North Texas Municipal Water District

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) supports use of Rainy Day Fund for state water projects

(Wylie, TX—January 10, 2013) The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) announced its support of House Bills 4 and 11, which were filed today, and would make a one-time allocation of $2 billion from the state's Economic Stabilization Fund for use in financing water projects in the State Water Plan for future water needs. State Representative Allan Ritter (R-Nederland), Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, authored the bills.

“This proposed state funding plan could potentially save NTMWD ratepayers future financing costs as we develop programs to increase our water supply during this unprecedented population growth period in Texas,” said Jim Parks, Executive Director of NTMWD. “We applaud the efforts of Chairman Ritter and Speaker Straus for having the foresight to invest capital into our most precious resource.”

In a release issued earlier today, Chairman Ritter said “With that one-time capital investment, we could provide adequate, meaningful funding to the plan and achieve the state’s goals of supporting local entities in the implementation of projects.”

"It is vital for the future of Texas that a dedicated source of revenue be established for funding the State Water Plan," Ritter added. "Our economy depends on it, our communities depend on it, and ultimately, our daily lives depend on it."

House Speaker Joe Straus also commented on the legislation.

"Members of the Texas House understand the importance of water to business, agriculture and all Texans," Straus said. "I am confident that the House will take bold, substantial action to address our water needs this session, and the filing of these bills formally begins that process."
NTMWD has spent $10 million on its conservation campaign to promote the efficient use and the reduction of wasteful practices which has reduced usage by 21% over the last decade. The NTMWD also received the prestigious Texas Environmental Excellence Award from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for its water conservation efforts in 2010. The NTMWD’s 1.6 million customers are made up of 13 member cities and 33 customer cities in Collin, Dallas, Denton, Fannin, Hopkins, Hunt, Kaufman, Rains and Rockwall Counties.

NTMWD is currently under Stage 2 water conservation measures because of the loss of a key water supply. The NTMWD currently cannot pump from Lake Texoma which represents 28% of NTMWD’s water supply because of an infestation of zebra mussels. Pumping from Lake Texoma is expected to resume later this year upon completion of a pipeline extension from Texoma to the NTMWD’s Water Treatment plant in Wylie, TX.


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