

# ***Texas Groundwater Protection Committee***

## ***Groundwater Facts & References***

### **Groundwater provides an estimated\***

#### Nationwide

- 23% of all freshwater withdrawals
- 42% of agricultural use (mostly for irrigation)
- 33% of the public water supply withdrawals
- 98% of drinking water for the rural population

#### Texas

- 60% of all freshwater withdrawals
- 80% of agricultural use (mostly for irrigation)
- 28% of the public water supply withdrawals
- >99% of drinking water for the rural population

*\*From the United States Geological Survey, the Texas Water Development Board, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality*

#### **In addition:**

- Ninety percent of Texans depend on public drinking water supplies. Twenty-eight percent of that supply, 1,210 million gallons per day, is from groundwater, serving over 5,323,000 Texans.
- There are 12,212 active public water supply wells in Texas ranging in depth from 17 to 5,400 feet.
- Nine major aquifers and 21 minor aquifers supply 60% of all the water used in the state.
- Also, 2,230,000 Texans rely on groundwater from their own wells for their drinking water and use 257 million gallons per day.
- The quality of Texas' groundwater is generally good, and after the required disinfection, meets the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water standards without additional treatment.

Only 2.5% of the water on the earth is fresh. Of this small amount, 68.9% is glaciers, 30.8% is groundwater, and lakes and rivers make up only 0.3%

(<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Study/WeighingWater/>).

#### **For more information on groundwater visit:**

- The Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) at <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us>
  - TGPC Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/FAQs.htm>
- The Ground Water Protection Council at <http://www.gwpc.org/>
- The Groundwater Foundation at <http://www.groundwater.org>
- The National Ground Water Association (NGWA) National Groundwater Awareness Week at <http://www.ngwa.org/Events-Education/awareness/Pages/default.aspx>
- The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Water Resources of the United States at <http://water.usgs.gov> and the USGS publication *Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 2005* at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1344/>
- The Texas Water Development Board publication *2012 State Water Plan* at <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/waterplanning/swp/>