

3 Water Plan Goals & Priorities

ENSURING EACH CITIZEN HAS RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY

Issue Statement

Ensuring that each Kansas citizen has a reliable water supply is a fundamental goal of the *Kansas Water Plan* (KWP). A dependable water supply includes sufficient quantities and storage and consistent access to water. It also involves individual citizen and community responsibility in efficiently managing their collective water resources.

Importance of the Issue

Lack of reliable supply that results in shortages of water could have a devastating effect on the economy of Kansas and the health and welfare of our citizens. Every industry from agriculture, electric power generation and manufacturing to tourism relies on water to grow and ultimately sustain their business. Developing and implementing plans and tools that secure and improve the reliability of our water supplies is essential for the prosperity of our communities and the health of our citizens and will be important in attracting commercial decision-makers to expand or locate their businesses in Kansas.

Gaps to be Addressed

Persistent drought conditions impacted every county in Kansas in 2012, identifying cities, both large and small, with insufficient supplies to meet demands during a sustained drought. Demographic shifts influence water supply

and distribution infrastructure, as well as, wastewater treatment and disposal. Regional planning maximizes efficiency in providing services and provides resiliency in providing clean, reliable water during times of shortage.

Closing the GAP

Policy and programmatic changes identified in the KWP have supported progress towards meeting the water supply goal. In response to the drought of 2012, more than 160 communities developed or updated a conservation plan while others evaluated rate increases, water restrictions and other conservation efforts.

More opportunities exist to close the gap in meeting the goal of ensuring all Kansas citizens have a reliable water supply. Opportunities such as demand management, water reuse and the use of marginal supplies, artificial recharge and out-of-basin transfer will need to be evaluated and implemented where appropriate. The actions identified in this five-year update of the KWP seek to maximize existing supplies and create assurances that sufficient quality water resources will be available when and where required.