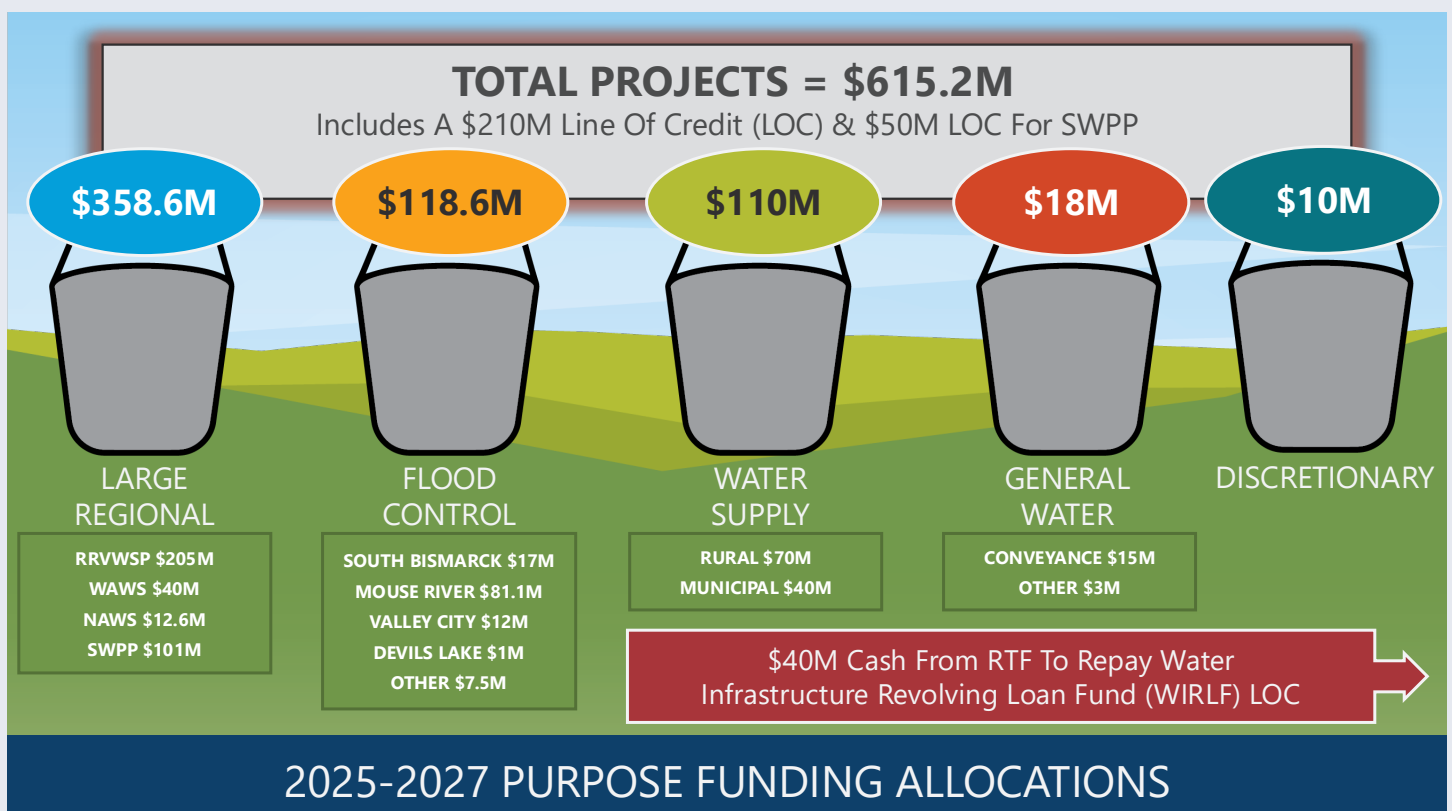


# SECURING NORTH DAKOTA'S WATER FUTURE: INSIDE HOUSE BILL 1020

North Dakotans understand the importance of reliable, well-managed water systems. Whether it's providing consistent service to rural homes or preparing for the next flood event, water infrastructure is essential to daily life and long-term growth. With the passage of House Bill 1020, the state is taking major steps to strengthen that infrastructure through targeted investment, smarter planning, and new tools to face future challenges.

Signed into law by Governor Kelly Armstrong, HB 1020 establishes a \$769 million appropriation for the North Dakota Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the 2025–2027 biennium, including \$615.2 million for new projects. The bulk of this funding comes from the Resources Trust Fund (RTF), which is supported by 20.5% of the state's oil extraction tax. These dollars will go toward major water supply projects, flood protection systems, drought preparedness, smaller general water management projects, and key studies to guide future efforts.



## STRATEGIC FUNDING FOR PROJECTS

Of the total budget, \$358.6 million is allocated to large regional water supply systems. These include:

- Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP): \$205 million
- Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP): \$101 million
- Western Area Water Supply (WAWS): \$40 million
- Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS): \$12.6 million

## THE BILL ALSO FUNDS

- Flood Control (\$118.6 million): Including efforts in South Bismarck, Mouse River, Valley City, Devils Lake, and smaller local projects.
- Water Supply (\$110 million): Split between rural systems (\$70 million) and municipal systems (\$40 million).
- General Water Projects (\$18 million): Mostly for water conveyance and infrastructure needs not tied to a specific region.
- Discretionary Funding (\$10 million): Reserved for unforeseen or emerging needs.

To help manage cash flow for these projects, a \$260 million line of credit from the Bank of North Dakota is also included—giving DWR added flexibility to move projects forward on schedule, especially during construction-heavy periods.

**“The passage of House Bill 1020 will provide local water managers and the agency with tremendous opportunities to develop and manage North Dakota’s water resources,” DWR Director Reice Haase said. “Because of Oil Extraction Tax revenues into the Resources Trust Fund, North Dakota will be able to continue its strong support of water development in all areas of the state – protecting our citizens from flood-related impacts; delivering clean, reliable sources of water for people, industry, and agriculture; and advancing smaller general water management projects that make positive impacts in urban and rural areas alike.”**



## LOOKING AHEAD: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

House Bill 1020 doesn’t just fund immediate projects—it also lays the groundwork for long-term water planning through a series of legislative studies and oversight directives.

The Legislative Water Topics Overview Committee will take on expanded responsibilities, receiving updates and monitoring progress on issues like project funding, regional systems, and statewide water development.

Several studies are assigned to Legislative Management. One will evaluate how designated appropriations for water projects are allocated and managed. Another will examine the role, funding, and future of storm water projects across the state.

A second-phase study of Missouri River intake sites will involve on-the-ground fieldwork to assess the feasibility of various locations. Findings will help guide future decisions on sourcing and delivering water to central and western regions.

The State Water Commission (SWC) will also review long-term governance and finance models for select regional systems, assessing their sustainability and potential for improvement. The SWC will also study its cost-share policy and financial planning process to ensure funding strategies are sustainable and aligned with statewide needs.

## BUILDING CAPACITY AT DWR

In addition to project funding and planning efforts, HB 1020 invests in the agency itself. The bill supports five new full-time positions at DWR, including a deputy director, general counsel, staff accountant, a Silver Jackets flood risk program coordinator, and a NAWS system operator. These roles will improve DWR’s internal capacity to manage complex systems, partner with local governments, and carry out large-scale projects more efficiently.

For more information on DWR and its current initiatives, visit [www.dwr.nd.gov](http://www.dwr.nd.gov).