

Texas Water Development Board seeking landowner partners for TexMesonet weather stations

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is tasked with installing weather stations across the state, especially in areas with limited meteorological coverage, and the agency is interested in placing more stations in South Texas through the TexMesonet program.

TexMesonet is a data collection network that captures near real-time meteorological, hydrologic, and soil data across the state to help Texans monitor, understand, and respond to ever-changing weather patterns. Data provided by the weather stations supports improved weather models and forecasts, contributing to improved public safety, agricultural productivity, and scientific research.

Each TexMesonet weather station requires a small plot of land measuring at least 38 by 38 feet, plus an AT&T signal for cellular service transmission, and a signed access agreement between the landowner and the TWDB.

There is no cost to landowners, as the TWDB will install the station and handle all maintenance. The access agreement is non-binding and both parties can withdraw from the agreement at any time; however, the TWDB prefers sites that can house stations for the foreseeable future.

TWDB stations are 33-foot towers that include sensors to collect data on wind, relative humidity, solar radiation, precipitation, barometric pressure, temperature, and soil moisture/temperature. Stations operate on a combination of solar and battery power and transmit data every 5 minutes to TexMesonet.org, where a map viewer displays near real-time data, as well as current radar, precipitation accumulations, and streamflow.

The TWDB works with partners, utilities, and landowners across the state to identify station locations that will fill gaps in existing weather data coverage. Since its inception in 2016, the network has grown to include 112 TWDB stations and more than 3,000 partner stations.

Landowners interested in partnering with the TWDB to install a TexMesonet weather station on their property can contact Mark Olden at 512-463-8090 or Mark.Olden@twdb.texas.gov.

To view data and learn more about TexMesonet, visit TexMesonet.org.

About the Texas Water Development Board

The TWDB is the state agency charged with collecting and disseminating water-related data, assisting with regional water and flood planning, and preparing the state water and

flood plans. The TWDB administers cost-effective financial assistance programs for the construction of water supply, wastewater treatment, flood control, and agricultural water conservation projects. To learn more about the TWDB, visit www.twdb.texas.gov.