



## Water

What are we doing? Where are we going?

Carolyn McGinn

Special Advisor for Water to the Governor

03.07.26



# Governor's Water Plan



Local Planning &  
Project Pipeline  
Development



Regionalization  
Opportunities



Water Funding  
Strategies



# Kansas Water Basics



# Kansas's Two Water Realities



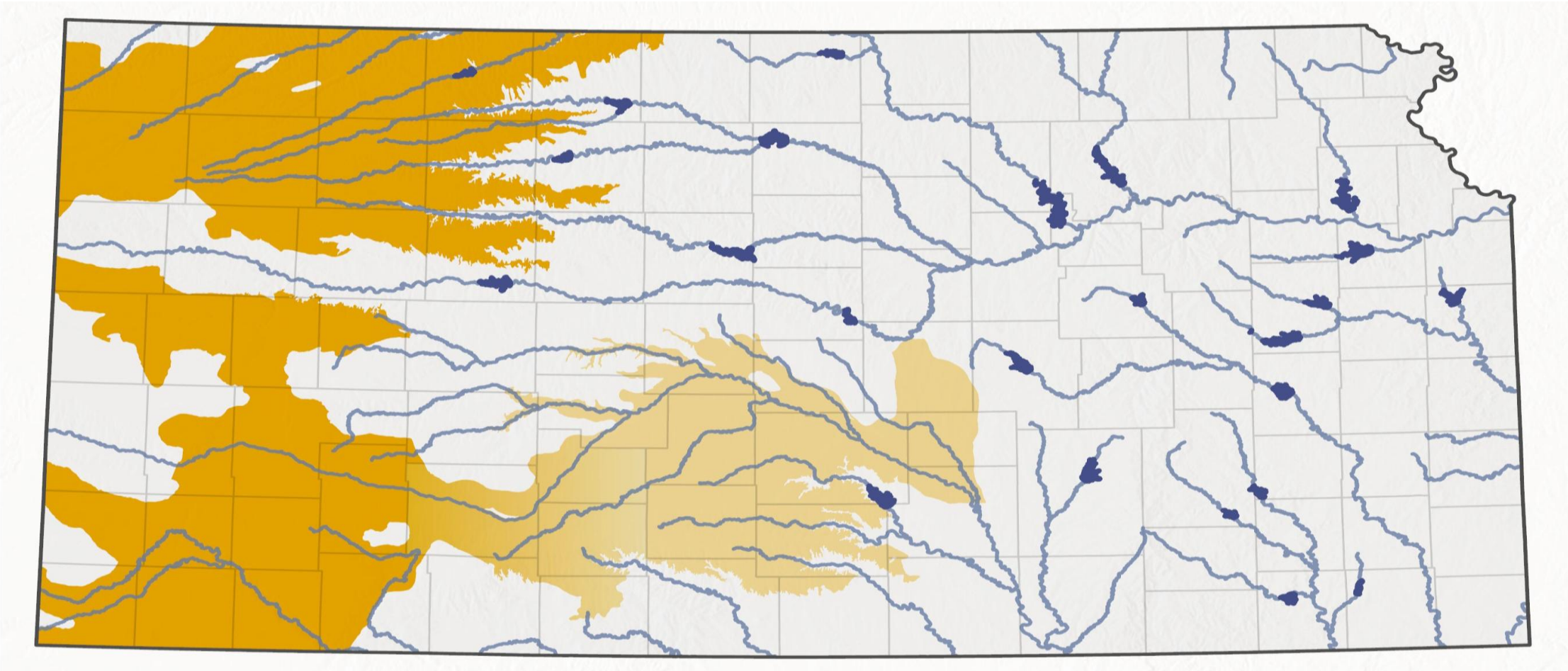
## Western Kansas

Relies on the finite Ogallala (High Plains) Aquifer. The primary use is agriculture, which is the backbone of the regional economy. The key economic challenge is managing rapid depletion of this groundwater source.

## Eastern Kansas

Relies on surface water from rivers and federal reservoirs. The primary use is municipal and industrial (M&I). The key economic challenge is funding infrastructure to manage reservoir sedimentation and treat water effectively.

# Where Does Kansas Get its Water?



High Plains Aquifer

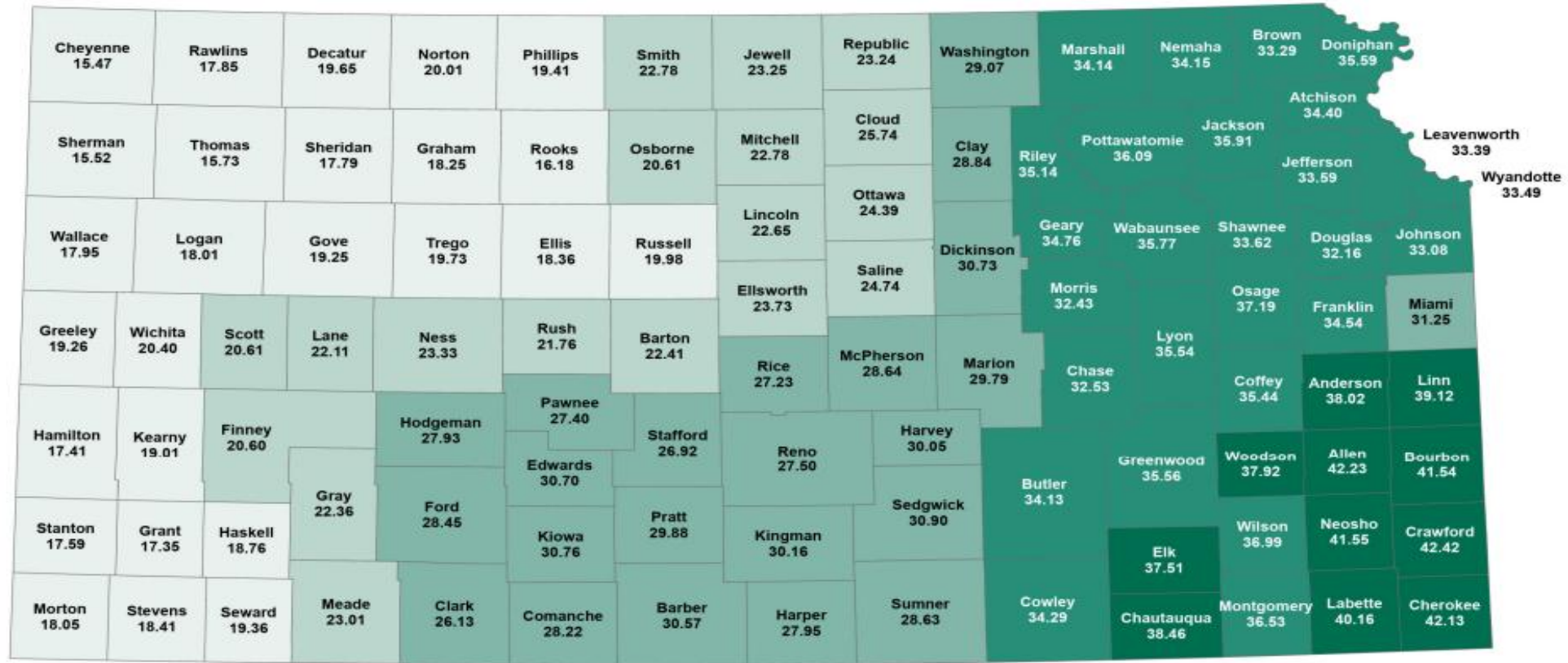
24 Reservoirs

Rivers



# Rainfall Across Kansas

Precipitation in Kansas, by County, 2024



Source: Institute for Policy & Social Research, The University of Kansas; data from Kansas State University, Research and Extension, Weather Data Library.

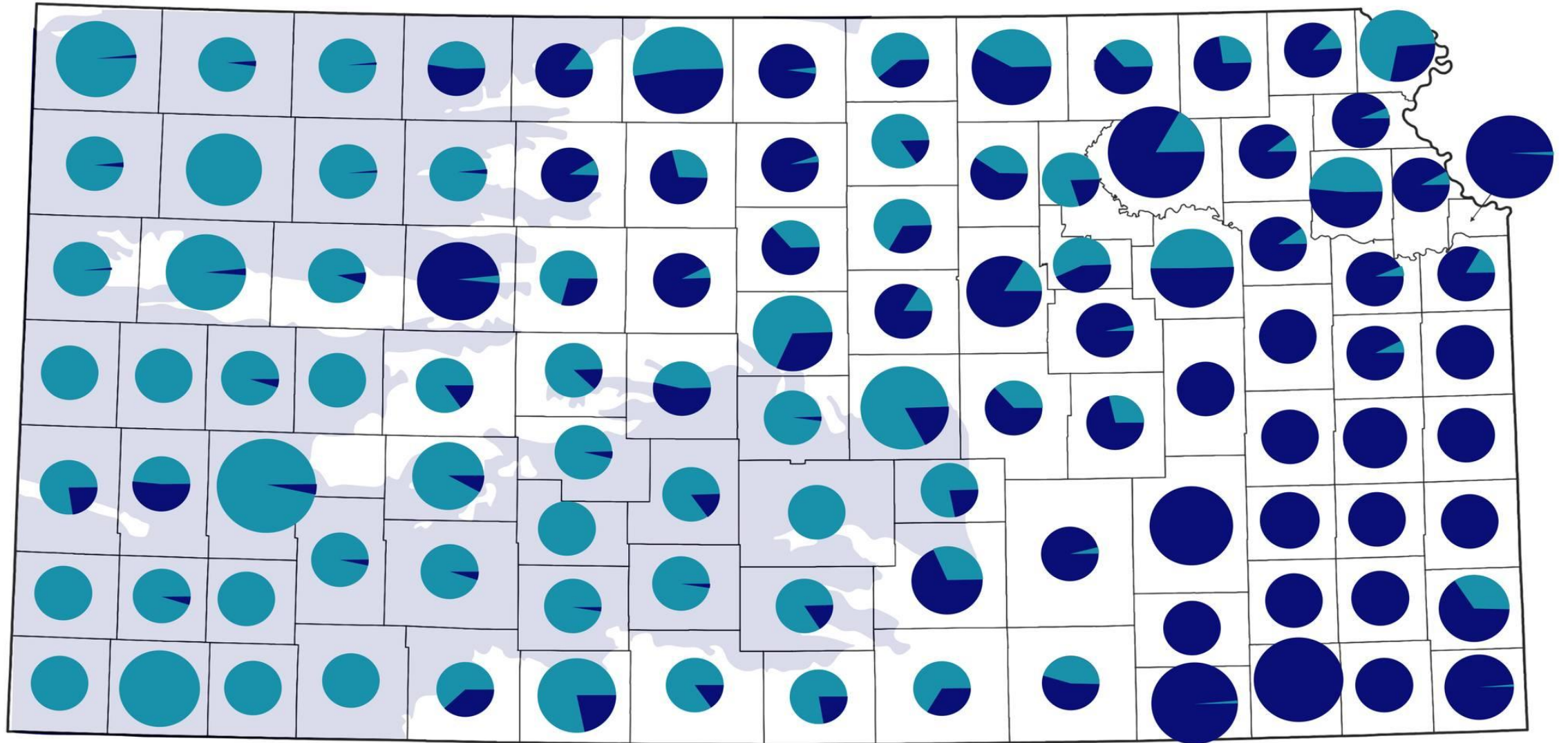
Inches of Precipitation



Kansas: 27.42



# KANSAS



# Water Challenges: Quantity, Quality & Resiliency

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## Quantity

Maintain a sustainable water supply from aquifers and reservoirs.



## Quality

Protect and restore Kansas watersheds from soil and chemical intrusions which cause impairment to quality.



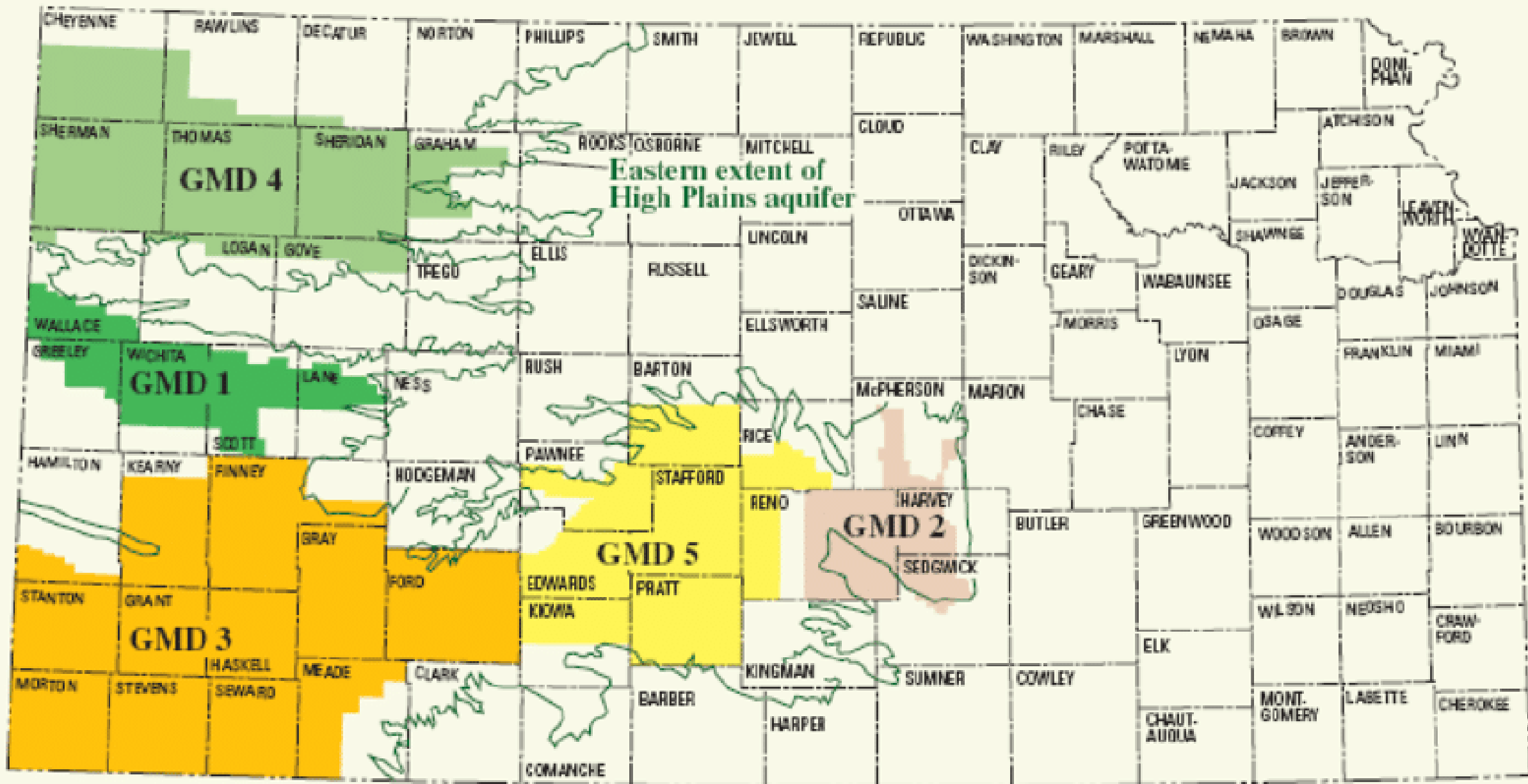
## Resilience

Reduce our vulnerability to extreme events like flooding and drought.



## Quantity

Maintain a sustainable water supply from aquifers and reservoirs.





# Kansas Reservoirs



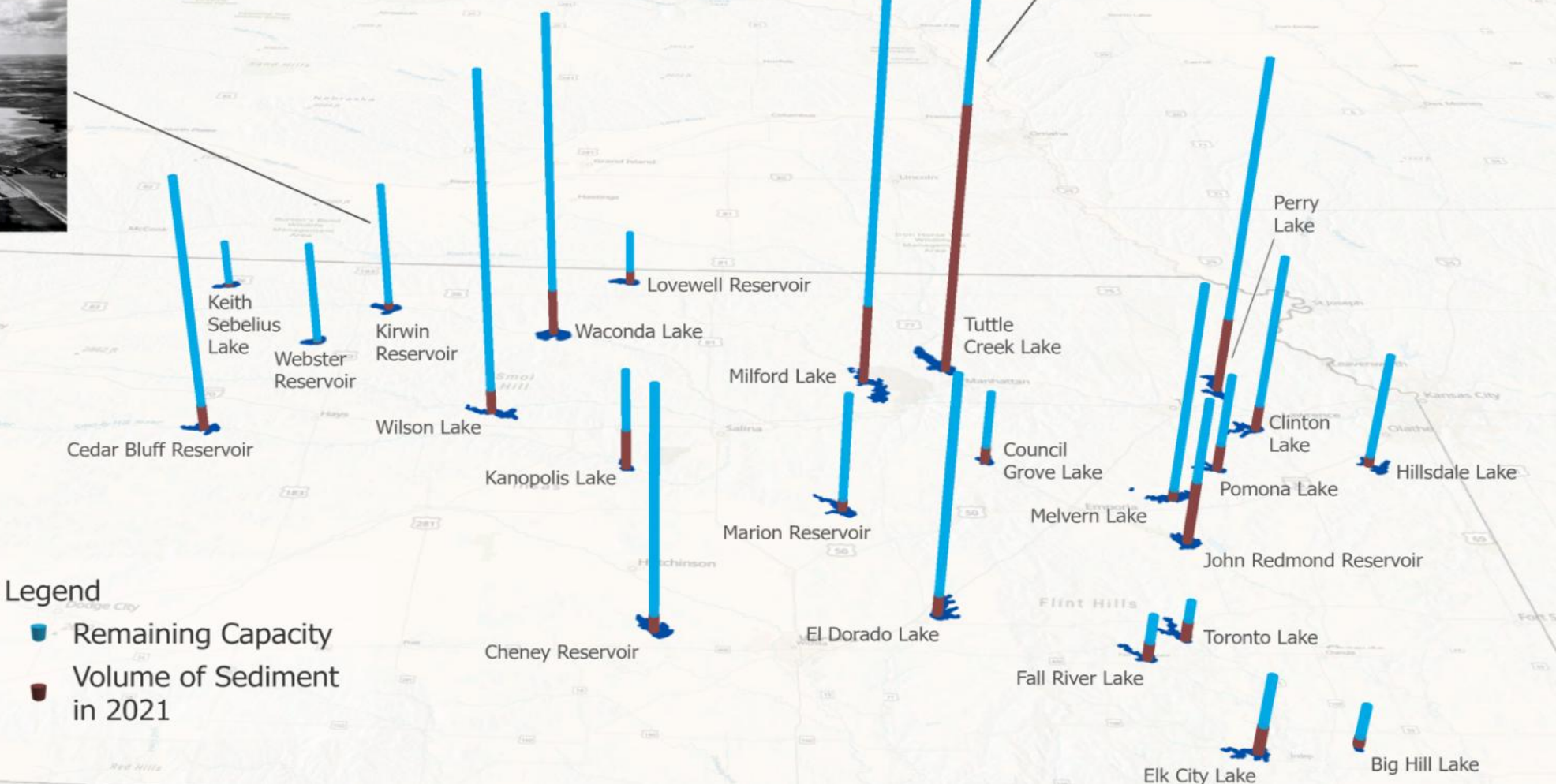
# Remaining Storage within Kansas Reservoirs

The vertical height of each bar represents total storage capacity. The blue indicates the 2021 capacity of each reservoir. The brown indicates the volume of sediment in each reservoir.



## Tuttle Creek Lake

**52.8%** Remaining capacity  
**47.2%** Capacity lost to sediment



- Legend**
- Remaining Capacity
  - Volume of Sediment in 2021



## Quality

Protect and restore Kansas watersheds from soil and chemical intrusions which cause impairment to quality.

# Remaining Storage within Kansas Reservoirs

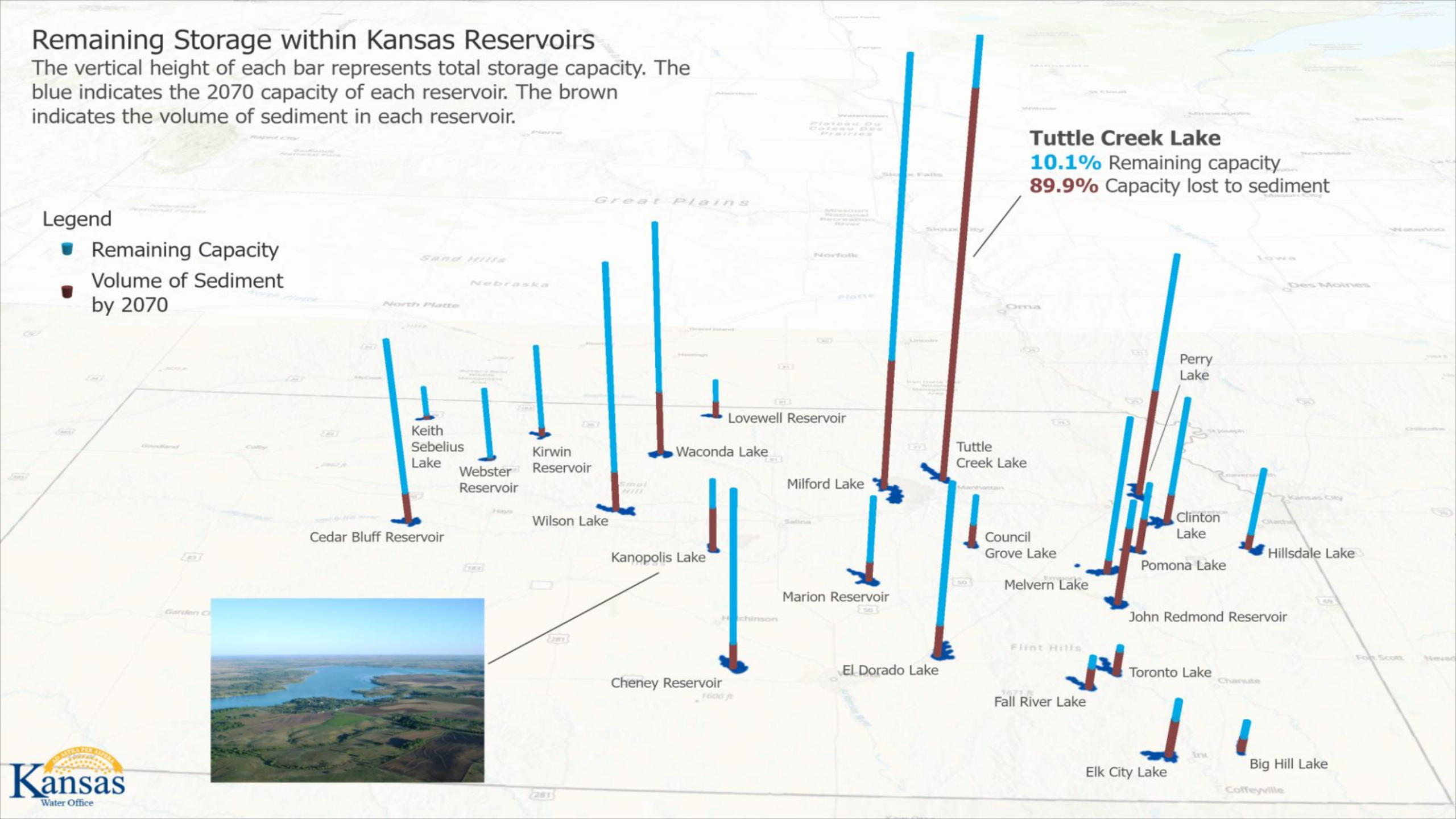
The vertical height of each bar represents total storage capacity. The blue indicates the 2070 capacity of each reservoir. The brown indicates the volume of sediment in each reservoir.

## Legend

- Remaining Capacity
- Volume of Sediment by 2070

### Tuttle Creek Lake

**10.1%** Remaining capacity  
**89.9%** Capacity lost to sediment

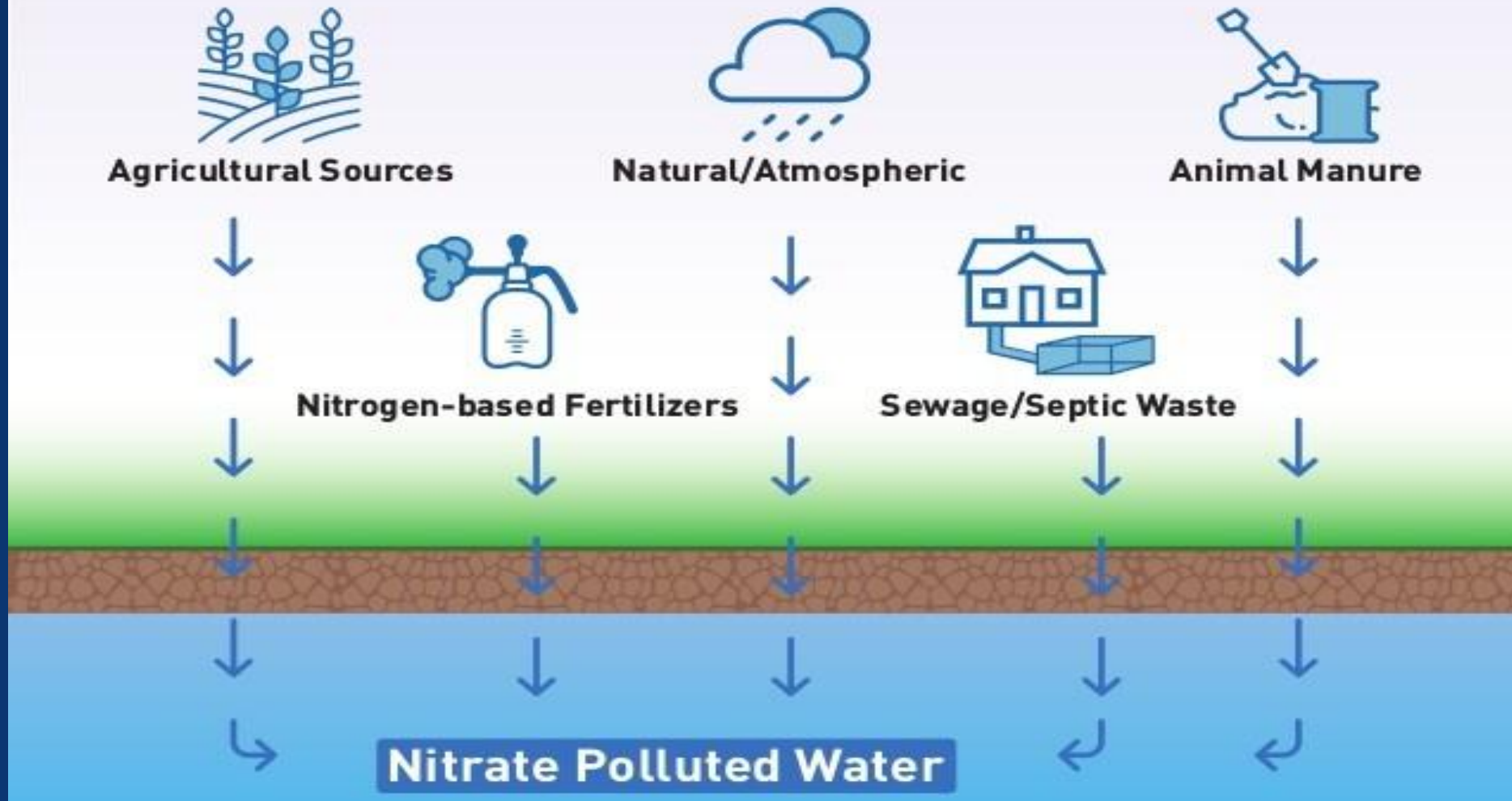




# Harmful Algae Blooms

# Nitrate Pollution

## SOURCES OF NITRATE

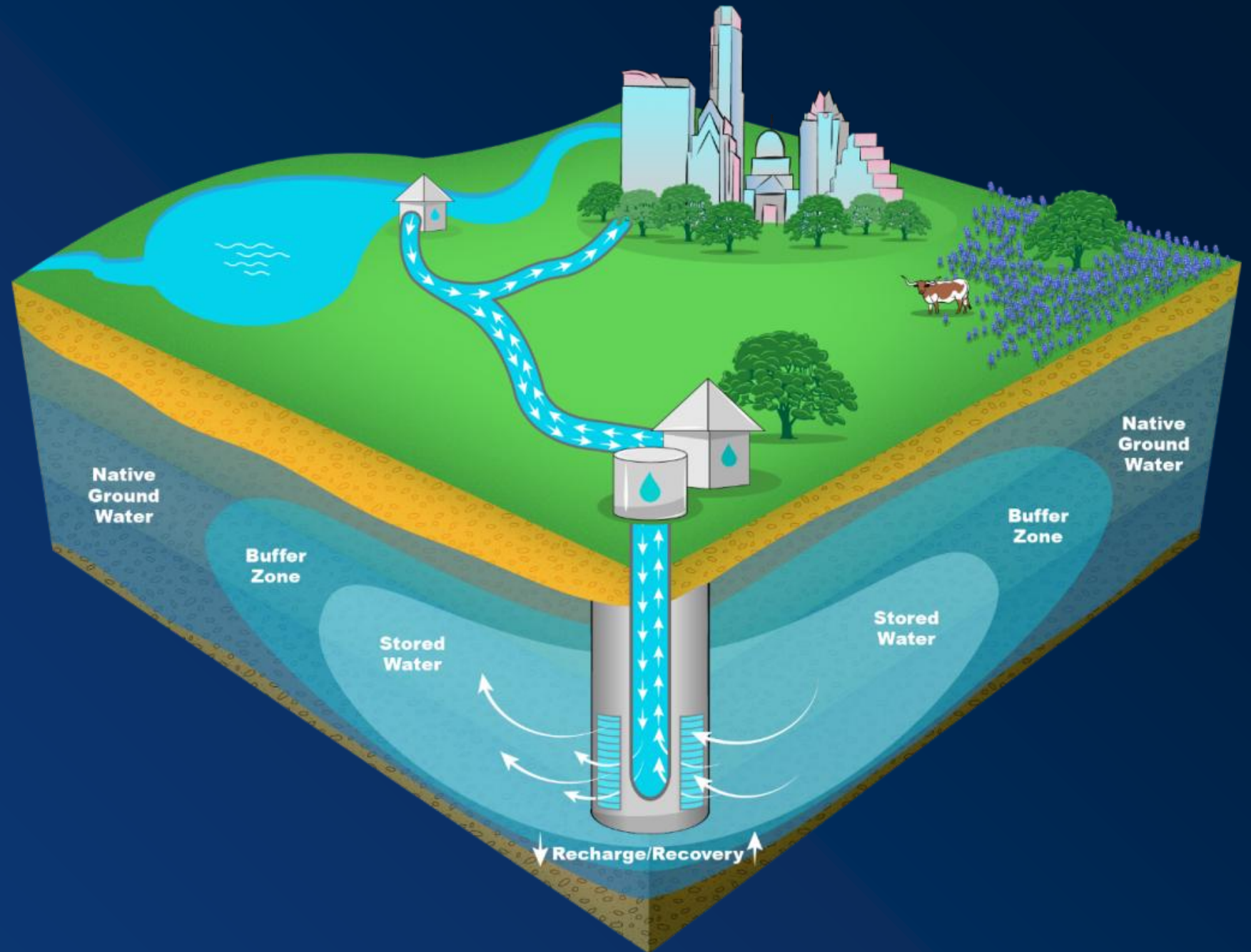




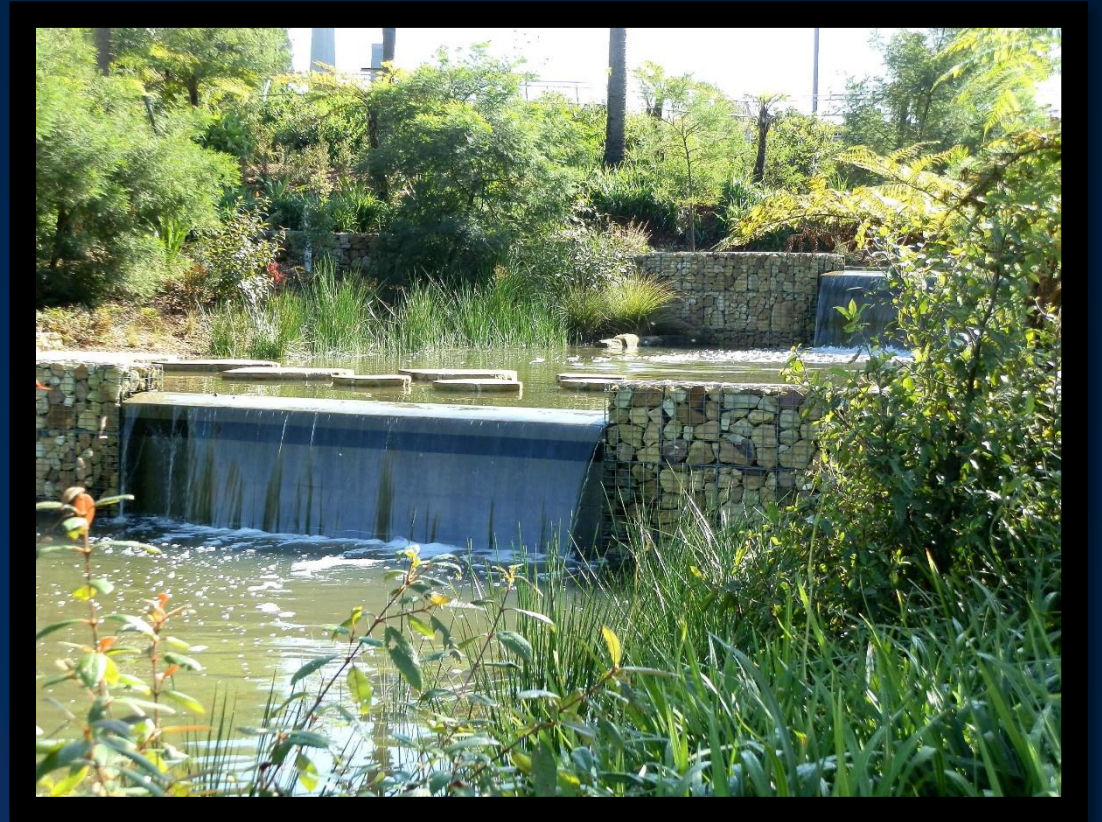
## Resiliency

Reduce our vulnerability to extreme events  
like flooding and drought.

# Aquifer Storage & Recovery Wells



# Grey Water Re-use Projects






# State Water Strategies

# Who Owns the Water?



Water in Kansas is owned by the public but subject to the state, which regulates its appropriation through water rights.



# Legislative Branch



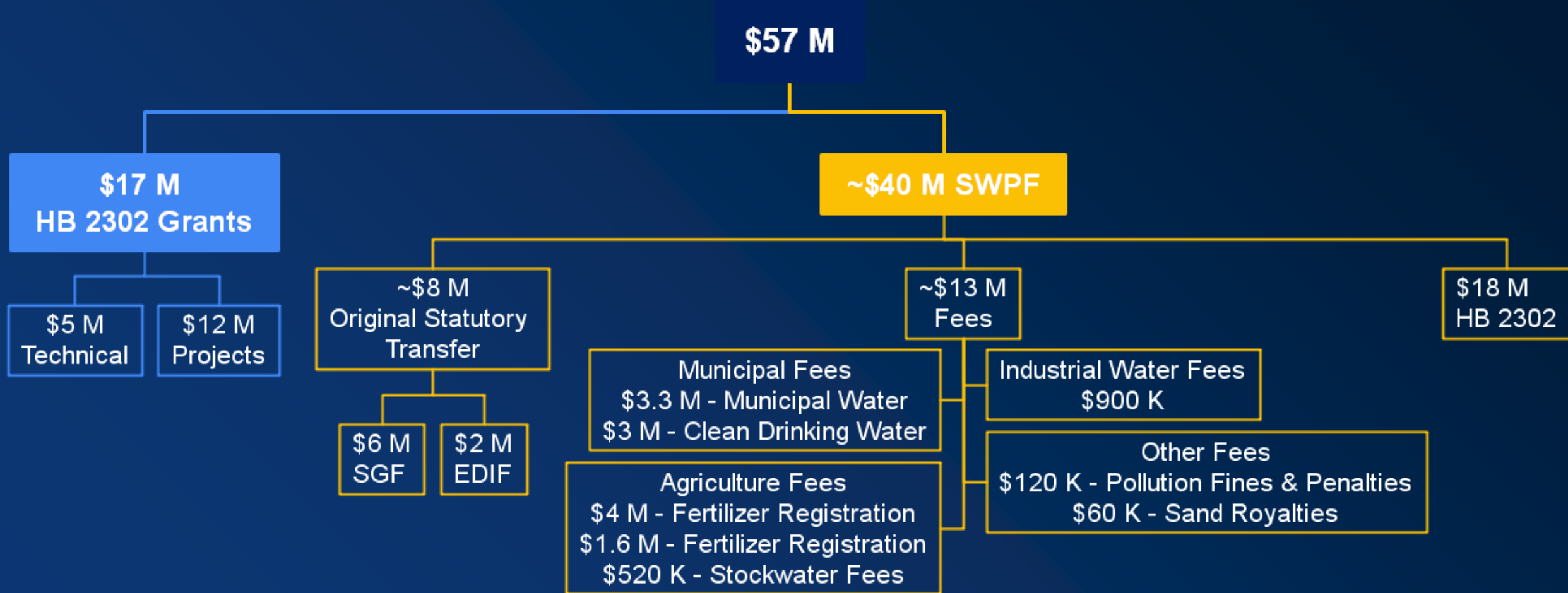
Establish  
Policies  
& Funding



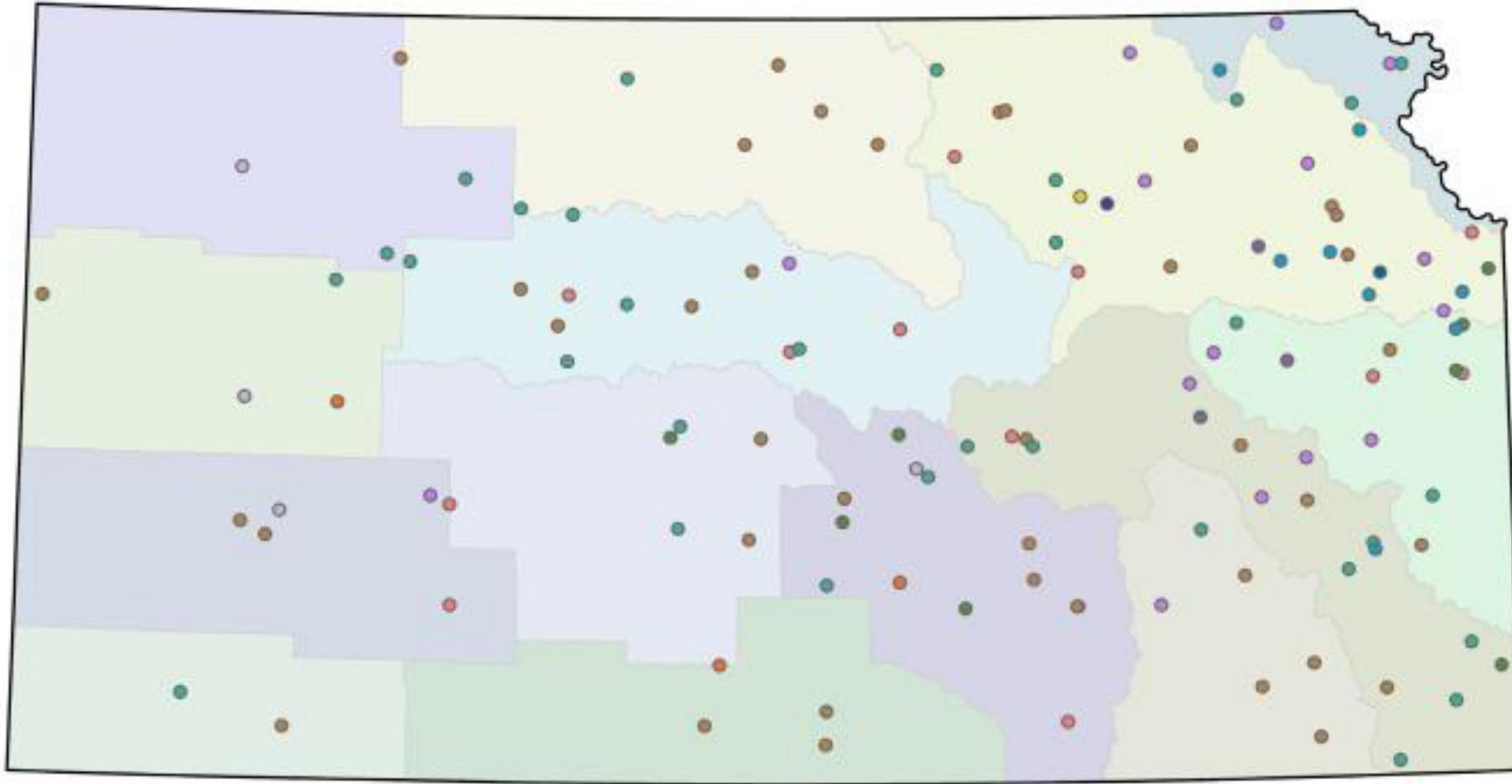
# Statutes that Govern Water

- HB 2302 – provides grants
- HB 2279 – guides GMDs
- Task Force

# How water is funded



# State Water Plan Fund Programs Funded in FY25

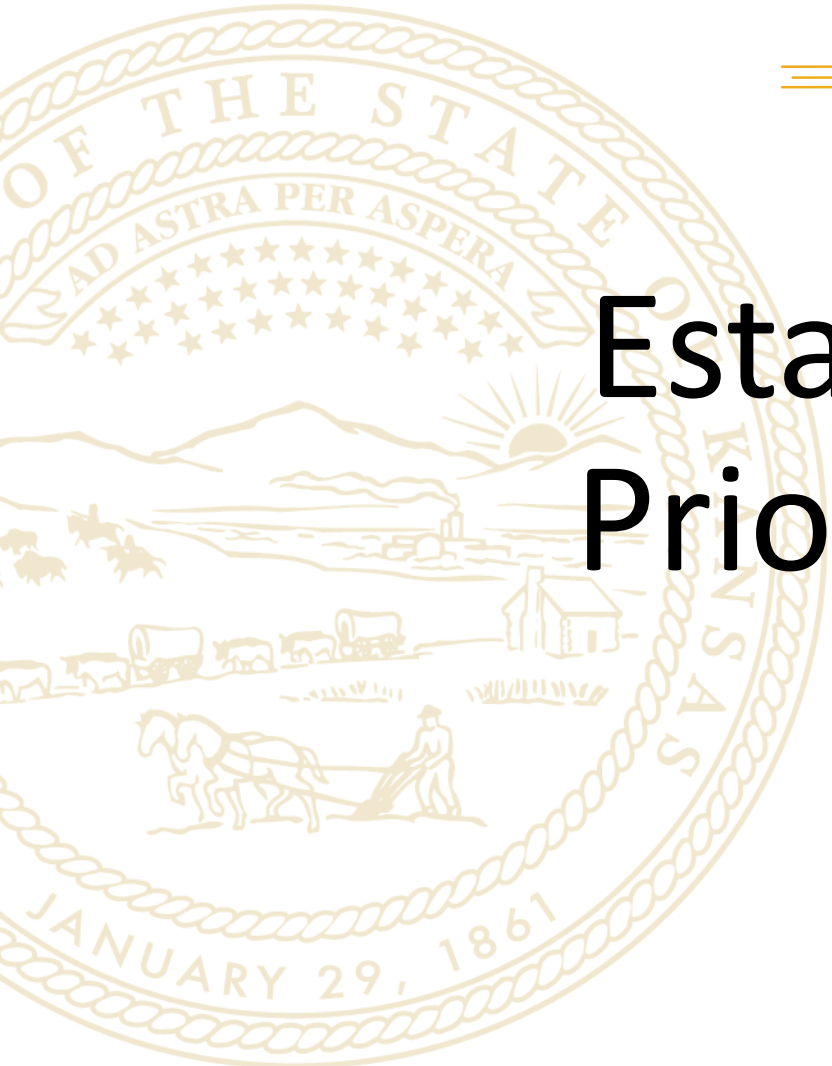


286 applications submitted

\$227 Million in requests

\$27 Million available to reward

# Executive Branch



Establish  
Priorities





# Governor's Initiative:

Prioritizing local watershed planning and increasing regional opportunities



Local Planning &  
Project Pipeline  
Development



Regionalization  
Opportunities

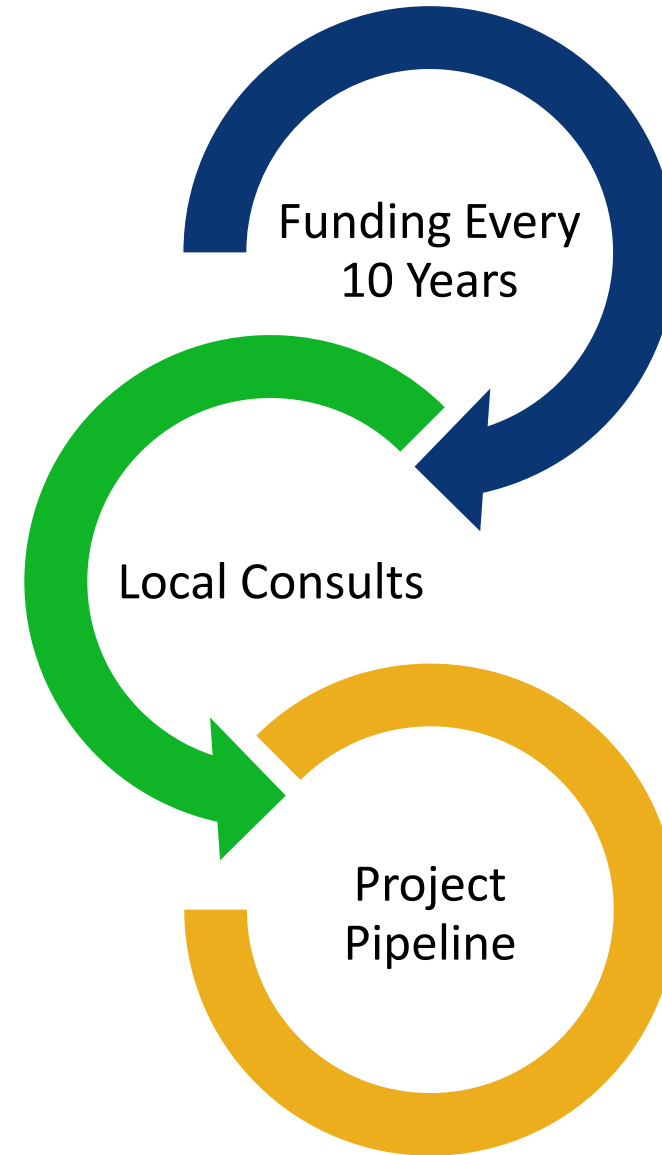


Water Funding  
Strategies





# Model it like the Transportation Plan



# Roads & Water Are Integral to Local Economies

- Roads bring **mobility**

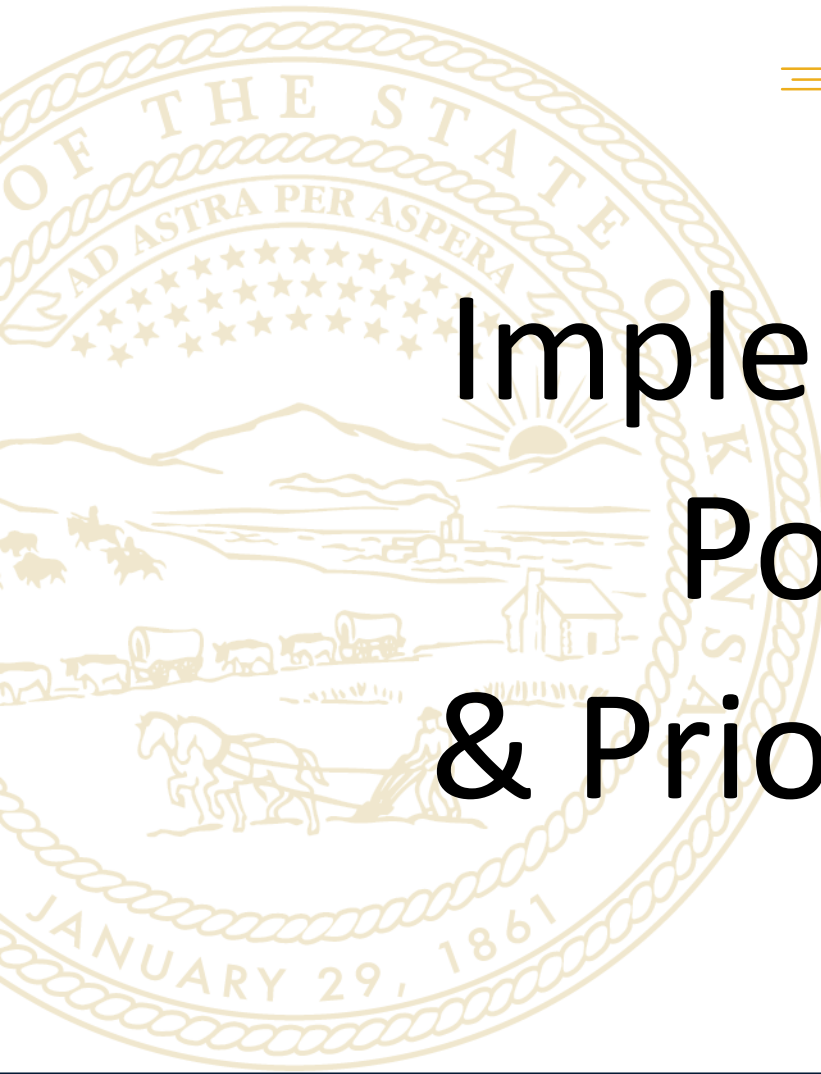


- Water brings **stability**

# Water Agencies



Implement  
Policies  
& Priorities



# Role of Water Agencies\*

## KDA-DOC

Conservation Program Implementation

Conservation District Coordination

Landowner Programs

Watershed Dam Construction

## KDA-DWR

Water Quantity Management

Water Appropriation

Water Structures

Interstate Compact Coordination

## KDHE-E

Water Quality Management

Public Water Supply

Contamination Remediation

Watershed Health Initiatives

## KWO

Water Policy and Planning

State Water Plan Development

Reservoir Operations

Education and Outreach

\*Other partner agencies include Kansas Geological Survey, Kansas Biological Survey, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Corporation Commission, Kansas Department of Commerce, Kansas State University



# Kansas Water Plan Implementation Framework

DECEMBER  
**2024**



## 5 Priorities



Water Quality



Water Quantity & Aquifer



Reservoirs



Resiliency



Research & Education

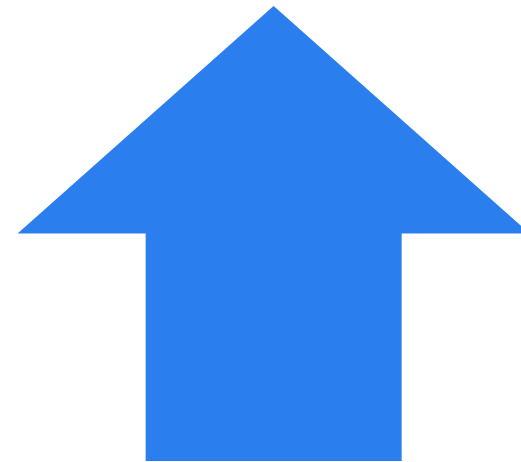
**State**



Top-down  
Guidance &  
Strategy

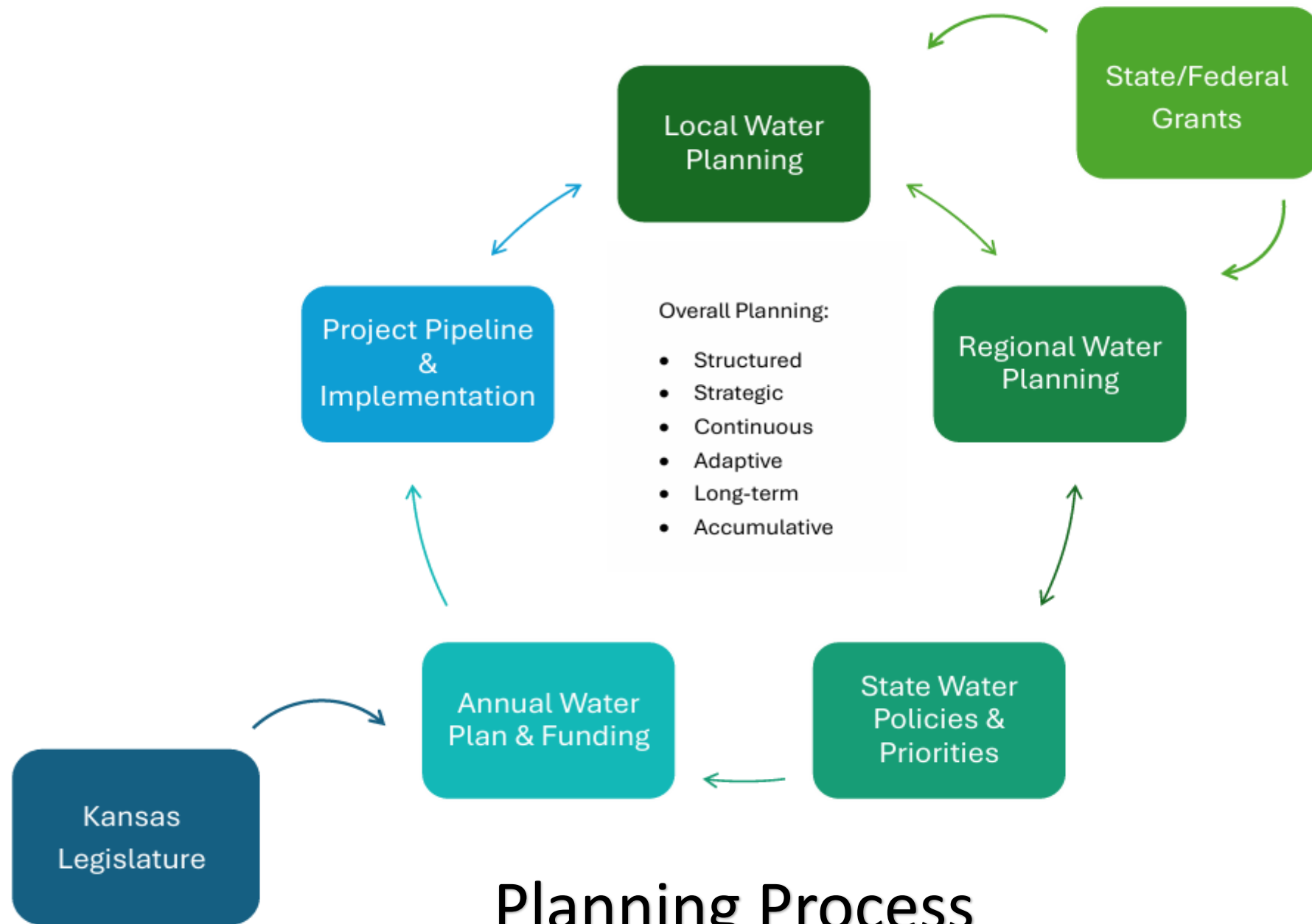


Bottom-up  
Development &  
Implementation



**Communities**





# Planning Process





# Community Action

Partnering with the State



## Questions for community leaders:

- How old are our pipes, water pumping stations, or treatment plants? Is everything mapped out in case of disaster?
- What is the health of our watershed?
- How long will our water supply last?
- How is our water quality?
- What are we doing to get our house in order?

# Regional Planning:

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## Preparation

Inventory and assessment of your infrastructure assets, deficits and prioritization of needs.



## Coordination

Combine resources and efforts with others in your watershed.



## Implementation

Develop timeline and funding sources.

# Can we apply for grants – state or federal?



## SEN. RICK BILLINGER

Agency	Recipient	Water Program	Project Type	Project Description	Funded Amount
KWO	Collyer	Water Projects Grant Fund	Drinking Water	Water Well Improvements	\$13,745
KWO	Ellis	Technical Assistance Grant Fund	Technical Assistance	Water System Improvements	\$83,400
KWO	Ellis Co. RWD #01C	Technical Assistance Grant Fund	Technical Assistance	Owned Water Source Development	\$219,600
KDHE	Ellis County Sanitarian/Health Department	Local Environmental Protection Program (LEPP)	Water Quality Monitoring and Cost-Share	Technical Assistance, LEPP Septic Repair grant	\$50,000
KWO	Gove	Water Projects Grant Fund	Loan Payoff	Loan Assistance	\$132,110
KWO	Hill City	Water Projects Grant Fund	Loan Payoff	Loan Assistance	\$1,011,696
KWO	KU AEM Survey GMD4, KGS	High Plains Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	Groundwater Assessment	Creation of a 3-D image of the High Plains aquifer	\$700,000
KWO	Norcatour	Technical Assistance Grant Fund	Technical Assistance	Engineering Design for Water Project	\$134,700
KWO	Quinter	Water Projects Grant Fund	Drinking Water	Water Supply System Improvements	\$350,000
KWO	Wallace Co. RWD #01	Technical Assistance Grant Fund	Technical Assistance	Planning for the Future of Wallace County RWD No. 1	\$452,000

# Regionalization Opportunities



# Water Hub Website




- About Us
- Services
- Funding
- Impact
- Careers
- Education


## Welcome to the Kansas Water Hub

How Can We Help You?

**Water User Category**

Domestic 

**Domestic...**

Boil Water Advisory 

**Boil Water Advisory**

Provides assistance to PWS systems that need a boil water advisory. Includes press releases, monitoring requirements and sample scheduling.

[Learn More](#)

### Kansas Water Hub Agencies



Kansas Department of Agriculture



Kansas Department of Commerce



Kansas Department of Health and Environment



Kansas Department of Wildlife



Kansas Water Office



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*When the well is  
dry,  
we know the worth of  
water.*

-Benjamin Franklin

