

STATE OF INDIANA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT INDIANAPOLIS

EXECUTIVE ORDER 25-63

**FOR: ENSURING FUTURE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND
OPPORTUNITY FOR HOOSIERS BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
STATEWIDE WATER INVENTORY AND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS.

WHEREAS, water is an indispensable resource, critical not only for the health and safety of all Hoosiers, but also for the ecological balance, agricultural sustainability, and economic vitality of the State of Indiana;

WHEREAS, the State of Indiana is privileged to have a generally abundant water supply, yet regional disparities persist, with ample resources concentrated in Northern Indiana and constraints affecting Central and Southern regions, necessitating a tailored approach to water resource planning and management;

WHEREAS, the potential for intensified use and future demand on Indiana's water resources requires forward-thinking strategies to balance economic progress with sustainable water management;

WHEREAS, variable weather patterns, and the occurrence of flooding and droughts, present urgent challenges that necessitate the continued evaluation and development of robust water resources monitoring networks and adaptive policies

WHEREAS, proactive, collaborative, and strategic water resource planning, grounded in scientific research and stakeholder input, will enable the State of Indiana to safeguard its water resources, enhance resiliency, and to be prepared during periods of water shortage;

WHEREAS, collaboration among public agencies, private stakeholders, academia and local communities is vital to developing and implementing innovative solutions and plans that prioritize the development, conservation and beneficial uses of water resources for generations to come;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana Code § 5-1.2-11.5 and the State of Indiana's Water Infrastructure Task Force 2018 Final Report, the Indiana Finance Authority has begun to undertake a series of studies to identify water infrastructure needs and solutions, specific to regional areas of the State, as well as efficiencies to be gained through regional partnerships and improved sharing of resources;

WHEREAS, my Freedom and Opportunity Agenda calls for the development of a comprehensive water plan, including an "incentive-based water planning process to encourage alignment among" stakeholders, as well as "promoting regional cooperation, building capable water utilities, and clarifying water resources"; and

WHEREAS, there are plentiful opportunities to improve coordination and transparency for future economic development, including analysis of the impact on Hoosiers' utility costs and regional water and energy resource availability.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BRAUN, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby order that:

1. The Secretary of Energy and Natural Resources shall lead a thorough inventory of Indiana's water resources to identify current usage, availability of groundwater and surface water, and future demand, with an emphasis on regional disparities. The inventory shall be completed by October 31, 2026, with a written report provided to the Governor and the Legislative Council by December 31, 2026. State agencies shall provide any necessary support to the Secretary of Energy and Natural Resources in fulfilling the goals of this Executive Order, including technical assistance and data-sharing.
2. This inventory shall include the development of a statewide water planning framework. This framework shall promote alignment and cooperation among Indiana utilities, industries, municipalities, and other water users and shall focus on regional water planning for economic development projects, while preserving environmental sustainability. The Secretary of Energy and Natural Resources shall establish a planning framework that allows for a transparent process for gathering input and integrating the needs and priorities of water use sectors within each planning region and include information on how to provide such input on the Indiana Department of Natural Resources ("DNR") webpage.
3. This inventory shall include recommendations for the enhancement and optimization of Indiana's water monitoring and assessment networks in order to effectively measure and manage Indiana's water resources and to provide critical data where gaps currently exist.
4. The Secretary of Energy and Natural Resources shall create a centralized, publicly accessible online platform to consolidate and share real-time data on water resources. This platform shall include information on water availability, usage trends, infrastructure status, and regional disparities. Key features of the platform shall include insights into future water needs based on growth projections, educational resources to raise public awareness about water conservation best practices, and visual representations of groundwater and surface water data across the state.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I,
Mike Braun, have hereunto set my hand
and caused to be affixed the Great Seal
of the State of Indiana on this 21st day
of April, 2025.


Mike Braun
Governor of Indiana

ATTEST: 
Diego Morales
Secretary of State