

# Contents

**Preface**, by Andrew Sansom ix

**Acknowledgments** xi

**Introduction** xiii

## **Chapter 1: Climate** 1

- Climates 3
- Climate Divisions 4
- Average Annual Precipitation 5
- Average Monthly Precipitation, January–April 6
- Average Monthly Precipitation, May–August 7
- Average Monthly Precipitation, September–December 8
- Climate Variability—Annual Precipitation 9
- Climate Variability—Annual Precipitation (graph) 10
- Annual Precipitation for Major Texas Cities, 1940–2003 11
- Annual Precipitation, 1940–2003—El Paso and Lubbock 12
- Annual Precipitation, 1940–2003—San Antonio and Austin 13
- Annual Precipitation, 1940–2003—Dallas and Houston 14
- Annual Potential Evapotranspiration—Priestly Taylor Method 15
- Annual Potential Evapotranspiration—Penman Method 16
- Gross Lake Surface Evaporation—Average Annual Rate, 1950–79 17

## **Chapter 2: Surface Water and Groundwater** 18

- Major Rivers 20
- Major Drainage Basins 21
- Surface Water 22
- Major Texas Reservoirs (table) 23
- Springs 24
- Groundwater Recharge—Estimated Mean Annual 25
- Major Aquifers 26
- Edwards Aquifer 27
- Ogallala Aquifer 28
- Edwards-Trinity Aquifer System 29
- Minor Aquifers 30
- Playa Lakes 31
- Coastal Wetlands near Galveston 32
- Coastal Wetlands near Corpus Christi 33
- Coastal Wetlands near Brownsville 34

## **Chapter 3: Water Hazards** 35

- Shoreline Erosion—Overview of Study Areas 37
- Shoreline Erosion—Focus on Study Areas 38
- Floodplain Zones 39
- Selected Floodplains—Downtown Areas 40
- Historic Floods, 1853–2002 41
- Floods from Storms, 1853–2002 42
- Flash Floods, 1986–99 43
- Hurricane Paths—Most Damaging Storms, 1950–2000 44
- Hurricane Intensity—Most Severely Affected Counties 45
- Major Droughts—National Weather Service Climatic Divisions 46
- Public Water Supply Systems—Affected by Drought, 2004 47
- Per Capita Water Use in Drought, 2000 48
- Groundwater Overdraft Subsidence—Houston-Galveston Area, 1906–2000 49

## **Chapter 4: Water Quantity and Quality** 50

- Spanish-Mexican Acequias 52
- USGS Real-Time Gaging Stations, 2005 53
- Surface Water Supply Index, 2002 54

Surface Water Availability, 2002	55
Surface Water Allocation, 2004	56
Surface Water Quality, 2000	57
Water Desalination Plants, 2004	58
Groundwater Vulnerability, 2002	59
Water Wells, 2004—Wells per County	60
Water Wells Drilled, 1820–2003	61
Water Wells Drilled Annually, 1820–2003 (graph)	62
Population and Precipitation, 2000	63
Population and Water Usage, 2003	64
Water Usage, 2003—Irrigation, Manufacturing, Municipal	65
Water Usage, 2003—Mining, Livestock, Steam and Electric Production	66
River Authorities, 2000	67
Water Management Regions, 2003—Senate Bill 1 (1997)	68
Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs)	69

### **Chapter 5: Water Projects, Pollution, and Protection 70**

National Waterway Network in Texas, 2001	72
Hydroelectric Power, 1999	73
Major Texas Hydroelectric Plants, 2005 (table)	74
Oil and Natural Gas Production, 2003	75
Industrial Pollutants—Leaking Underground Tanks, 2001, and Industrial Hazardous Waste, 1997	76
Industrial Pollutants, 2004—Mining Operations and Nuclear or Radioactive	77
Agricultural Pollutants, 2004—Animal Waste and Groundwater Contamination	78
Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)	79
Sanitary Landfills—Number of People Served, 1996	80
Landfills—Other Attributes, 1996	81
Facilities Emitting Air Pollutants, 1999	82
Wastewater Discharge, 2002	83
Toxic Substances in Surface Waters, 1999	84
Locations of Fish Kills, 1958–2005	85
Endangered Water-Dependent Species, 2004—Fish, Mammals, and Birds	86
Endangered Water-Dependent Species, 2004—Other Animals and Plants	87
Invasive Plant Species	88
Major Protected Areas	89

### **Chapter 6: Water Recreation 90**

Water Access by Boats, 2005	91
Aquariums, 2006	92
Water Parks, 2006	93
Scuba Parks, 2006	94
Tubing Access, 2006	95

### **Chapter 7: Water Prospects 96**

Projected Change in Water Supplies, 2000–2050—Water Management Regions	97
Change in Groundwater Supplies, 2000–2050	98
Interbasin Water Transfers	99
Proposed Interbasin Water Transfers	100
Projected Water Needs—Water User Groups in River Basins	101
Counties with Projected Unmet User Group Needs, 2050	102
Surface Water Supplies in Drought—Projected for River Basins	103
Per Capita Water Use in Drought—Projected for Selected Cities	104
Water Demand Projections—Irrigation	105
Water Demand Projections—Livestock	106
Water Demand Projections—Manufacturing	107
Water Demand Projections—Mining	108
Water Demand Projections—Municipal	109
Water Demand Projections—Steam and Electric	110

### **Texas Water Timeline 111**

### **Glossary 125**

### **References 127**

### **Index 131**