



**OKLAHOMA**  
Water Resources Board

# Water Means Business: An Investment in Oklahoma

## OWRB Update

Julie Cunningham  
Executive Director

June 22, 2023



# Key Water Resources Focus Areas

- Water Planning for Long-range Water Security and Local Economic Growth
  - Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan 2025 Initiative
  - New Oklahoma State Flood Plan
- Water Infrastructure
- Water Policy
- Water Studies, Data, and Information



# 2025 Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan



- Oklahoma's economy, population, tourism growing
- Water infrastructure aging and undersized (*water/wastewater/dams /stormwater*)
- Extreme weather events becoming more frequent (*drought/flood/freeze*)
- New technologies and policies for water efficiency, conservation, reuse, energy/cost optimization
- Opportunities for new partnerships and more holistic vision for local and state water management and investment



# OCWP 2025 Approaches and Investigations

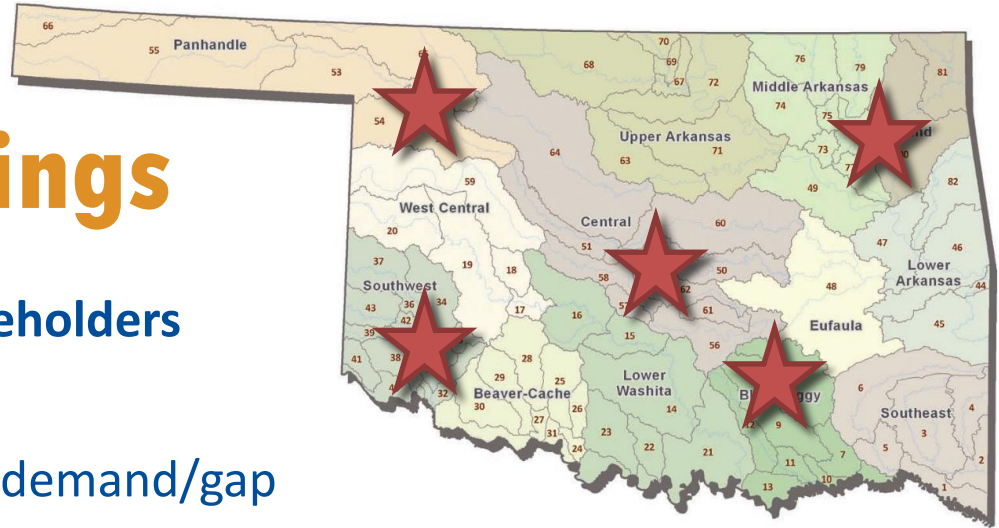
- **Drill-down on planning:** elevate flood resiliency planning, business case for drought/flood prevention/investment, regional and small system solutions, regional economic development
- Update **water supply/demand/infrastructure needs projections** and maps tapping into experts from all sectors
- Develop Long-range **infrastructure financing strategy**
- Identify game-changing **innovations and technologies**
- Develop **policy recommendations and technical information** through partner and stakeholder dialogue



# OCWP Local Engagement Meetings

Five-Meeting Progression- local stakeholders  
develop local solutions

- Share results of statewide supply/demand/gap analyses and infrastructure needs survey
- Anticipated water challenges from local stakeholders – hear from all water use sectors: *industry, municipalities, tribes, ag. and energy producers, etc.*
- Dialogue with water planning experts, state legislators, economists, city chambers, government agencies, and others
- Gain feedback on high-level issues identified by topic-specific focus groups
- Summarize strategies and recommendations



# Focus Groups Evaluate Key Challenges and Opportunities



Regional planning opportunities



Workforce development



Infrastructure needs



Source water protection



Water Reuse Action Plan



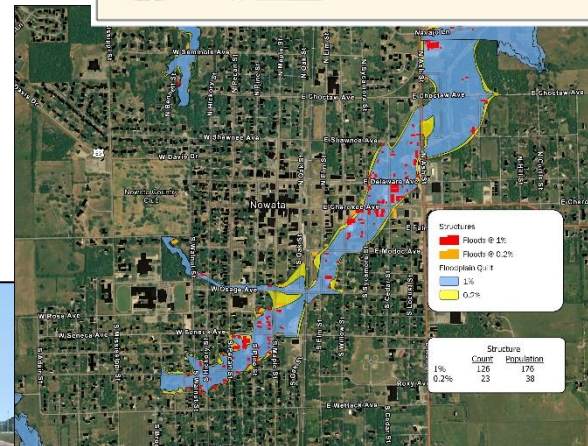
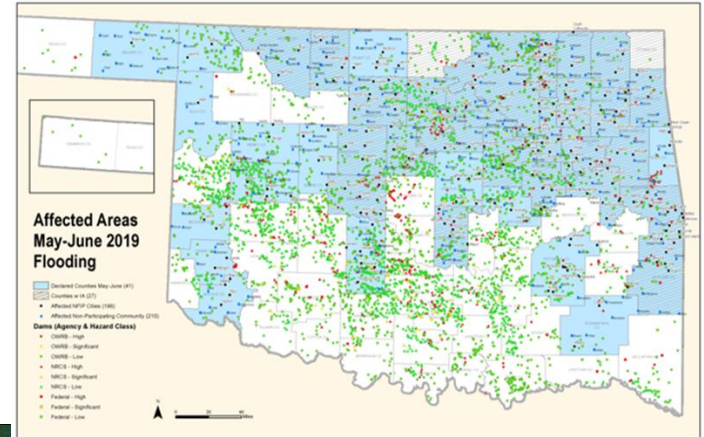
Irrigation Exploratory Workgroup



# Oklahoma Flood Resiliency Plan

## Call to Action in response to 2019 Record Flooding

- 6 deaths
- 416 communities impacted
- 40 Federal Disaster Declared Counties
- Widespread damage to homes, agriculture, roads, bridges, dams and levees
- \$100 million price tag



# Oklahoma Flood Resiliency Plan

**SB 1269 (S. Rader, R. Sims) directs OWRB to prepare and adopt a comprehensive state flood plan.**

- Provide for orderly preparation for and response to flood conditions to protect against the loss of life and property;
- Be a guide to state and local flood control policy; and
- Contribute to water development when possible

## **OWRB Strategy**





# Investing in Water Infrastructure

## **Oklahoma Emergency Drought Fund** **\$63 million over 2 yrs.**

- Commission approved ag. cost-share program; through OCC's 77 districts
- Eligible projects: water well drilling, pipelines, pasture taps, watering facilities, cover crop, forage, biomass, pond clean out, hay transportation

## **Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law** **\$240 million over 5 yrs.**

- Through Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds

## **FEMA High Hazard Dam Rehabilitation Grants** **\$3 million over 4 yrs.**

- 65/35 federal cost share

## **American Rescue Plan Act** **\$503 million over 2 yrs.**

- \$1.87 billion available to State of Ok.
- State ARPA Committee received \$2.7 billion in requests for water projects
- Administered through OWRB



# American Rescue Plan Water Projects

Grant Recipient	Amount
Lugert Altus Irrigation District Modernization	\$25,000,000
OWRB Water/WW/Dam Rehab. (~94 projects)	\$110,000,000
Tribal Match (~46 projects)	\$72,000,000
OKC-Tinker Air Force Base Line Relocation	\$35,000,000
Ardmore Air Park	\$17,100,000
Port of Inola Industrial Site Development	\$52,620,000
Tulsa Fair Oaks Ranch Site Development	\$50,000,000
Oklahoma Industries Site Developmet- OKC 577	\$8,000,000
Statewide Targeted Investment (~31 projects)	\$133,690,709
<b>~175 Construction Projects Anticipated</b>	<b>\$503,410,709</b>

To date Board has approved 31 projects: \$202M ARPA and \$278M local/tribal/fed. \$480 total investment



**OKLAHOMA**  
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# Statewide Targeted Investment (2022)

Grant Recipient	Grant Amount	Board Approval
River Parks Authority in Tulsa	\$4,200,000	
Ellsworth- City of Lawton	\$10,000,000	May 2023
City of Edmond	13,000,000	Feb. 2023
Historically underserved (~13 projects)	\$15,000,000	Applications due Apr 28
Glenpool Utilities Services Authority	\$44,000,000	May 2023
City of Shawnee	\$9,931,194	March 2023
Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanities	\$2,000,000	May 2023
Waurika Master Conservancy District	\$18,564,000	April 2023
Panhandle State University, Goodwell	\$163,840	Eligibility under review
City of Bethany	\$4,600,000	Feb. 2023
ODWC Gondola Lake Medicine Park	\$2,000,000	
Master Conservancy Districts (5 projects)	\$7,048,241	March 2023-partial
<b>\$130,507,275</b>		





[Water Use Permitting](#)

[Financial Assistance](#)

[Well Drilling](#)

[Water Planning](#)

[Water Quality Standards](#)

[Monitoring & Assessment](#)

[Groundwater Studies](#)

[Dam Safety](#)

[Floodplain Management](#)

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**OWRB Annual Update**

**Water Means Business**

**Agriculture Production**

**Manufacturing**

**Energy**

**Construction**

**Healthcare**

**Education**

**Government**

**Retail**

**Food and Beverage**

**Transportation**

**Professional Services**

**Information Technology**

**Real Estate**

**Finance**

**Health Services**

For additional assistance, please call 405-530-8800 or contact us through our [web form](#).

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### Tweets from @OKWaterBoard

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Oklahoma Water R... @OKW... · 22h

Over \$122 million in ARPA project dollars were approved at Tuesday's OWRB Board meeting. Through the months of February and March, OWRB has approved 34% of its ARPA state appropriation in serving Oklahoma's water and wastewater infrastructure needs.



### Calendar

- Mar 21 [Board Meeting](#)
- Mar 20-26 [Fix a Leak Week](#)
- Mar 22 [World Water Day](#)
- Mar 30 [Water Appreciation Day at the Capitol](#)
- Apr 4-5 [OCLWA Conference](#)

### Resources

- [Press Releases](#)
- [Pending Water Use Permit Applications](#)
- [Interstate Stream Compacts](#)
- [Job Openings](#)
- [Lakes of Oklahoma Maps](#)
- [Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan](#)
- [Oklahoma Drought Portal](#)
- [Oklahoma Governor's Water Conference](#)
- [Open Records Requests](#)
- [Provisional-Temporary Permit Application](#)
- [Water Well Record Search](#)



THE OKLAHOMAN



- Water Use Permitting
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## Financial Assistance

Program Home

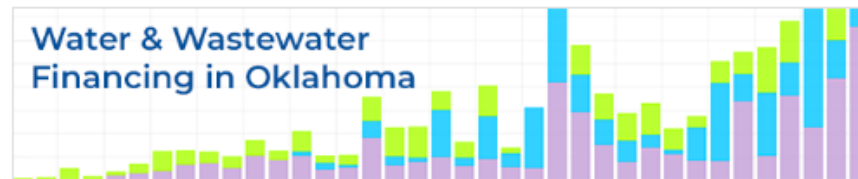
Loan Programs ▼

Grant Programs ▼

Forms

The OWRB Financial Assistance Division assists communities in their efforts to protect and conserve Oklahoma's water resources for current and future generations through cost-effective financial products, technical assistance and high quality customer service.

As of February 28, 2023, the OWRB Financial Assistance Division had approved 2,496 loans and grants for a total of \$6.25 billion. These financing opportunities have saved Oklahoma communities an estimated \$1.47 billion over conventional financing options.



### Calendar

Ongoing  
[ORWA Training Events](#)

### Contact Us

[Joe Freeman, Chief](#)

[Lori Johnson, Assistant Chief](#)

[FAD@owrb.ok.gov](mailto:FAD@owrb.ok.gov)

Financial Assistance Division  
OK Water Resources Board  
3800 North Classen Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118  
Phone 405-530-8800  
Fax 405-530-8898

### Resources

[Financing Brochure](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Independent Registered  
Municipal Advisor Certificate](#)

[OWRB Water System  
Infrastructure Mapping Program](#)

[Compare Interest Rates](#)



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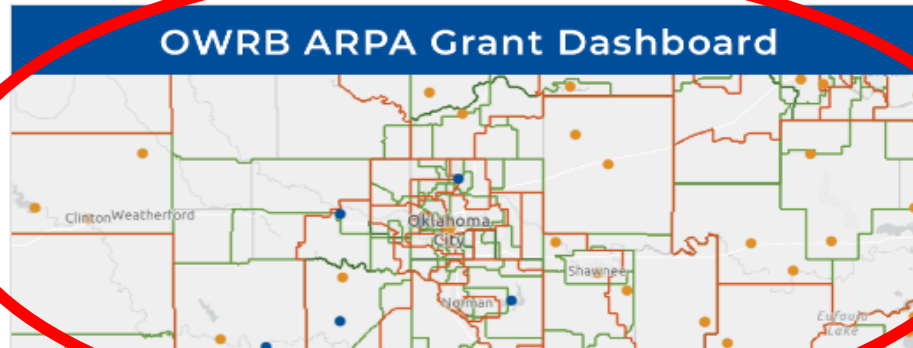
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## Financial Assistance

- Program Home
- Loan Programs ▼
- Grant Programs ▼
- Forms

### American Rescue Plan Act Grants



#### The competitive ARPA grant application period is closed.

Governor Kevin Stitt approved \$100 million in one-time grant funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to address water, wastewater, and dam rehabilitation infrastructure projects across Oklahoma, to be administered by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. The approved funding will be allocated as follows:

- \$10 million for pre-selected dam rehabilitation projects;
- \$40 million for water/wastewater projects by communities with a population greater than 7,000 or to rural water districts with more than 2,300 non-pasture taps
  - Funding is limited to \$2 million per applicant
  - Requires a 50% cost share
- \$50 million for water/wastewater projects by communities with a population of 7,000 or less or to rural water districts with less than 2,300 non-pasture taps

### Resources

- [Small Competitive List](#)
- [Med/Large Competitive List](#)
- [Competitive Project Next Steps](#)
- [Designated Project Next Steps](#)
- [Authorizing Resolution](#)
- [Verification Page](#)
- [Complete ARPA Bid Packet](#)
- [Affordability Calculation for the 2023 Intended Use Plan](#)
- [ARPA Designated Projects Webinar](#)
- [ARPA Grant Q&A](#)
- [ARPA Grant Engineering Procurement Process](#)
- [Request for Qualifications - Engineering Services Template](#)
- [OWRB Emergency Rules for ARPA Funds - Water and Wastewater, Dam Safety](#)
- [Governor's Signature on OWRB Emergency Rules for ARPA Funds - Water and Wastewater, Dam Safety](#)
- [OWRB Emergency Rules for ARPA Funds - Tribal Cooperation](#)
- [Governor's Signature on OWRB Emergency Rules for ARPA Funds - Tribal Cooperation](#)

# New Intent to Drill Notification System

- New rule that became effective in 2022 for all non-domestic (commercial) water wells
- Supported by Oklahoma Well Drillers Advisory Council
- Protects landowners from improper drilling, well spacing encroachment/interference, and source water contamination
- Driller notifies OWRB of authorized well location and water permit prior to drilling well
- Verifies driller is licensed and certified to install well
- Simple online application form and timely approval by rule



# 2023 State Water Legislation

**Water Right Application Process (HB 2053)** establishes rules and standards for protests to groundwater right applications pertaining to interested parties and legal actions

**Statewide Drought and Flood Plan Act of 2023 (HB 2293)** formalizes inter-agency coordination, recommendations for update of drought mitigation procedures, floodplain mapping, flood infrastructure needs assessment, annual report to legislature

**2023 ARPA Dollars (HB 2942/2888)** ~\$67 million to Port of Inola, Tribal match, and OWRB ARPA grant programs

**Emergency Drought Commission (HB 1847/HB 1004)** ~\$63 million over two years

**New Hazard Mitigation Revolving Fund (HB 1928)** to create new loan/grant programs administered by Oklahoma Emergency Mgmt and OWRB





# Western States Water Council

- [Position #490](#) – Water Quality and Federal Reserved Treaty Rights for Tribes
- [Position #491](#) – Subseasonal to Seasonal Weather Research, Forecasting, and Innovation
- [Position #492](#) – Bureau of Reclamation Maintenance, Repair and Rehabilitation Needs
- [Position #493](#) – Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978
- [Position #494](#) – Transfer of Federal Water and Power Projects and Related Facilities
- [Position #495](#) – National Levee Safety Act of 2007 and Levee and Canal Structures
- [Position #496](#) – Clean and Drinking Water SRF and State and Tribal Assistance Grants
- [Position #497](#) – Rural Water/WW Project/Infrastructure Needs and USDA Programs
- [Position #498](#) – National Dam Safety Programs
- [Position #499](#) – Preemption of State Law in Federal Legislation
- [Position #500](#) – NOAA Data, Forecasting, and Research Programs
- [Position #501](#) – Reclamation Fund
- [Position #502](#) – Water Resources Research Institutes and USGS Water Resources Research Act Program
- [Position #503](#) – Water-Related Federal Rules, Regulations, Directives, Orders and Policies



# Western States Water Council

## Position #503 – Water-Related Federal Rules, Regs., Directives, Orders, Policies

Seeks to protect states from federal overreach relating to:

- Appropriation/allocation of water within state border (withdrawal, control, use, or distribution of water)
- Interstate compact/negotiated rights agreements
- Application, development and/or implementation of rules, laws, and regulations related to water

## Position #490 –water quality standards and federal reserved rights for tribes:

- Urges EPA to fully consider legal/admin. issues associated with promulgating nationwide tribal baseline water quality standards
- Opposes shifting federal trustee responsibilities to the states



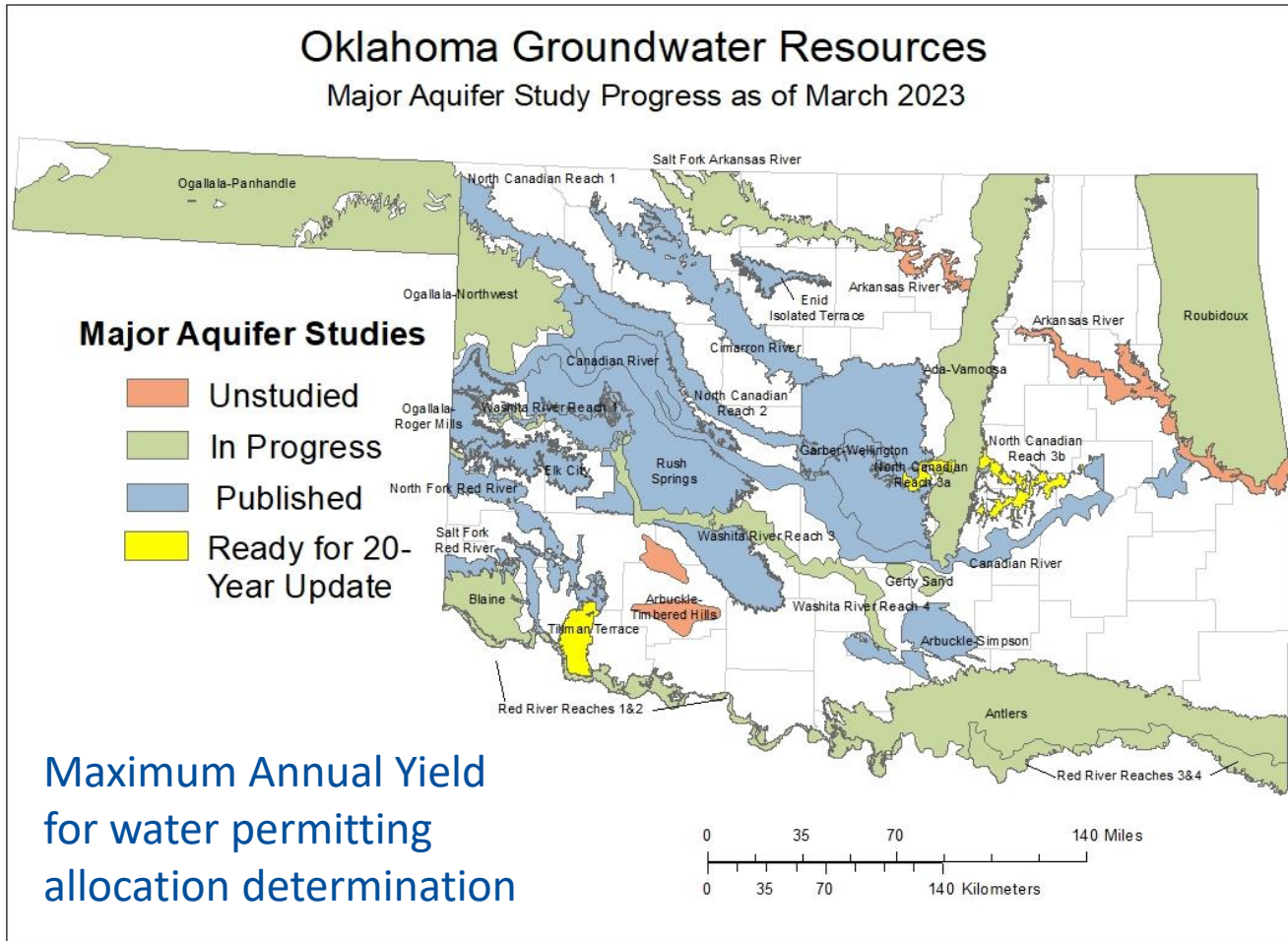
# Western Water Cooperative Committee

## Water Resources Development Act 2022

- Established to ensure U.S. Army Corp of Engineers **flood control project operation** in 17 Western states **aligns** with **state water rights and water law**
- **Platform for dialogue** for states to work out water appropriation and other issues with the Army Corps
- Increased collaboration and transparency will facilitate **improved delivery of policies, water management, and recreational opportunities**
- State governor and attorney general appoint **two members**
- Representatives with water **policy and management experience** and can be same as WSWC appointee

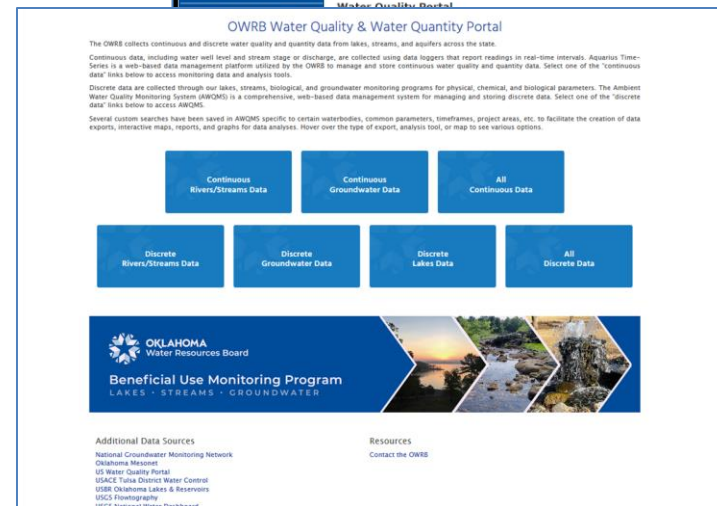
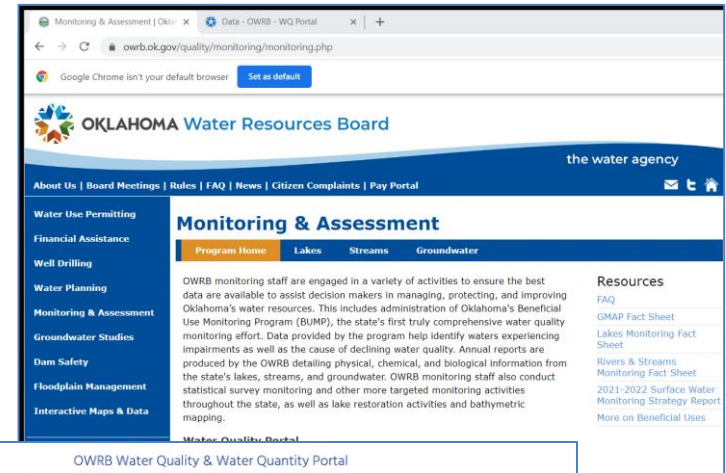


# Groundwater Availability Studies



# OWRB Water Information and Data Portal

- OWRB monitoring network (water quality/quantity) from routine sampling events and continuous field-deployed sensors
- Downloadable raw data, reports, graphs, and charts
- Maps available for site selection and for data visualization
- Data is used for water planning, public safety, research, flood/drought forecasting, etc...
- <https://data-owrb.aquaticinformatics.net/>



# Thank You

**Julie Cunningham**

**Executive Director**

Julie.Cunningham@owrb.ok.gov

Office 405.530.8807

Mobile 405.365.5298



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