



Hot Topics

88th Texas Legislature

The Texas Legislature is considering legislation to establish a large grant program to fund water districts in Texas needing to repair aging and deteriorating infrastructure, build new infrastructure, and develop new sources of water. The fund may total up to \$3 billion and is in response to deficiencies revealed by the continuing drought. New sources of water may not include new surface water reservoirs due to the expense, environmental concerns, and local resistance. New sources may include desalination of brackish and briny groundwater that is expensive to process and poses its own environmental issues. The fund will be administered by the Texas Water Development Board.

The Texas Water Conservation Association (TWCA) tracks legislation pertaining to water in Texas. Consult their site at www.twca.org on the "TWCA 2023 Legislative News Subscription page." No one does a better job of covering legislative activity relevant to Texas water districts and authorities.

TWCARMF Regional Safety Workshops

Safety Workshops will include a recent analysis of Workers' Compensation claims for the TWCA Risk Management Fund that shows a very positive trend of reduced numbers of claims with a more concerning increase in total annual cost driven by large claims from fatalities. If you want to find out more about the Fund's experience with the cost of on-the-job injuries, plan to attend the series of Safety Workshops being offered at several sites around the state. Workshop topics include Current TWCARMF Claim Trends, Driving Safety and Strains, Sprains and Ergonomics. Presentations will be given by the Loss Control Consultants of the Fund. Certificates of Completion are issued for attendees and lunch and snacks will be provided. Dates and locations of the Regional Safety Seminars is provided further down in this newsletter.