

Incorporate a statewide ET network into the TexMesonet program.

The WCAC recommends that, subject to available state revenue for the 2024-2025 biennium, the Texas Legislature provide TWDB with authority and financial resources sufficient to incorporate a statewide ET network into the existing TexMesonet program mission. Key aspects of this program expansion should include:

- Codify the statutory authority of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) as the lead agency to ensure the longevity and reliability of the statewide TexMesonet earth observation network
- Codify the statutory authority of the TWDB to incorporate reference evapotranspiration in its mission to further develop and expand the TexMesonet
- Increase appropriations for the biennium to the TWDB to provide funding for staff and resources to develop and support a statewide evapotranspiration (ET) network within the TexMesonet (\$900,000 proposed to be included in context)
- Task the TWDB to appropriately collaborate and contract with other local, state and federal agencies to provide technical assistance and the development and dissemination of products to maximize the impact of the TexMesonet and a statewide evapotranspiration network for the people of Texas

Recommendation to TWDB but not legislative

- Encourage TexMesonet staff to include the consideration of evapotranspiration data collection when siting new weather stations.
- Clarify that TexMesonet serves purposes in addition to flood monitoring such as collection and dissemination of evapotranspiration data necessary for water management across Texas.
- Expand the TexMesonet Advisory Committee to include representatives interested in evapotranspiration data. Utilize additional representatives to expand potential siting partnerships from water stakeholders.