

5. Provision of accurate and timely information to the media.
Purpose:

This annex defines the organization, operational concepts, responsibilities, and procedures for providing immediate and long-term emergency assistance to private and public entities for obtaining, transporting, and distributing potable drinking water to those in need.
Purpose

This document was developed in coordination with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas Water Development Board, and the Texas Division of Emergency Management to assist chief elected officials, water utilities, and emergency management coordinators in their efforts to prevent, mitigate, and respond to drought-related public water supply problems in their respective communities.
Potential Drought Relief Programs

Purpose

The Guide contains basic information about programs that local jurisdictions may find beneficial in relieving the effects of a drought. Many of the programs have a very specific eligibility requirements.
State Drought Assistance Policy

Purpose

This guide serves as a reference to state agencies currently associated with the Drought Preparedness Council. It includes mission statements, drought-related resources, and contact information for each agency.
Situational Reports

Contains

General Conditions
Overall Statewide Drought Conditions
Water Utility Status
Water Rights-Statewide
Wildlife Concerns
Agricultural Concerns
Wildfire Concerns
Map of Counties with Extreme to High Fire Danger
Biennium Reports

Contains

Council Accomplishments
- Coordination Activities
- Technical Assistance Activities
- Direct Assistance Activities
- Public Outreach Activities

Impact Assessments
- Agricultural
- Wildfire
- Water Utilities
- Reservoirs
- Wildlife
- Groundwater
- Roadways

Council Projections

TO: The Honorable Rick Perry, Governor, State of Texas
    The Honorable David Dewhurst, Lieutenant Governor, State of Texas
    Ms. Esperanza Andrade, Secretary of State, State of Texas
    The Honorable Steve Ogden, President Pro Tem of the Senate, State of Texas
    The Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the House, State of Texas
    The Honorable Steve Ogden, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee, State of Texas
    The Honorable Troy Fraser, Chairman, Senate Natural Resources Committee, State of Texas
    The Honorable Tommy Williams, Chairman, Senate Committee on Transportation & Homeland Security, State of Texas
    The Honorable Jim Pitts, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee, State of Texas
    The Honorable Allan Ritter, Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee, State of Texas
    The Honorable Rick Hardcastle, Chairman, House Agriculture & Livestock Committee, State of Texas
    The Honorable Pete Gallego, Chairman, House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, State of Texas
    Mr. Ray Sullivan, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
    Mr. Steven McGraw, Texas Governor’s Office of Homeland Security

FROM: Chief Nim Kidd, Chairman, Drought Preparedness Council

SUBJECT: Statewide Drought Situation Report

SUBJECT: Drought Preparedness Council Biennium Report 2009 - 2010

On behalf of the State Drought Preparedness Council, I forward the attached report for your information. This report provides an overview of the Council’s organization and responsibilities and summarizes its accomplishments during 2009 and 2010 with respect to coordination, technical assistance, direct assistance, and public outreach. A summary of projected Council activity and various drought indices that reflect the level of drought experienced during 2009 and 2010 is included.

I extend thanks to all members of the Council for their ongoing work regarding drought mitigation and response activities. A listing of Council members with appropriate contact information is also included.

Sincerely,

Nim Kidd, Chairman, Drought Preparedness Council
Updating the Plan-Challenges

- Based on a 5 year planning cycle
- New laws, statues and codes have not been incorporated
- Does not resemble current structure of the organization
- Turnover in agencies
  - Information and knowledge has been lost
  - Agency representative has changed
  - “I didn’t even know we were on it”
- Agencies roles have changed
- Availability of resources has shifted
- Lack of testing
Planning ahead

- The plan and all related documents are now on a 1 year planning cycle
- More defined roles are in development for council members
- Developing a concept of operations with response agencies
- User friendly website in development for both jurisdictions and the general public
Thank you

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