

# ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES: CLEAN WATER THROUGH REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND INNOVATION

## Environmental and Regulatory Services Division's Key Service Areas:

Regulatory compliance and legislative monitoring for safe drinking water and exceptional water quality

Energy and resource efficiency and climate adaptation

Center for Environmental Research at Hornsby Bend

## Environmental and Regulatory Services Division 0.24% of AWU Budget 9% of Environmental Affairs and Conservation Budget

Draft Proposed Budget for FY2014 is \$1,277,766

96% is Personnel

2% is Contractual

2% is Commodities

The Environmental and Regulatory Services Division supports the Utility through regulatory compliance, energy efficiency, climate adaptation, innovative research, and governmental relations services.

The Center for Environmental Research at Hornsby Bend is also included in this Division.

**Center for  
Environmental  
Research** at Hornsby Bend



## Benefits of Environmental and Regulatory Services:

- Ensure compliance with federal Safe Drinking Water Act
- Ensure compliance with TCEQ's drinking water regulations
- Ensure compliance with federal Clean Water Act
- Ensure compliance with TCEQ's water quality regulations
- Serve as the Utility's liaison with EPA, TCEQ, Texas Water Development Board, and the Texas State Legislature
- Monitor federal and state legislation and rulemaking for impacts on Austin Water Utility operations
- Reduce the carbon footprint of the Utility
- Develop strategies for climate change adaptation
- Support innovative environmental education and research through the Center for Environmental Research at Hornsby Bend, in partnership with the University of Texas and Texas A&M University



## **Budget Allows for Successful Regulatory Compliance and Innovation:**

### **Regulatory Compliance and Legislative Monitoring**

- Maintain TCEQ permits and prepare permit applications for drinking water, wastewater and biosolids treatment plants
- Prepare technical reports and compliance reports for TCEQ
- Track and comment on proposed TCEQ rules related to drinking water and wastewater treatment, biosolids management, and water quality improvement
- Serve on TCEQ's Drinking Water Advisory Group, Water Quality Advisory Group and other advisory groups
- Serve on federal regulatory technical advisory groups
- Provide rule interpretations for plant operations
- Monitor drinking water quality, chlorine residuals, and bacteriological sample results
- Respond to customer inquiries on drinking water quality, wastewater quality, and initiate appropriate operations response such as sampling or pipeline flushing
- Support and monitor national research projects on drinking water and wastewater treatment innovations
- Conduct annual wastewater collection system training conference with TCEQ and EPA to promote proper asset management
- Monitor federal and state legislation for impacts on Austin Water Utility operations

### **Center for Environmental Research at Hornsby Bend**

- Promote research on urban waste recycling and soil ecology; hydrogeology of the Colorado River and the alluvial aquifer; river ecology and bottomland restoration
- Support the Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory Program, for "citizen science" research and monitoring of birds at Hornsby Bend
- Develop and manage a 3-mile public river trail and gardens
- Serve as a leading member of the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership
- Conduct regular public lectures and fieldtrips on urban ecology and sustainability
- Provide office space for two non-profits and training/meeting space for a wide range of other non-profits, academic institutions and governmental agencies

### **Energy/Resource Efficiency and Climate Change Mitigation/Adaptation**

- Develop holistic strategies for improved environmental and economic performance across Utility divisions
- Identify and characterize energy uses throughout Utility and identify opportunities for energy savings
- Maintain annual energy use inventory for the Utility
- Represent the Utility on Pecan Street Project, a pilot demonstration of integrated smart appliances, rates, and smart metering of water, gas, and electricity in participating Austin residences
- Lead the development, maintenance and implementation of the Austin Water Climate Protection Plan
- Support interdepartmental climate efforts on Climate Change and Carbon Management
- Quantify the Utility's greenhouse gas emissions data
- Maintain annual greenhouse gas emission inventory and related performance metrics
- Prepare annual Climate program report
- Develop and maintain climate mitigation and adaptation strategies for the Utility