



FACT SHEET

SUNFLOWER H2O INITIATIVE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY STUDY KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA

Point of Contact:

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MISSION: *To Provide a Safe Dependable Water Supply and Sustain and Improve the Quality of Life in the Nine County Region*

BACKGROUND: The Sunflower H2O Initiative is a consortium of rural communities and water districts in south-central Kansas and northern Oklahoma seeking engineering and financial assistance in evaluating and resolving common water issues from a regional perspective. The project area consists of six counties in Kansas (Barber, Comanche, Harper, Kingman, Kiowa, and Pratt) and three counties in Oklahoma (Alfalfa, Grant and Woods). This includes over 60 public water supply systems (communities and rural water districts). The total population of the service area is about 55,000.

PHASE 1 STUDY RESULTS: The consortium was established about two and a half years ago as a forum to address the area's water resources issues, including the following:

- Need for a long-term, regional, and dependable water supply.
- Threat of high nitrate levels and other contaminants.
- Aging water infrastructures.
- Single water source systems with no secondary resources/emergency back-up.

The consortium (in cost-sharing cooperation with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and their Regional Public Water Supply Planning Grant Program) has completed a Phase 1 Preliminary Planning Study that has examined the existing water issues in the project region (Water Story), made preliminary projections of future needs, and outlined recommendations for the next phase of study. Funding for succeeding study/design/construction phases is of paramount importance and requires dedication and commitment from consortium members. The need for a regional water supply is critical for future generations.

PROPOSED PHASE 2 STUDY: The Phase 2 Study will evaluate the following:

- Regional water supply alternatives including surface water and groundwater.
- Regionalization of supply, treatment, and connecting distribution systems.
- Fatal flaws analysis of various alternatives; selection of best alternative.
- Conceptual design and cost of selected alternative.

Phase 2 Study Cost Estimate: \$250,000

REQUESTED ACTION: Initiate activities to address local, regional, state, and federal funding assistance to promote and implement the Sunflower H2O Initiative mission statement and immediately address the Phase 2 study.

