



State Reservoir Priority and Development Program

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MWH

BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

Severe Drought in 1998 - 2000 Raised Water Awareness

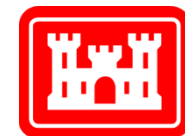


- Saltwater encroachment accelerated
- Ground water levels continued to decline
- Economic growth concerns grew

The Legislature Responded

- Received requests to fund reservoir projects
- **No formal evaluation** or **prioritization** of projects to determine best use of state funds
- Recognized need for **process** and **procedures** to prioritize and fund reservoirs
- In 2007 authorized DOTD to establish a **Reservoir Priority Development Program**

RPDP Participating Agencies

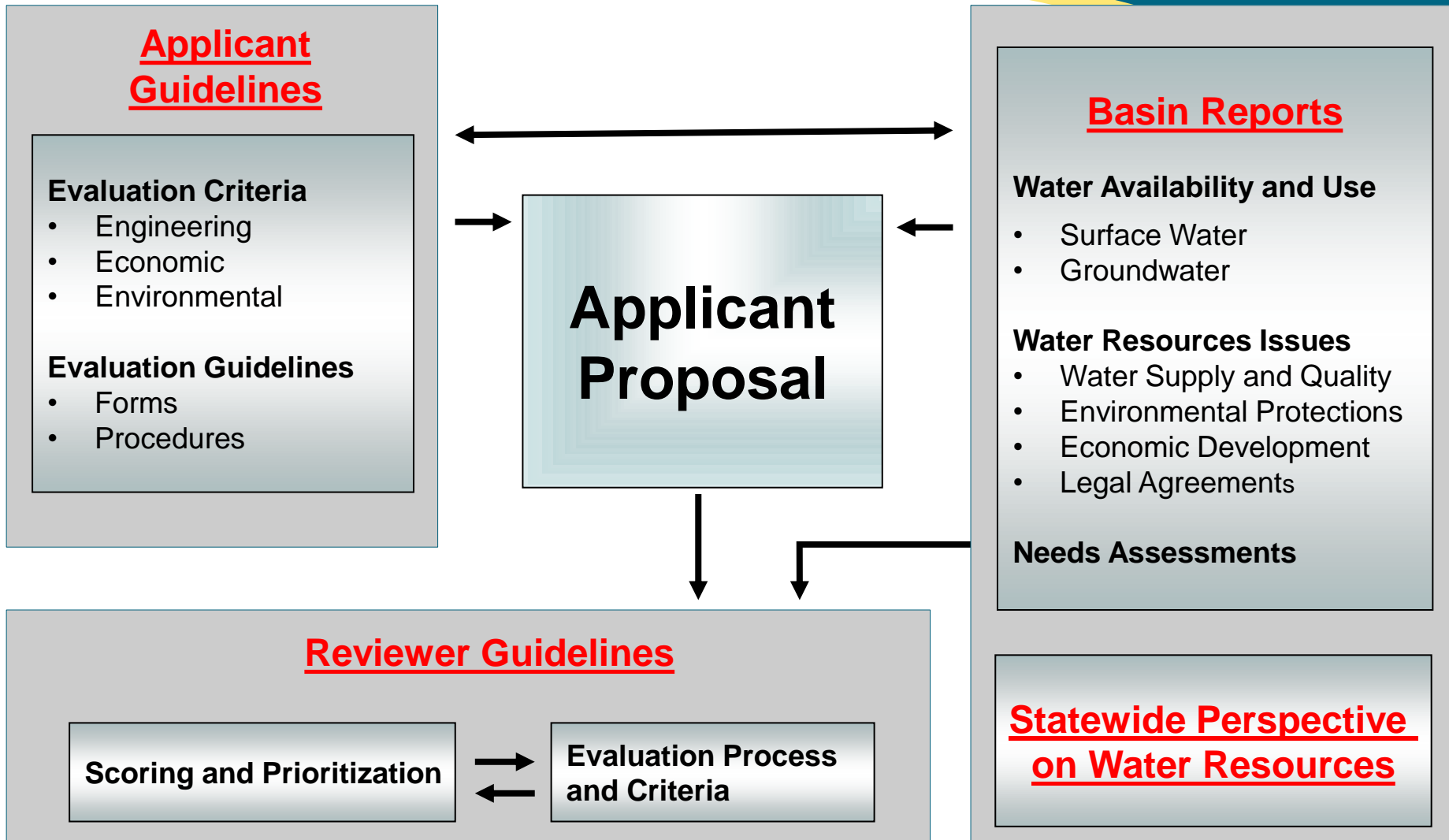


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RPDP Goals

- **Encourage Multiple-Purpose Projects**
 - Select projects that promote State priorities
 - Water supply, flood control, environmental enhancement, socioeconomic development, recreation, etc.
- **Provide Tools for Applicants and Decision Makers**
 - Consistent summary of state-wide water resource issues
 - Sound scientific criteria for decisions
 - Build on similar approaches from other agencies and states
- **Provide Guidance on State Water Resource Management Strategies**

Phase 1 of RPDP has 4 Elements



Basin Characterization Reports Provide Consistent Information Statewide

➤ Water Availability and Use

- Surface Water
- Groundwater

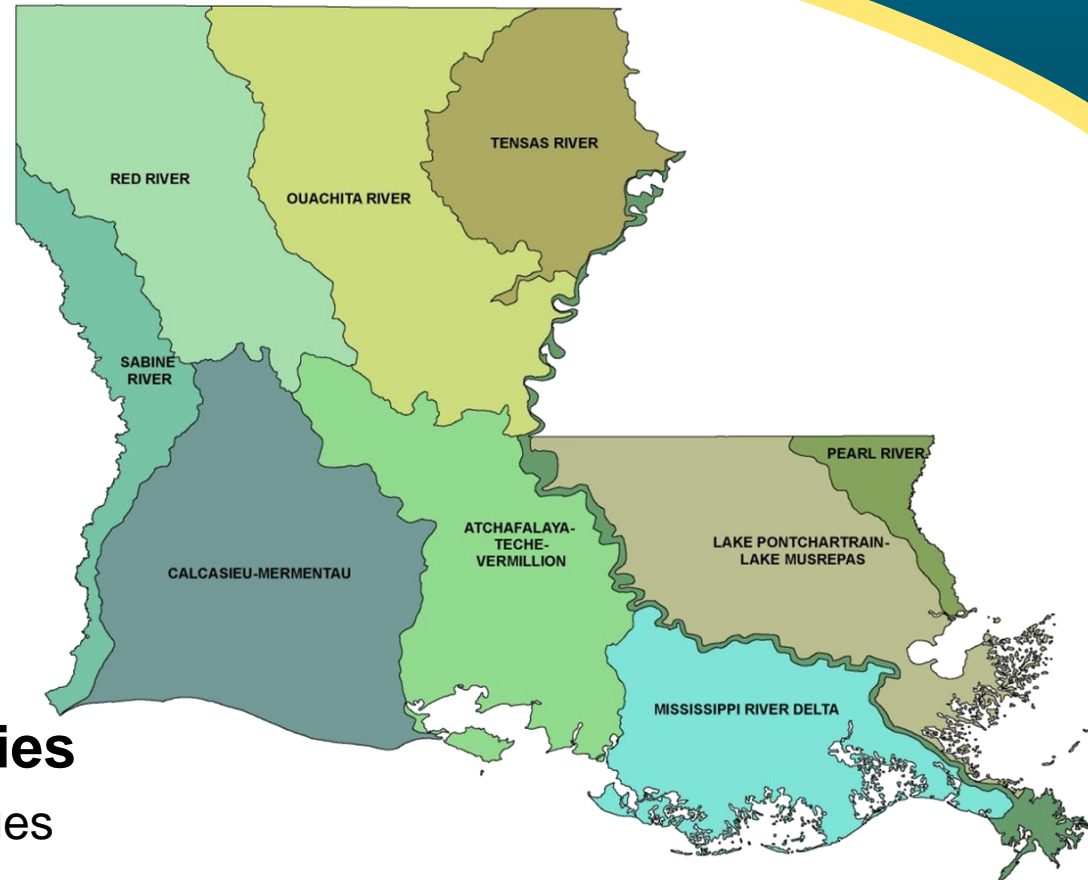
➤ Water Related Issues

- Water quality
- Groundwater Overdraft
- Environmental and Cultural
- Flooding
- Recreation
- Navigation
- Hydropower

➤ Land Use and Legal Entities

- Inter-basin and Inter-state Issues

➤ Needs Assessments



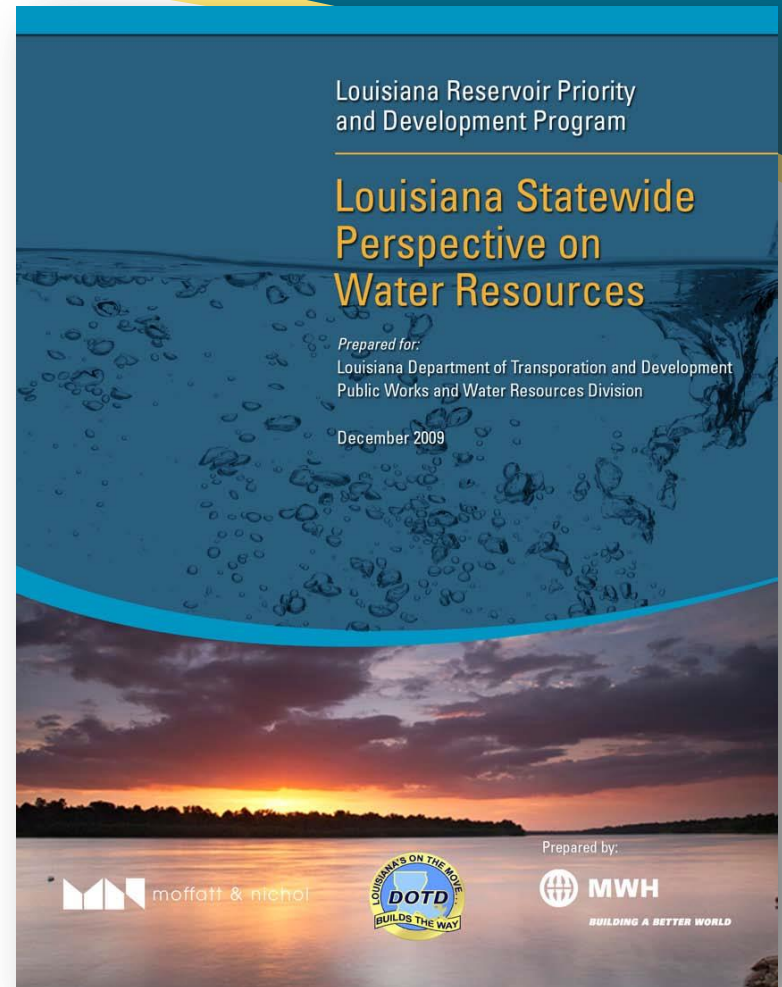
Water Resources Needs Were Ranked Based on Relative Urgency

Major water resource needs within each basin

- Surface water supply / quality
- Ground water supply / quality
- Environmental protection / enhancement
- Flood control / recreation / navigation

Statewide Perspective on Water Resources

- **Summary of Statewide water resource issues**
 - Areas of groundwater concern
 - Areas of changing water demand
 - Declining water quality
- **Strategies for water resource management**



Water Resources Management Statewide Issues and Concerns

- **Groundwater over pumping**
- **Limited information on surface water sustainable yield**
- **Population and water use forecast uncertainty**
- **Other future water demands**
 - Agriculture
 - Industry
 - Energy
 - Environment

Recommended Water Resources Management Strategies

- **Build on existing resources**
 - Coordinate activities of state agencies
- **Work with local entities for regional solutions**
 - Water conservation and education
 - Alternative water sources
 - Intra-basin transfers
- **Adopt collaborative vs. regulatory approaches**
- **Apply scenario-based planning**
- **Prepare regular updates**

Next Steps in RPDP Development

- **Pilot testing and stakeholder input**
- **Estimate sustainable yield of streams, reservoirs and lakes**
- **Identify potential reservoir locations**
- **Quantify stream flood characteristics**
- **Develop ground and surface water models**

Observations Made During RPDP Phase 1

➤ **Louisiana Lacks a State Water Resources Plan**

- Historical abundant supply has masked the need
- Local water resources issues have been growing
- Water management challenges will increase

➤ **Regional water needs must be determined**

- Identify areas of current and future water shortage
- Quantify 'surplus' water supply to a region
- What are potential uses of surplus water?



RPDP documents are available at:

http://www.dotd.la.gov/intermodal/dams/rpdp_reports.aspx