

REGION H

Water Planning Group

MEETING MATERIALS

October 4, 2023

Common Region H Terms and Conversion Factors

List of Abbreviations

CRU	Collective Reporting Unit
DCP	Drought Contingency Plan
DFC	Desired Future Condition
DOR	Drought of Record
EA	Executive Administrator
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FWSD	Fresh Water Supply District
GAM	Groundwater Availability Model
GCD	Groundwater Conservation District
GMA	Groundwater Management Area
GPCD	Gallons Per Capita Per Day
GRP	Groundwater Reduction Plan
IFR	Infrastructure Finance Report
IPP	Initially Prepared Plan
MAG	Modeled Available Groundwater
MPC	Master Planned Community
MUD	Municipal Utility District
MWP	Major Water Provider
PDSI	Palmer Drought Severity Index
PWS	Public Water Supply
RFIG	Regional Flood Planning Group
RHWPG	Region H Water Planning Group
ROR	Run-of-River
RWP	Regional Water Plan
RWPA	Regional Water Planning Area
RWPG	Regional Water Planning Group
SWIFT	State Water Implementation Fund for Texas
SWP	State Water Plan
TAC	Texas Administrative Code
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TWC	Texas Water Code
TWDB	Texas Water Development Board
UCM	Unified Costing Model
URS	Unique Reservoir Site
USS	Unique Stream Segment
WAM	Water Availability Model
WCID	Water Control and Improvement District
WCP	Water Conservation Plan
WMS	Water Management Strategy
WRAP	Water Rights Analysis Package
WUD	Water Utility Database
WUG	Water User Group
WWP	Wholesale Water Provider

Water Measurements

1 acre-foot (AF) = 43,560 cubic feet = 325,851 gallons

1 acre-foot per year (ac-ft/yr) = 325,851 gallons per year = 893 gallons per day

1 gallon per minute (gpm) = 1,440 gallons per day = 1.6 ac-ft/yr

1 million gallons per day (mgd) = 1,000,000 gallons per day = 1,120 ac-ft/yr

Region H Water Planning Group
10:00 AM Wednesday
October 4, 2023
San Jacinto River Authority Office
1577 Dam Site Rd, Conroe, Texas 77304

AGENDA

1. Call to order.
2. Introductions.
3. Review and approve minutes of the August 2, 2023 meeting.
4. **Receive public comments on specific issues related to agenda items 5 through 7.** (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
5. Planning Group Membership
 - a. Consider and take action to extend the term of existing Region H voting members for an additional five-year term.
 - b. Receive Nominating Committee report and consider taking action to approve members to fill vacancies on the Region H Water Planning Group (RHWPG).
6. Plan Development and Administration
 - a. Receive update from Consultant Team regarding water demand projections for the 2026 Region H Regional Water Plan (RWP).
 - b. Receive update from Consultant Team regarding draft surface water and reuse supply availability analyses.
 - c. Receive update from Consultant Team and Groundwater Supply Committee regarding supply availability and Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) Peak Factors.
 - d. Receive update from Consultant Team and Groundwater Supply Committee regarding non-MAG groundwater supply availability estimates and consider taking action to approve supply estimates.
 - e. Receive report from the Consultant Team regarding the process for addressing potentially infeasible Water Management Strategies (WMS) and WMS Projects and information for the 2021 Region H RWP.
7. General Updates and Outreach
 - a. Receive update regarding schedule and milestones for the development of the 2026 Region H RWP.
 - b. Receive update from liaisons to other planning groups.
 - c. Receive report regarding recent and upcoming activities related to communications and outreach efforts on behalf of the RHWPG.
 - d. Receive update from TWDB.
 - e. Other agency communications and general information.
8. **Receive public comments.** (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
9. Next Meeting: February 7, 2024.
10. Adjourn.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and would like to request auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact Sonia Zamudio at (936) 588-3111 at least three business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Agenda Item 3

Review and approve minutes of the August 2, 2023 meeting.

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 2, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

David Bailey, John Bartos, Arthur Bredehoft, Carl Burch, Jun Chang, Mark Evans, Jace Houston, Robert Istre, Ken Kramer, Marvin Marcell, Alisa Max, Mike O’Connell, Byron Ryder, Loyd Smith, and Mike Turco.

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Aaron Abel for Brad Brunett, Ekaterina Fitos for Yvonne Forrest, Jason Garrard for Glenn Lord, Jake Hollingsworth for Brandon Wade, and Jim Sims for Kevin Ward.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Ashmore, W.R. Baker, Caleb Cooper, Ivan Langford, and Danny Pierce

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

There were no introductions.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MAY 3, 2023 MEETING.

Mr. Bredehoft made a motion to approve the minutes of May 3, 2023. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fitos and carried unanimously.

4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 7.

There were no comments.

5. SPECIAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

a. Receive presentation on and discuss a proposal to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan (RWP) related to the Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA) Devers Pump Station Relocation

Mr. Taucer provided information relative to the proposed amendment related to the LNVA Devers Pump Station Relocation. He explained that the Texas Water Development Board (TWBD) determined the proposed amendment to be a minor amendment. He stated that the technical memorandum explained that this project would increase capacity by nearly 80 million gallons per day (MGD). Discussion ensued related to environmental impacts. It was

noted that additional language will be added to Section 6.1.1 to address environmental concerns. Mr. Taucer stated that no written comments had been received.

b. Consider taking action to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan to incorporate the proposed LNVA Devers Pump Station Relocation

Mr. Sims made a motion to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan to incorporate the proposed LNVA Devers Pump Station Relocation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bredehoft and carried unanimously.

6. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

a. Receive update from Consultant Team and Population Demands Committee regarding recommended revisions to draft TWDB projections from the 2026 Region H RWP and consider approving submittal to TWDB

Mr. Marcell provided an update from the Population Demands Committee stating that they met in July and reviewed per capita demands, WUG survey, WUG outreach, and revision requests. Mr. Taucer then presented a more detailed look related to the draft populations per-capita water demand projections. Discussion ensued. Mr. Chang made a motion to approve revisions to draft population and per-capita water demand projections and authorize the consultant team and Population Demand Committee to coordinate with the TWDB to finalize adjustments. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turco and carried unanimously.

b. Receive update from the Brazos Alluvium Committee

Mr. Evans explained that the Brazos Alluvium Committee consists of Brandon Wade, Ken Kramer, Brad Burnett, and Mike Turco. He stated that the committee's responsibility includes coordination with the Region G Planning Group related to the Brazos Alluvium and facilitate effective communication of same between the Region H and the Region G Planning Groups during the 2026 Regional Planning Cycle. The committee reported on the July 14, 2023, meeting, stating that discussions took place related to a path forward.

c. Receive update from Consultant Team and Groundwater Supply Committee regarding Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) in Region H Water Planning Area

Mr. Taucer provided a brief overview of the MAGs since the previous cycle and reported on their overall stability.

d. Receive update from Consultant Team and Groundwater Supply Committee regarding evaluation of existing groundwater supplies in portions of aquifers deemed non-relevant by the Joint Planning Process

Mr. Taucer and the Groundwater Supply Committee provided information relative to non-relevant aquifers in Austin, Waller, Fort Bend, Trinity, and Walker counties.

e. Discuss upcoming Technical Committee activities

Mr. Taucer mentioned the upcoming meetings of the Groundwater Committee, the Brazos Alluvium Committee, the Surface Water Committee, and the Water Management Committee.

7. GENERAL UPDATES AND OUTREACH

a. Receive update regarding schedule and milestones for the development of the 2026 Region H Regional Water Plan

Mr. Taucer provided a recap of the schedule of events and upcoming tasks.

b. Receive update from liaisons to other Planning Groups

Mr. Evans provided an update of the Regional Planning Council.

c. Receive report regarding recent and upcoming activities related to communications and outreach efforts on behalf of the RHWPG

Mr. Taucer commented on an upcoming meeting taking place at the Bayou Preservation Association.

d. Agency communications and general information.

Ms. Rose provided an update on various resources available on TWDB's website, TWDB's sunset bill, and other various bills from the 88th Legislative Session.

8. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS.

There were no public comments.

9. NEXT MEETING:

It was announced that the next Region H Water Planning meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2023.

10. ADJOURN.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Agenda Item 5a

Consider and take action to extend the term of existing Region H voting members for an additional five-year term.

Agenda Item 5a Membership Renewal

Pending Term Renewals

Counties

- Mark Evans
- Byron Ryder

Electric Utilities

- Carl Burch

Environmental

- John Bartos

Industries

- Glenn Lord

Municipalities

- Robert Istre

River Authorities

- Brad Brunett
- Jace Houston

Small Business

- W.R. Baker
- Ivan Langford

Water Districts

- Jun Chang

Water Utilities

- Alisa Max

Agenda Item 5a Membership Renewal

Action:

Extend the term of existing Region H voting members for an additional five-year term.

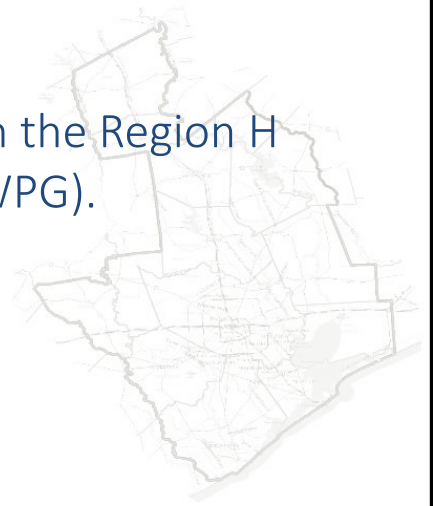
Agenda Item 5b

Receive Nominating Committee report and consider taking action to approve members to fill vacancies on the Region H Water Planning Group (RHWPG).

Agenda Item 5b Vacancies

Action:

Approve members to fill vacancies on the Region H
Water Planning Group (RHWPG).



Exxon Mobil Corporation

James Comin, P.E.
Environment & Regulatory Advisor
Global Operations & Sustainability

ExxonMobil

July 14, 2023

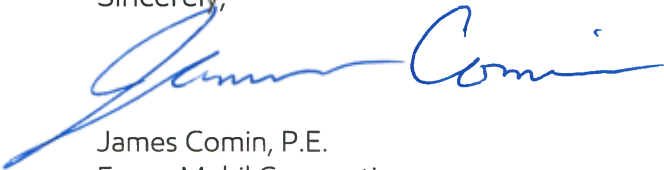
Judge Mark Evans, Chair
Region H Water Planning Group
San Jacinto River Authority Administrative
Offices
1577 Dam Site Road
Conroe, Texas 77304

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I hereby submit my resignation from the Region H Water Planning Group as I no longer hold the position within ExxonMobil to which I was initially nominated. It has been my pleasure to represent the industrial sector and to serve with you and the other Region H members. I wish you and the committee continued success in a very challenging task and I applaud each member's dedication to water conservation in Texas.

In addition, I'd like to recommend Ms. Cynthia Wagener, P.E., Exxon Mobil Corporation Principal Water Resource Engineer, to serve in the position I held. Her integration into various industrial trade groups along with her knowledge and experience with water resources makes her well qualified for the position.

Sincerely,



James Comin, P.E.
Exxon Mobil Corporation

NOTICE OF VACANCY FOR REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP MEMBER REPRESENTING INDUSTRIES

The Region H Water Planning Group (WPG) is hereby giving notice of a vacancy on the Region H Water Planning Group for a voting member representing industries. The Region H WPG may consider making an appointment to fill this vacancy on or after October 4, 2023. The term of this appointment ends in 2026.

Background:

The Region H WPG was established by appointment of an initial coordinating body by the TWDB on February 19, 1998, and one subsequent additional appointment by the initial coordinating body. The purpose of the Region H WPG shall be to provide comprehensive regional water planning and to carry out the related responsibilities placed on regional water planning groups by state law, including Texas Water Code Chapter 16 and TWDB rules, including 31 TAC Chapters 355, 357, and 358, in and for the Region H Water Planning Area (WPA).

Responsibilities:

The Region H WPG shall have the responsibility for performing the functions defined in Texas Water Code, Chapter 16 and in 31 TAC Chapters 355, 357, and 358 related to regional water planning groups for the Region H WPA. Foremost among those responsibilities shall be the development of a regional water plan for the Region H WPA that identifies both short and long-term water supply needs and recommends water management strategies for addressing them.

Conditions of Membership:

In order to be eligible for voting membership on the Region H WPG, a person must represent the interest for which a member is sought, be willing to participate in the regional water planning process, and abide by the bylaws.

Any industry within the Region H area interested in nominating a representative to serve as a voting member representing industries may submit a letter of interest or recommendation to:

Mark Evans, Chair Region H WPG
c/o San Jacinto River Authority
P.O. Box 329
Conroe, Texas 77305

From: Wagener, Cynthia [redacted]

Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:43 PM

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Region H WPG - Industries Representative

Hi Mark and team,

Thank you for considering me as a replacement for James as an industry representative on the Region H Water Planning Group. Please see a short description of my background below as an initial introduction.

Cynthia (Cyndi) Wagener has spent over 20 years working in multiple of aspects of water and wastewater, including engineering design, operations, regulatory, supervision, and sustainability. She is currently Exxon Mobil Corporation's Water Resources Principal Engineer, which entails coordinating corporate water strategy within the Sustainability Organization, supporting US sites with water regulatory issues, and representing ExxonMobil on water issues with various Trade Organizations. Cyndi is ExxonMobil's water representative to the American Chemistry Council (ACC), Ipieca, and the American Petroleum Institute (API). She is the vice-chair of API's Clean Water Issues Group, is the co-chair of API's Upstream Water Issues Group, and outside of work commitments she is a member of the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) industrial committee.

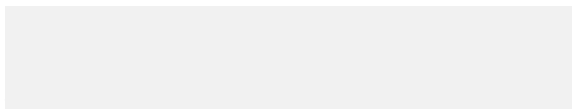
Cyndi's prior roles at ExxonMobil include Principal Wastewater Treatment Engineer in ExxonMobil's Research and Engineering organization and environmental supervisor (water and waste) at one of ExxonMobil's integrated refinery and chemical complexes. Before joining ExxonMobil in 2013, Cyndi was employed at URS Corporation (since purchased by AECOM) as an industrial water and wastewater engineer and she held a Fulbright Fellowship to conduct wastewater research at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. Cyndi holds degrees in Environmental Engineering from Louisiana State University and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Louisiana. Cyndi is proud to be a former president of the Louisiana Water Environment Association and recipient of LWEA's Bedell award.

I am also happy to have a discussion or send over any additional documentation if that would be helpful, or you can see more about me on my LinkedIn profile here: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/cynthiawagener>

Regards,

Cyndi

Cynthia Wagener, P.E. (*she/her*)
Principal Water Resources Engineer
Global Operations & Sustainability



Agenda Item 6a

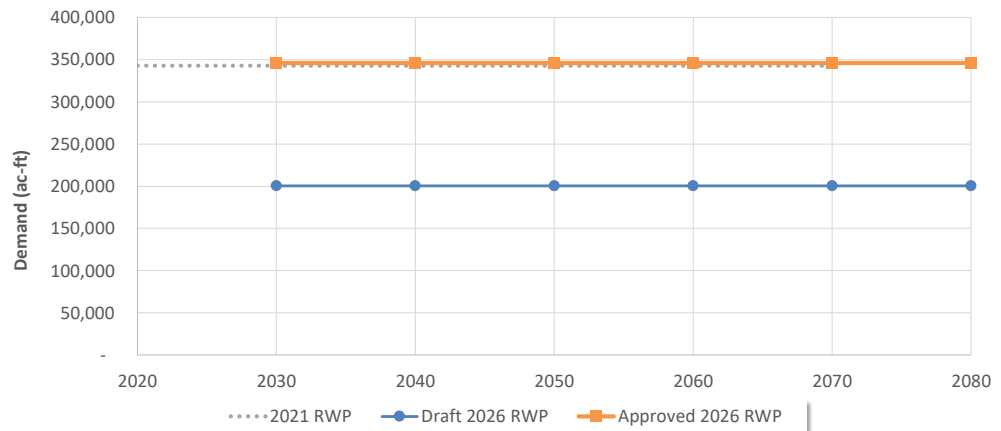
Receive update from Consultant Team regarding water demand projections for the 2026 Region H Regional Water Plan (RWP).

Agenda Item 6a Water Demand Projections - Irrigation



Proposed Adjustment

- ✓ Second highest demand from 2010-2020

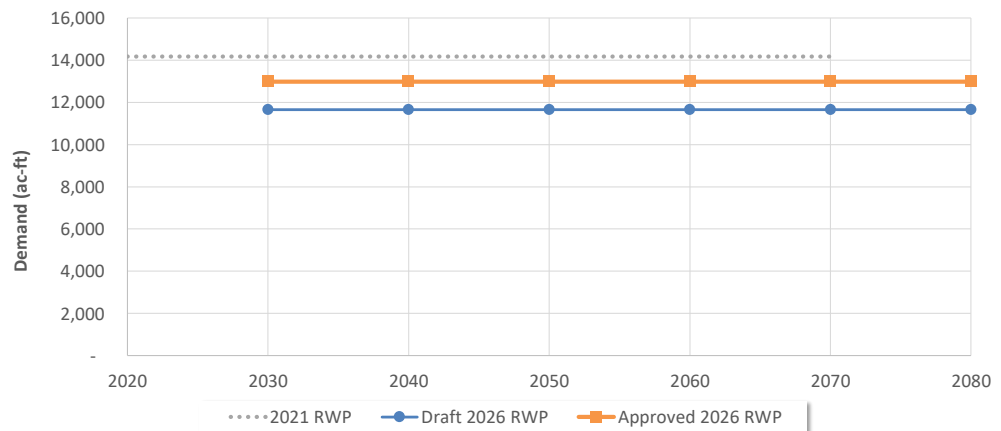


Agenda Item 6a Water Demand Projections - Livestock



Proposed Adjustment

- ✓ Maximum demand from 2015-2020

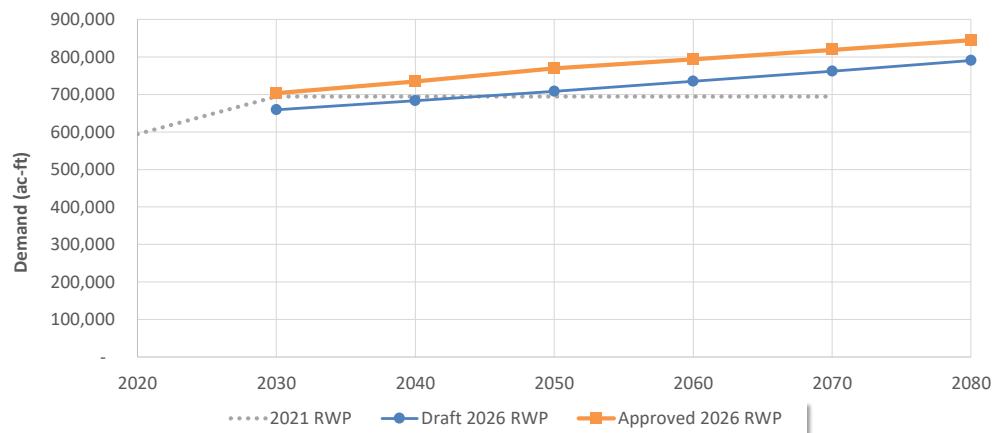


Agenda Item 6a Water Demand Projections - Manufacturing



Proposed Adjustment

- ✓ Inclusion of 2020 and stakeholder data

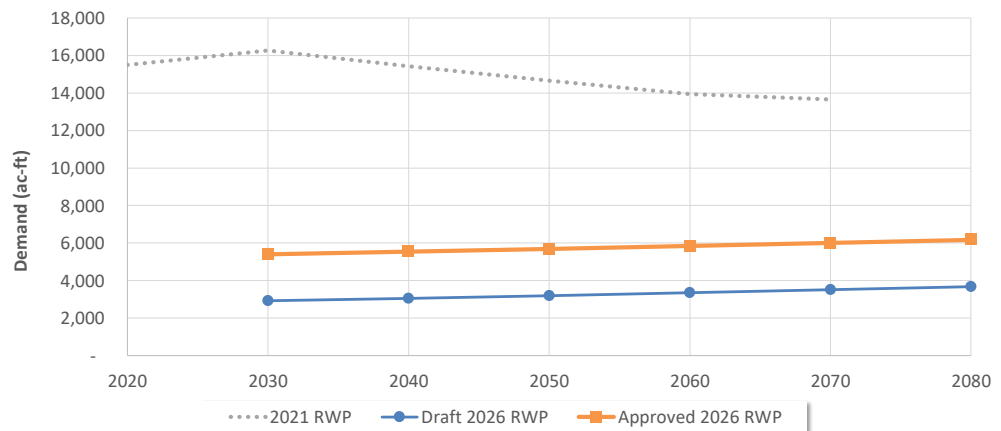


Agenda Item 6a Water Demand Projections - Mining

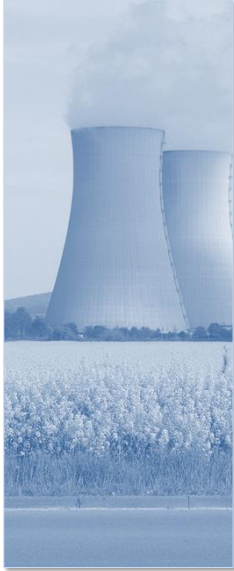


Proposed Adjustment

- ✓ Harris County refinements

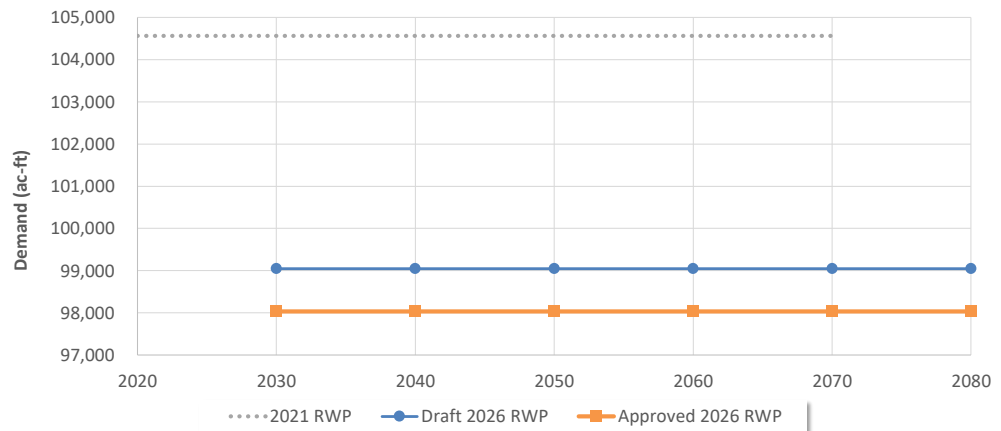


Agenda Item 6a Water Demand Projections – Steam Electric Power

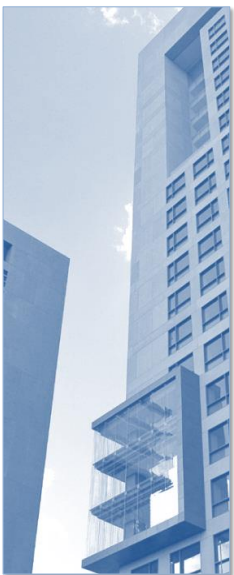


Proposed Adjustment

- ✓ Aggregation of facility maximum by county w/ cogen removal

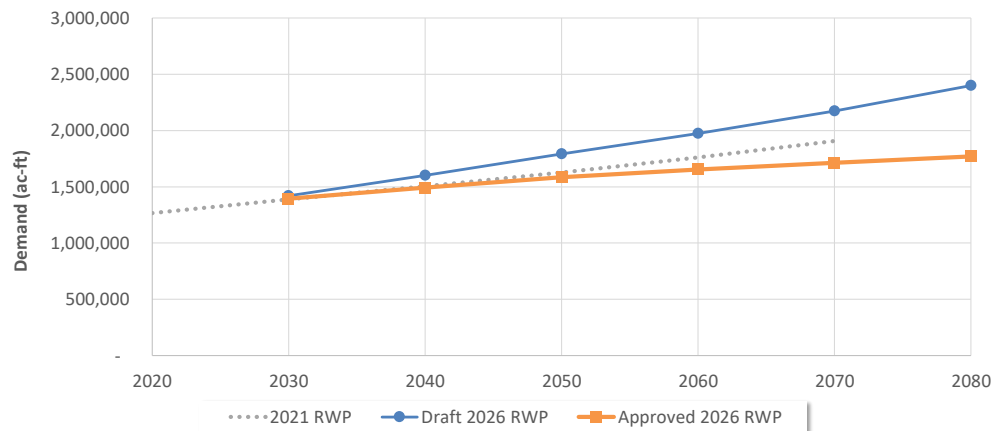


Agenda Item 6a Water Demand Projections – Municipal

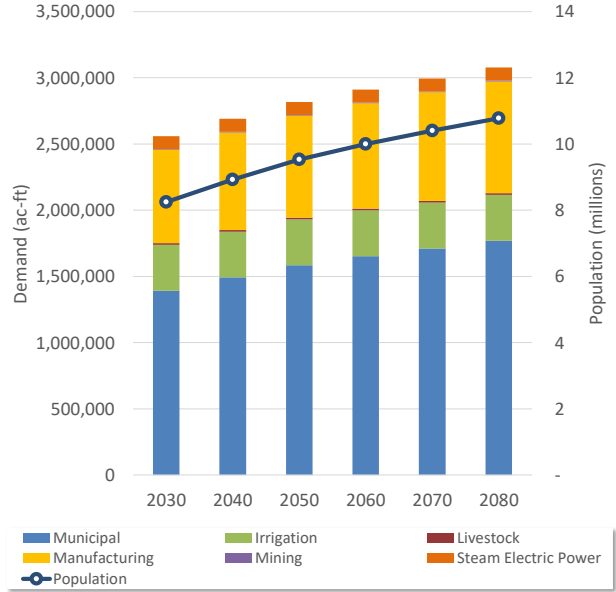
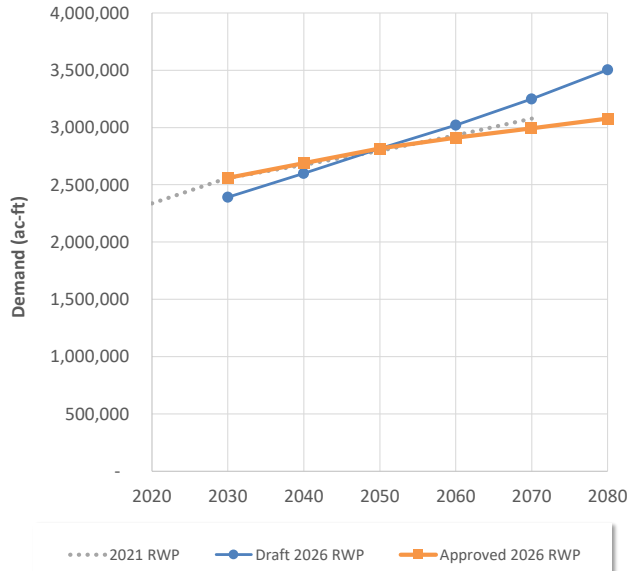


Proposed Adjustment

- ✓ Alternate population projections, per capita refinements



Agenda Item 6a Water Demand Projections



Thank you for submitting the Regional Water Planning Group’s (RWPG) request to revise the population and municipal demand projections. In accordance with *General Guidelines for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans* (Exhibit C), TWDB has reviewed the revision request and accompanying data provided by the RWPG and the Executive Administrator’s (EA) response and recommendation is summarized here. Based on TWDB EA reviews, not all RWPG revision requests are being recommended by the EA for agency coordination. The attached spreadsheet includes three data tabs:

- Data Tab 1: the two TWDB draft county-level projection migration scenarios developed by the state demographer and provided to the RWPG from which they could select their scenario-preference, by county,
- Data Tab 2: the RWPG Water User Group (WUG)-level projection revision requests along with accompanying TWDB EA recommendations for each including review comments, and
- Data Tab 3: the TWDB EA county-level recommendations for agency coordination.

It is anticipated that the attached EA recommended WUG projections will be submitted to the three agencies (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Department of Agriculture, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) for their review within five weeks. Following the reviews by the three agencies, the EA will recommend a final set of population and water demand projections to the TWDB Board for adoption for use in the 2026 Regional Water Plans.

The remaining discussion below summarizes the WUGs for which the EA is revising the RWPG’s specific request to revise either:

- the baseline gallons per capita per day (GPCD), or
- the plumbing code savings projections.

The EA provides key relevant background regarding the RWPG revision requests, including some explanation for what was considered in evaluating the request, and describes what was determined to be acceptable. In many cases, the EA recommends revised baseline GPCD, which differ from both the TWDB draft projections and the RWPG’s specific revision request. The related municipal water demand projections are included in the corresponding spreadsheet (in acre-feet). At the end of each WUG summary below is a comparison of:

1. The TWDB Draft Projections,
2. The RWPG’s Revision Request,
3. The EA’s Recommended projections after considering the RWPG revision request.

Please see corresponding spreadsheet *RegionH_PopMun_2026RWP_TWDBReview.xlsx*.

Summary of those WUG revision requests that were modified:

Fort Bend County MUD 149

The methodology described in the Region H revision request memo does not appear to have been implemented in developing the GPCD revision for this WUG. The Region H memo states on page 40 “Adjust the baseline to reference the updated TWDB estimate for year 2015 per-capita use, the second-highest value. The full dataset shows high variability in per-capita and total demand, possibly due to uncertainty in rapid population growth.” The historical GPCD estimates developed by the TWDB with

Water Use Survey (WUS) net use volumes and TWDB-estimated populations are shown below for this WUG:

Entity Name	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Fort Bend County MUD 149	32	43	17	154	135	283	156	334	230	100	97

The region requested a GPCD of 218. This revision does not correspond to the 2015 TWDB per-capita use of 283 or the 2015 per-capita-use with subtracted annualized plumbing code savings of 280. Therefore, the requested GPCD was revised to 280 to follow the methodology stated in the revision memo from Region H.

Comparison	Baseline GPCD
TWDB Draft GPCD	91
Region H Requested	218
EA Recommended	280

Prairie View A and M University

The methodology described in the Region H revision request memo does not appear to have been implemented in developing the GPCD revision for this WUG. The Region H memo states on page 45 “Adjust to highest per capita assuming WUS usage and TWDB-estimated year 2020 populations. Older populations appear low and result in estimation of demands substantially different from historic.” The historical GPCD estimates developed by the TWDB with WUS net use volumes and TWDB-estimated populations are shown below for this WUG:

Entity Name	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Prairie View A and M University	226	198	198	198	204	185	229	218	206	184	106

The region requested a GPCD of 125. This revision does not correspond to the 2020 TWDB per-capita use of 106. Therefore, the requested GPCD was revised to 106 to follow the methodology stated on the region memo.

Comparison	Baseline GPCD
TWDB Draft GPCD	61
Region H Requested	125
EA Recommended	106

G and W WSC

The region requested the GPCD be revised to 60, referencing the 2011 per-capita use while also not falling below the set minimum GPCD of 60, per page 41 of the Region H revision request memo. This GPCD revision is recommended. However, because the baseline GPCD is already at the minimum, the projected plumbing code savings will be revised to 0 for all decades so that the GPCD does not fall below 60 in any projected decades. Please note this does not change the requested municipal demands as the region had already incorporated the minimum of 60 into the demand calculations.

Comparison	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070	2080
TWDB Draft Projections	5.24	5.73	5.73	5.73	5.73	5.73
Region H Requested	5.24	5.73	5.73	5.73	5.73	5.73
EA Recommended	0	0	0	0	0	0

Agenda Item 6b

Receive update from Consultant Team regarding draft surface water and reuse supply availability analyses.

Agenda Item 6b Surface Water and Reuse

For Today

- Recap of methodology
- Status update

In Progress

- Draft supply analyses
- Identification of exceptions

In Near Future

- Detailed Committee review
- Formal variance request

Agenda Item 6b Surface Water and Reuse



- Surface Water Evaluation
 - Reservoir
 - Run-of-River
 - Local Supplies
- TCEQ Water Availability Model (WAM) Run 3
 - Permanent rights and requirements
 - Priority order
 - Historical hydrology
 - Full authorized diversions
 - No return flows (usually)
 - Original storage

Agenda Item 6b Surface Water and Reuse

Reservoir

- Firm yield
- Sedimentation
 - Reservoir >5,000 ac-ft
 - No variance required
- Evaluate individually
- Listed by reservoir or system



Agenda Item 6b Surface Water and Reuse

Run-of-River

- Minimum annual diversion
- Sedimentation optional
 - Region H excludes
 - Conservative assumption
- Evaluate in bulk
- Listed by county and basin

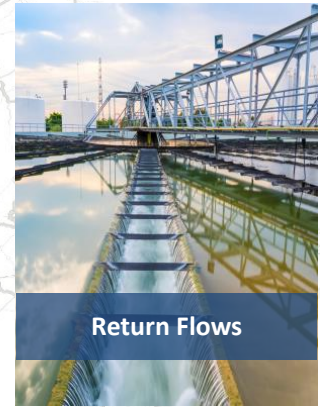
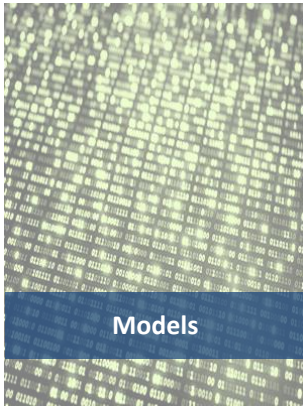
Municipal Sole Source

- Minimum monthly diversion
- Evaluate individually
- Aggregated with other run-of-river



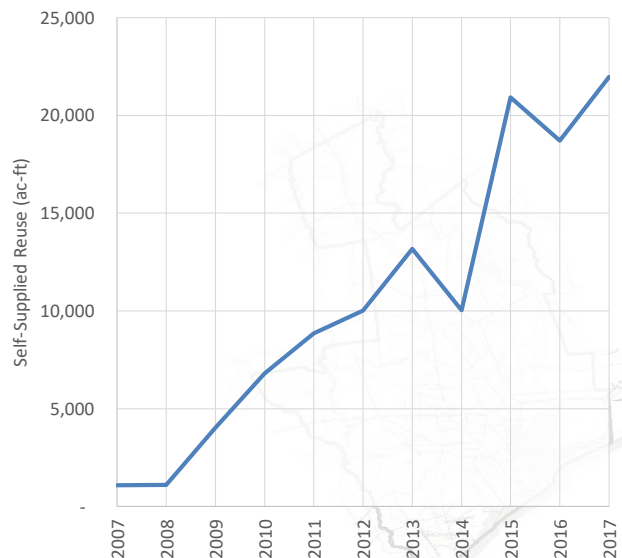
Agenda Item 6b Surface Water and Reuse

New For the 2026 RWP

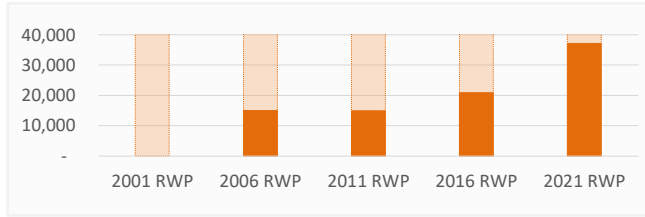


Agenda Item 6b Surface Water and Reuse

- Reuse (Direct and Indirect)
- Distinct challenges
 - Generally not modeled
 - Not all reuse applicable
 - Challenge to find “firm” amount
- Region H considers:
 - Historical use
 - Infrastructure capacity
 - Permits and sales



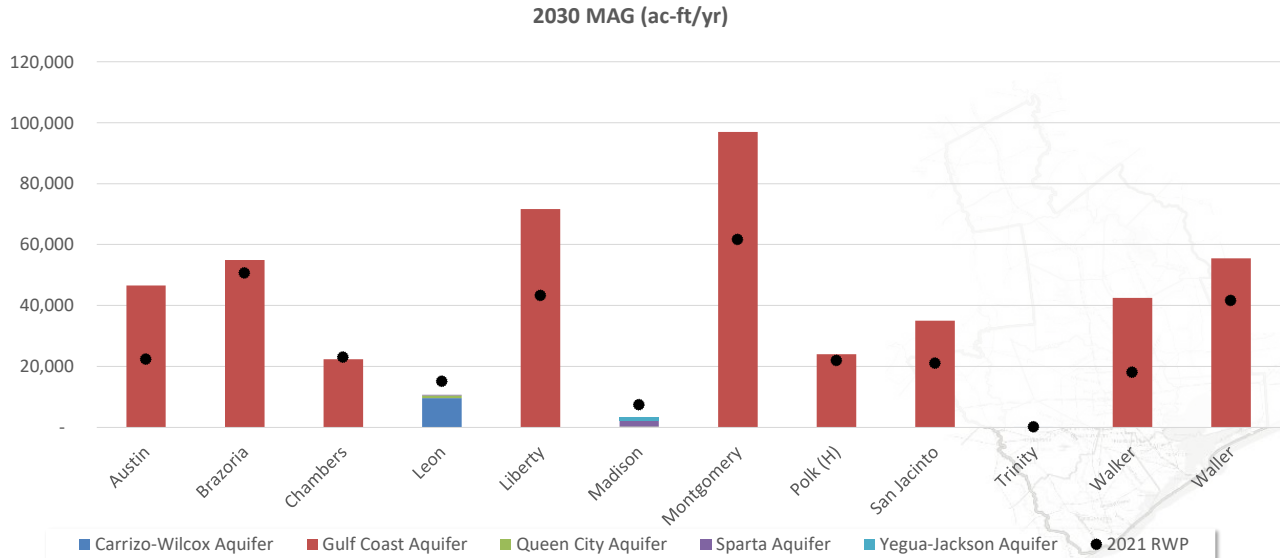
Agenda Item 6b Surface Water and Reuse



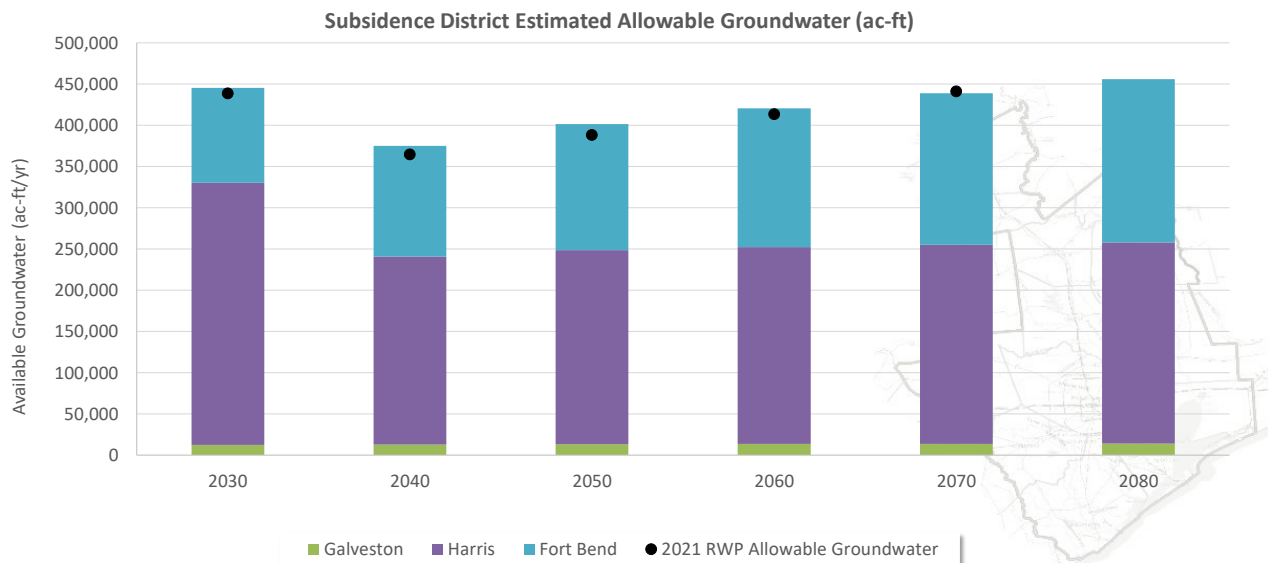
Agenda Item 6c

Receive update from Consultant Team and Groundwater Supply Committee regarding supply availability and Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) Peak Factors.

Agenda Item 6c MAG Availability

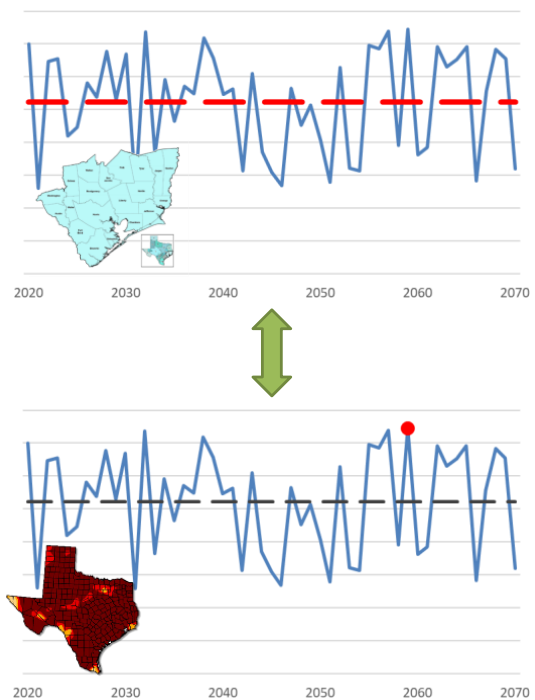


Agenda Item 6c MAG Availability



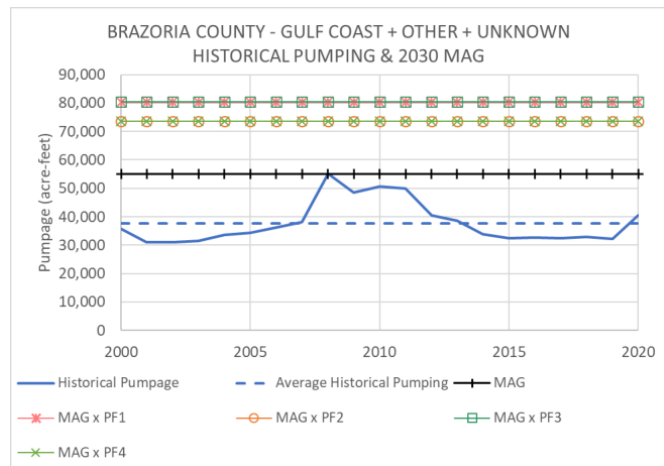
Agenda Item 6c MAG Availability

- Percentage factor (>100%) applied to MAG volumes
- RWP-specific adjustment – no impact to regulation or management
- Should not prevent GCDs from achieving DFCs
- Confirmation through adjusted GAM run
- Requires GCD, GMA, and EA approval prior to IPP



Agenda Item 6c MAG Availability

- Committee Recommendations
 - Coordinate with GCDs on interest
 - Provide GMA(s) with initial overview of process
 - Confirm compatibility of factors
 - Where applicable, proceed with formal approval process



Proposed methodology based on historical pumping (2000–2020)

- PF_1 = largest pump volume / average
- PF_2 = 2nd largest pump volume / average
- PF_3 = largest pump volume / linear prediction
- PF_4 = 2nd largest pump volume / linear prediction

Agenda Item 6d

Receive update from Consultant Team and Groundwater Supply Committee regarding non-MAG groundwater supply availability estimates and consider taking action to approve supply estimates.

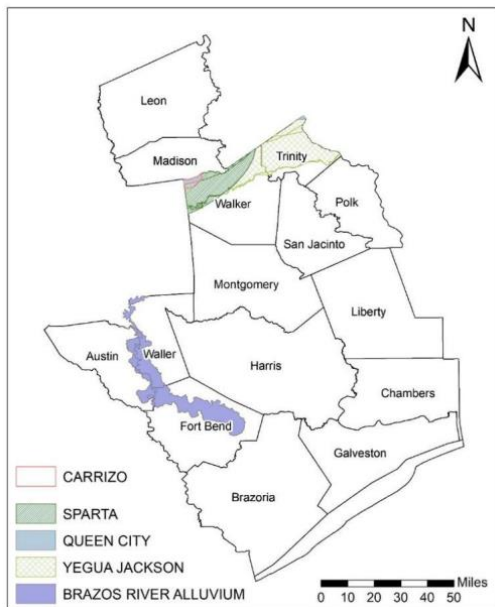
Agenda Item 6d Non-MAG Availability

- Non-MAG Supplies – up to RWPG determination
 - Portions of aquifers excluded from DFC process
 - Local supplies

- Data sources
 - Local GCD management plans
 - TWDB GAMs
 - Previous RWP estimates



Agenda Item 6d Non-MAG Availability



Austin County

- Brazos River Alluvium and other alluvium

Montgomery County

- Catahoula Formation

Polk County

- Yegua-Jackson Aquifer (brackish)

Trinity County

- Gulf Coast Aquifer and Yegua-Jackson Aquifer

Walker County

- Carrizo-Wilcox, Queen City, Sparta, and Yegua-Jackson Aquifers and other alluvium

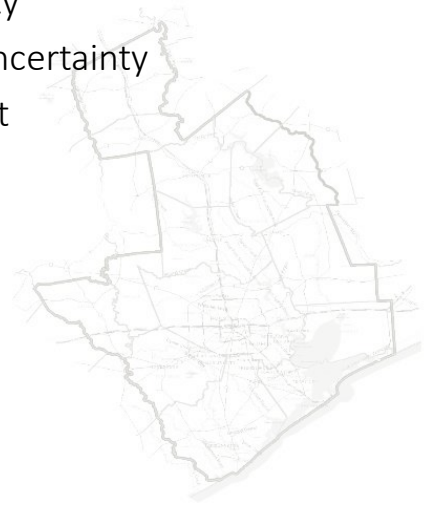
Waller County

- Brazos River Alluvium

Agenda Item 6d

Non-MAG Availability

- Committee Recommendations
 - Update with more recent data if of increased quality
 - Provide additional RWP information on potential uncertainty
 - Summarize relative magnitude of supply for context

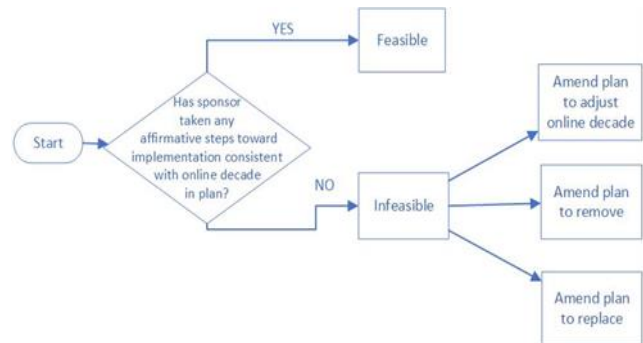


Agenda Item 6e

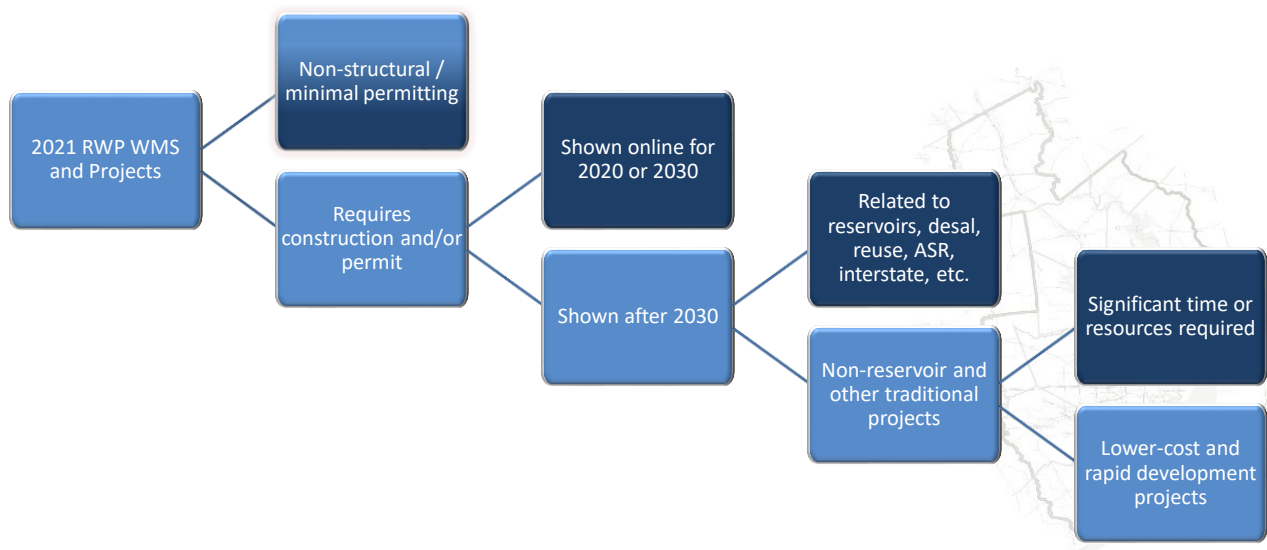
Receive report from the Consultant Team regarding the process for addressing potentially infeasible Water Management Strategies (WMS) and WMS Projects and information for the 2021 Region H RWP.

Agenda Item 6e Potentially Infeasible WMS

- New task (4B) for 2026 RWPs
- SB1511 of 85th Texas Legislature
- RWPGs must:
 - Review RWP to identify infeasible WMS
 - Amend RWP to remove



Agenda Item 6e Potentially Infeasible WMS



Agenda Item 6e Potentially Infeasible WMS

496 WMS

455 Demand
Reduction

35 Source-
Related

6 Post-
2020

8 Irrigation
Conservation

340 Adv.
Municipal
Conservation

107 Water
Loss
Reduction

10
Groundwater
&
Conjunctive

10 Reuse

15 Other
Surface
Water

5 Reservoir-
Supplied

1 Seawater
Desalination

Agenda Item 6e Potentially Infeasible WMS

506 Projects

455 Demand
Reduction

48 Source-
Related

3 Post-2020

8 Irrigation
Conservation

340 Adv.
Municipal
Conservation

107 Water
Loss
Reduction

38 WUG
Infrastructure
Expansion

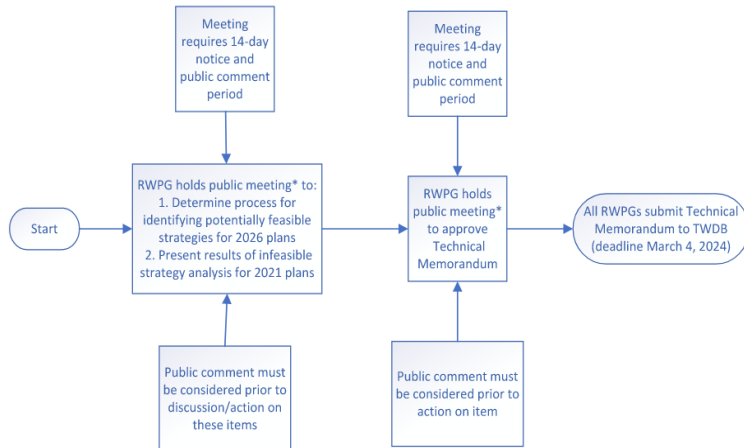
10 Other
Infrastructure

2 Reservoirs

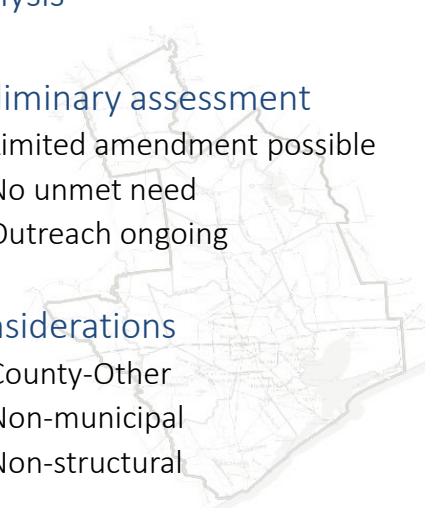
1 Seawater
Desalination

Agenda Item 6e

Potentially Infeasible WMS



- Upcoming WMS Committee analysis
- Preliminary assessment
 - Limited amendment possible
 - No unmet need
 - Outreach ongoing
- Considerations
 - County-Other
 - Non-municipal
 - Non-structural



From: [RegionalWaterPlanning](#)
To: [RegionalWaterPlanning](#)
Cc: [Lann Bookout](#); [Sarah Lee](#); [Temple McKinnon](#)
Subject: Data to assist with identifying Infeasible WMSs in the 2021 RWPs - Region H
Date: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 11:23:10 AM
Attachments: [2022_RWPG_WMS&ProjectInfeasibilityAnalysisTask_RegH.zip](#)

Good morning,

New to this cycle of regional water planning is the requirement to identify infeasible water management strategies and projects that were recommended in the 2021 Regional Water Plans (RWPs).

Task background:

At minimum, RWPGs must review the status of recommended strategies and projects with an online decade of 2020 in the 2021 RWPs. RWPGs are also encouraged to review additional near-term strategies or projects with lengthy permitting or construction processes. A list of these recommended strategies and projects are provided in the supporting data spreadsheets listed below.

In accordance with the Texas Water Code (§16.053(h)(10)), a strategy or project is considered infeasible if:

*“...the proposed sponsor of the water management strategy or project has not taken an affirmative vote or other action to make expenditures necessary to construct or file applications for permits required in connection with the implementation of the water management strategy or project under federal or state law **on a schedule that is consistent with the completion of the implementation of the water management strategy or project by the time the water management strategy or project is projected by the regional water plan or the state water plan to be needed.**”*

In accordance with contract guidance for the 2021 RWPs, recommended strategies and projects with an online decade of 2020 were required to be online and delivering water by **January 5, 2023**. For example, if any such strategies and projects are not currently implemented by this date **and** the project sponsor has not taken any affirmative steps towards implementation, the 2021 RWP must be amended to remove or revise the strategy or project to make them feasible.

Affirmative steps by the sponsor may include but are not limited to 1) spending money on the strategy or project, 2) voting to spend money on the strategy or project, or 3) applying for a federal or state permit for the strategy or project.

Additional information and deadlines:

The specific requirements for this task are outlined in the regional water planning [Scope of Work Task 4B](#) and the [First Amended General Guidelines for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans, Section 2.11](#), including a “Criteria of an infeasible WMS” flowchart (Section 2.11, Figure 3).

Please refer to these documents for additional information on the timing of the analysis and requirements for this task, however key milestones to be aware of include:

- Prior to 3/4/2024: Results of RWPG analysis of infeasible strategies and/or projects presented at a public meeting. This meeting is to include documentation of the region’s process for

determining infeasible WMSs

- 3/4/2024: Technical Memorandum due to TWDB. Technical Memorandum required to include the list of RWPG identified infeasible strategies and/or projects from the 2021 RWPs, or a statement that no infeasible strategies or projects were identified
- 6/5/2024: RWPG **adopted** 2021 RWP amendments to revise/remove infeasible strategies and/or projects due to the TWDB



Supporting data:

TWDB is providing the following three workbooks contained in the attached zip file to assist regions with this task (note these spreadsheets are not required to be returned to TWDB, but may be included as part of the Technical Memorandum deliverable):

1. 2022SWPWMS&ProjectFeasibilityAnalysis_WMSWorkbook+RegH.xlsx
 - This workbook contains four (4) Region H specific data tabs.
 - The '2020DemandReductionWMSSupply' and '2020SourceRelatedWMSSupply' data tabs contain **strategies** with an online decade of 2020 and are **required** to be reviewed for infeasibility.
 - The 'MajorReservoir&SeawaterDesalWMS' and '2030&2040SelectWMSOnlineDecade' data tabs contain strategies that may have a lengthy permitting or construction process and are recommended by the TWDB to be reviewed for infeasibility.
2. 2022SWPWMS&ProjectFeasibilityAnalysis_WMSProjectWorkbook+RegH.xlsx
 - This workbook contains two (2) Region H specific data tabs.
 - The '2020WMSProjects' data tab contain **projects** with an online decade of 2020 and are **required** to be reviewed for infeasibility.
 - The 'SelectProjectsOnlineAfter2020' data tab contain projects that may have a lengthy permitting or construction process and are recommended by the TWDB to be reviewed for infeasibility.
3. 2022SWPWMS&ProjectFeasibilityAnalysis_WMSDetails&ProjectRelationships.xlsx (**for convenience**)
 - This workbook contains two (2) statewide data tabs. This workbook contains detailed strategy and project relationship data for all planning regions that may be used as a supplemental data resource for this task.

Please contact your TWDB Regional Water Planner with any questions.

This email has been sent to Region H voting and non-voting member, sponsor staff, and technical consultants.

Best,

Sarah Lee
Manager, Regional Water Planning
Water Supply Planning Division
Texas Water Development Board
P.O. Box 13231, Austin, TX 78711
512-936-2387 | sarah.lee@twdb.texas.gov

Agenda Item 7a

Receive update regarding the schedule and milestones for the development of the 2026 Region H RWP.

Agenda Item 7a 2026 RWP Schedule



*Region H accepts public comment throughout the planning cycle and at each RWPG and committee meeting.

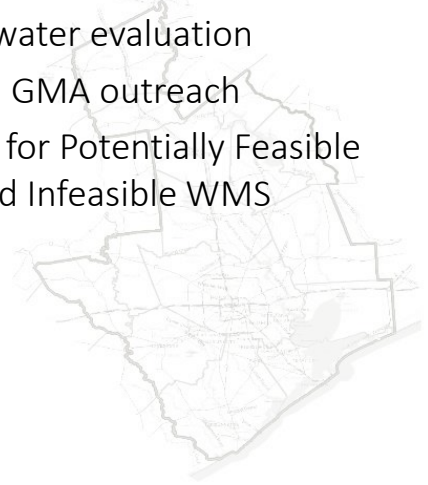
Agenda Item 7a 2026 RWP Schedule

Date	Scheduled Events/Tasks
10/2023	RWPG Meeting
10/2023	TWDB adoption of projections
02/2023	RWPG Meeting
03/2024	Technical Memorandum due to TWDB
06/2024	Infeasible WMS Amendments due to TWDB
03/2025	Initially Prepared Plan due to TWDB
10/2025	RWP due to TWDB

Agenda Item 7a 2026 RWP Schedule



- Upcoming RWPG Activities and Committee Meetings
 - Surface water evaluation
 - GCD and GMA outreach
 - Meeting for Potentially Feasible WMS and Infeasible WMS



Agenda Item 7b

Receive update from liaisons to other planning groups.

Agenda Item 7b Liaison Updates



Region C	Brazos G	Region 6	Region 8
Kevin Ward	Zach Holland	Brandon Wade	Glenn Lord
IPC / Chairs	GMA 12	GMA 14	Other
Mark Evans	David Bailey	Gary Ashmore	RWPG Members

Agenda Item 7c

Receive report regarding recent and upcoming activities related to communications and outreach efforts on behalf of the RHWPG.

Agenda Item 7c

Community Outreach

- August 2023
Texas Groundwater Summit
- September 2023
Bayou Preservation Association
- February 2024
Gulf Coast Water Conservation
Symposium



Agenda Item 7d

Agency communications and general information.

Region H, Regional Water Planning Meeting Updates from the Texas Water Development Board

October 4, 2023, Conroe TX

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TWDB Updates

Additional Resource Materials Available

- Accessibility checklist
- Population revision request process
- Uncertainty in Regional Water Planning
- Information on the Plan Amendment Process

Looking Ahead

- Identify major water providers
- Assess availability and supplies
- Present process for identifying potentially feasible strategies for the 2026 plans
- Identify infeasible strategies and projects from 2021 plans and present results

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Upcoming Regional Water Planning Group Activities

- **November 2023** (anticipated) – TWDB staff present all projections to the Board for adoption.
- **Winter 2023/2024** – Determine process for identifying potentially feasible strategies in the 2026 plan and view results of infeasible strategy analysis for 2021 plan.
- **February 2024** - Approve Technical Memorandum.
- **March 4, 2024** – Submit Technical Memorandum to TWDB.

Region H 2021 Regional Water Plan Amendment

- Heather Rose will be presenting this item to the TWDB Board on **Thursday, October 5, 2023** (tomorrow)
- The amendment adds the **Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA) Devers Pump Station Relocation project** to the 2021 Region H regional water plan.
- Virtual livestream of the board meeting can be viewed here: https://texasadmin.com/tx/twdb/board_meeting/20231005/
- After 2021 RWP plan is amended, TWDB will pursue amending the 2022 State Water Plan (SWP22).
- Once the SWP22 plan is amended, then will **qualify LNVA for 2024 SWIFT funds**.

88th (Regular) Legislative Session Update



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Texas Water
Development Board

Bills of Interest that Passed

HB 1565 - TWDB Sunset Bill

- RWPGs will report on implementation of large projects.
- RWPGs may plan for conditions worse than drought of record.
- These provisions already in planning contract.

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Texas Water
Development Board

Bills of Interest that Passed

SB 28/SJR 75 - Texas Water Fund

- Establishes \$1 billion Texas Water Fund, subject to voter approval, which can provide additional funding for existing TWDB financial assistance programs.
- Can also fund the New Water Supply for Texas Fund for water supply projects from new sources.
 - At least \$250 million of funds appropriated to the Texas Water Fund must be used for the New Water Supply for Texas Fund
- The Texas Water Fund will take effect January 1, 2024, if SJR 75 is approved by the voters. **Election day is November 7, 2023.**
- All other provisions of SB 28 take effect September 1, 2023.



Bills of Interest that Passed



HB 1 - Budget Bill

- Passed budget includes additional funding for RWPGs.
- Planning contracts amended in Fall 2023.






Bill of Interest that did *not* Pass

HB 4373/SB 2108

- TWDB Legislative priority bills for Regional Water Planning. 
- Original bill text would have removed the requirement to place a printed copy of the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) in each county courthouse and one public library in each county in the planning area.
- Would have also allowed notice of the IPP hearing to be posted on the planning group's website, instead of published in newspapers. 

Identification of Infeasible WMSs in 2021 RWP

Task 4B: Exhibit C, Section 2.11

- Analysis must be completed prior to **March 4, 2024**
(Technical Memorandum due date) 
 - Note, an analysis does *not* need to be completed for alternative strategies.
- Planning groups to present results of analysis at same public meeting where RWPG also presents methodology for identifying potentially feasible WMSs in 2026 RWP 
- **Deliverable to TWDB:** List of identified infeasible WMSs included in Technical Memorandum 

Identification of Infeasible WMSs - TO DO



- 1.) Review strategies and projects in the previous RWP; coordinate with project sponsors to determine implementation status and determine infeasibility
- 2.) Planning groups should review strategies & projects that **require a permit and/or involve construction** and that are either:
 - shown to be online in 2020 or 2030;
 - related to new major reservoirs, seawater desalination, DPR, brackish groundwater, ASR, and out of state transfers; or
 - generally require significant resources and time to implement
- Analysis is **not** required for strategies/projects that do not require a permit or involve construction



Determining Feasibility

Affirmative steps by the sponsor may include but not limited to:

- spending money on the strategy or project,
- voting to spend money on the strategy or project, or
- applying for a federal or state permit for the strategy or project



What to do with Infeasible WMSs



- **If infeasible WMSs are identified**, planning groups must amend 2021 plans to:
 - Remove infeasible WMS or WMSP,
 - Revise infeasible WMS or WMSP to make feasible, and/or
 - Incorporate new WMS or WMSP
- RWPG-adopted amendments due to TWDB **June 5, 2024**

An alternative strategy can be used in place of an infeasible strategy. However, it must be deemed feasible.

Upcoming Contract Amendment

- TWDB received an additional \$1.3 M per year for RWPGs as part of the agency's Legislative Appropriations Request.
- Region H will receive an additional **\$422,119** for the 2026 Regional Water Plan.
- RWPG will need to take action to allow the San Jacinto River Authority to amend their contract with the TWDB in order to receive funds.

Chairs' Call

- Chairs Call took place on September 28, 2023
- The group received an update on:
 - Upcoming tasks and new requirements for the 2026 cycle.
 - Identifying infeasible strategies.
- The group received a demo on the Secure Agency Reporting Application (SARA) application for downloading TWDB reports.
- Next call anticipated to be January 2024. Doodle poll will be sent out to determine date.

Interregional Planning Council (IPC)

- The Council met on August 15 and
 - Reviewed the status of recommendations made by the previous (2022 SWP) IPC and determined that recommendations made to TWDB and RWPGs have been addressed.
 - Discussed previous recommendations made to the legislature and future IPCs that remain unaddressed.
 - Considered whether to include these unimplemented recommendations in their report this cycle and discussed revisions/updates to these recommendations.
- Next meeting will be on November 30, virtual option available.
- More information available online at:
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/ipc/2027IPC.asp>

Questions?

Heather Rose 

Regional Water Planner, TWDB

Heather.Rose@twdb.texas.gov

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Texas Water
Development Board 

AGENDA ITEM MEMO

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 10, 2023

TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator
Ashley Harden, General Counsel
Rebecca Trevino, Chief Financial Officer
Matt Nelson, Deputy Executive Administrator, Office of Planning

FROM: Sarah Lee, Manager, Regional Water Planning

SUBJECT: Regional Water Planning Contract Amendments

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider authorizing the Executive Administrator to (a) negotiate and execute contract amendments to increase funding allocated to the sixth cycle of regional water planning (2026 Regional Water Plans) contracts by an amount not to exceed \$3,300,000; and (b) transfer these funds from the Water Assistance Fund to the Research and Planning Fund.

BACKGROUND

In July 2022, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Board authorized the negotiation and execution of contract amendments to complete the 2026 Regional Water Plans. This authorization increased the anticipated total grant amounts for the 2026 Regional Water Plans to \$15,646,708.

The TWDB's Legislative Appropriations Request (Fiscal Years 2024-2025) included an exceptional item to increase funding for regional water planning groups to adequately fund additional legislative requirements from several past legislative sessions. The additional funds for regional water planning groups were appropriated by the 88th Texas Legislature. A portion of the additional appropriations are intended to support rural and other outreach efforts by planning groups. These additional surveying efforts deemed appropriate by planning groups would fall under the existing public participation task in the regional water planning grant contract scope of work.

Rider 4 of House Bill 1, 88th Legislative Session, directs the TWDB to transfer funds from General Revenue to the Water Assistance Fund for the purposes of regional water planning

Our Mission	:	Board Members
Leading the state's efforts in ensuring a secure water future for Texas	:	Brooke T. Paup, Chairwoman George B. Peyton V, Board Member L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Board Member Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator

grants. This transfer of funds will be deposited into Research and Planning Fund within the Water Assistance Fund.

KEY ISSUES

Additional appropriations of \$1.32 million for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025, as well as half of the anticipated additional appropriations from Fiscal Year 2026 are to be added to the remaining five-year planning cycle, as noted in Table 1. These additional funds increase the available total RWPG grant amount of the 2026 Regional Water Plans to \$18,946,708.

Table 1: Estimate of Increased and Total Funding to be Available for the 2026 Regional Water Plans

Texas Legislative Session	Basis for Amount	Fiscal Year (FY)	Regional Water Planning Grant Amount ^a	Additional Funds	New Anticipated Regional Water Planning Grant Amount ^b
86 th	Committed - summer 2021	FY 2021	\$2,844,856		\$2,844,856
87 th	Committed - fall 2022	FY 2022	\$2,844,856		\$2,844,856
		FY 2023	\$2,844,856		\$2,844,856
88 th	Appropriated	FY 2024	\$2,844,856	\$1,320,000	\$4,164,856
		FY 2025	\$2,844,856	\$1,320,000	\$4,164,856
89 th	1/2 of anticipated appropriation for FY 2026 ^c	FY 2026	\$1,422,428	\$660,000	\$2,082,428
Estimated Total 6th Cycle			\$15,646,708	\$3,300,000	\$18,946,708

^a Amount approved by the TWDB Board July 7, 2022

^b Projected funding estimate based on appropriations continuing at Fiscal Year 2024-2025 levels

^c Remainder of Fiscal Year 2026 funds to be reserved for 7th cycle (2031 Regional Water Plans)

The Executive Administrator allocated the additional \$3,300,000 of funding using the same formula-based tool utilized previously to allocate funds for this planning cycle. The new proposed total funding amount for the 2026 Regional Water Plans for each of the 16 regions is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of Previously Approved and Increased Total Funding Allocated to Regional Water Planning Groups for the 2026 Regional Water Plans

Region	Total 2026 Regional Water Plans funding approved July 7, 2022	Total anticipated 2026 Regional Water Plan funding with increased appropriations
A	\$713,630	\$864,386
B	\$512,711	\$624,217
C	\$2,293,661	\$2,786,035
D	\$1,102,903	\$1,332,006
E	\$434,544	\$531,020
F	\$1,010,187	\$1,219,281
G	\$1,823,980	\$2,191,611
H	\$2,004,972	\$2,427,091
I	\$1,119,131	\$1,346,611
J	\$378,730	\$464,565
K	\$871,005	\$1,055,910
L	\$998,705	\$1,207,810
M	\$794,251	\$963,947
N	\$524,078	\$637,156
O	\$744,940	\$903,189
P	\$319,280	\$391,873
TOTAL	\$15,646,708	\$18,946,708

There is a risk that the 89th Texas legislature could appropriate a lesser amount for regional water planning. In that event, the total funding amounts for each region will be adjusted proportionally to facilitate completion of regional water plans that meet minimum rule requirements. Any such change would be brought to the Executive Administrator before the need to request any associated authorization.

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Administrator recommends the (a) negotiation and execution of contract amendments to increase funding allocated to the sixth cycle of regional water planning (2026 Regional Water Plans) contracts by an amount not to exceed \$3,300,000; and (b) transfer these funds from the Water Assistance Fund to the Research and Planning Fund.

Process for obtaining a Scope of Work Task 5B Notice to Proceed 2026 Regional Water Plans

