

REGION H

Water Planning Group

MEETING MATERIALS

February 7, 2024

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
RFPG	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
February 7, 2024
San Jacinto River Authority Office
1577 Dam Site Rd, Conroe, Texas 77304**

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

Notice of Meeting to Consider Approving Submittal of Technical Memorandum

The Region H Water Planning Group (RHWPG) will consider action to approve submission of a Technical Memorandum developed during preparation of the Region H 2026 Regional Water Plan, as included in item 6b. of the attached agenda. The memorandum details regional planning activities to date during development of the 2026 Regional Water Plan, including preliminary analyses of water demand projections, water supply availability and existing supplies, water needs, and the RHWPG's declaration of intent whether to pursue or forgo simplified planning. The proposed memorandum will be discussed and acted upon during a public meeting of the RHWPG on February 7, 2024. The proposed Technical Memorandum will be made available on the Region H website (www.regionhwater.org) upon completion prior to the public meeting and as well as following the meeting. Oral comments on the proposed amendment may be received at the public meeting. Written comments from the public must be submitted to info@regionhwater.org or the address below prior to the February 7, 2024 RHWPG meeting for consideration by the RHWPG. Comments can be submitted to the San Jacinto River Authority as follows:

**Region H Water Planning Group
c/o San Jacinto River Authority
Administrative Agent for Region H
P. O. Box 329
Conroe, Texas 77305-0329**

For additional information, please contact:

- Region H, c/o Philip Taucer, Region H Consultant, 10497 Town and Country Way, Suite 500, Houston, TX 77024, telephone 713-600-6835, and email info@regionhwater.org.

Region H Water Planning Group
10:00 AM Wednesday
February 7, 2024
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 December 6, 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. Discuss upcoming activities related to Regional Water Planning Group and Committee membership.
 - b. Receive update on the Brazos Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee (Brazos BBASC) and consider taking action to make a nomination for a member of the BBASC representing Regional Water Planning Groups.
6. Plan Development and Administration
 - a. Receive update from the Consultant Team regarding water supply analyses and projected needs for the 2026 Region H Regional Water Plan (RWP).
 - b. Receive update from the Consultant Team regarding the Region H Technical Memorandum and consider authorizing the preparation and submittal of the required documentation to Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).
 - c. Receive report from Consultant Team and Water Management Strategy (WMS) Committee regarding potential WMS analyses and consider taking action to approve a notice-to-proceed request and authorizing the Consultant Team, WMS Committee, and San Jacinto River Authority to submit the request to TWDB, coordinate with TWDB as needed on follow-up information, and execute the subsequent contract amendment issued.
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 Region H Water Planning Group.
 - 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: May 1, 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 December 6, 2023 meeting.

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bailey, John Bartos, Arthur Bredehoft, Jun Chang, Mark Evans, Jace Houston, Ken Kramer, Alisa Max, Mike O’Connell, Loyd Smith, and Cynthia Wagener.

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Aaron Abel for Brad Brunett, Karly Stelzer for Yvonne Forrest, Jason Garrard for Glenn Lord, Bobby Walters for Byron Ryder, Veronica Osegueda for Mike Turco, Eric Wilson for Brandon Wade, and Kristie Munoz for Kevin Ward.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Ashmore, W.R. Baker, Carl Burch, Caleb Cooper, Robert Istre, Ivan Langford, Marvin Marcell, and Danny Pierce

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

There were no introductions.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 4, 2023 MEETING.

Mr. Bredehoft made a motion to approve the minutes of October 4, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chang 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 GUEST PRESENTATIONS

- a. Receive update on the Brazos Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee (Brazos BBASC) and consider taking action to make a nomination for a member of the BBASC representing Regional Water Planning Groups. Study and make recommendations about environmental flow for the benefit of the regional planning process.**

Mr. Tom Michel stated that he has been on the Brazos BBASC Committee for several years, however retiring from the San Jacinto River Authority (“SJRA”) on December 4, 2023. He explained the process for appointment to the Brazos BBASC and recommended Mr. Bret

Raley, SJRA Lake Conroe Division Manager to serve on the committee. Mr. Kramer stated that in October, Mr. Aubrey Spear, City of Lubbock Water Utilities Director expressed an interest in the Brazos BBASC membership. Further, he explained that because Mr. Spear is now the newly appointed General Manager for SJRA, Mr. Kramer proposed deferring action until Mr. Spear's preference can be determined. The water planning group agreed to defer action on this item until February, therefore no action was taken.

6. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

a. Receive update from Consultant Team regarding supply availability analyses for the 2026 Regional Water Plan (RWP).

Mr. Taucer provided a brief update related to the supply availability analyses for the 2026 RWP. He explained the various nuances related to surface water, groundwater, and reuse analyses.

b. Receive report from Consultant Team regarding the requirements and process for the RWP Technical Memorandum.

Mr. Taucer provided information related to the RWP technical memorandum which will be considered for approval in February, 2024. He explained that the technical memorandum includes information related to assumptions and unmodified surface water availability values, model files and documentation, methodology for groundwater, process, and list of potentially feasible projects, infeasible WMS analysis, and simplified planning intent.

c. Receive update from Consultant Team and Water Management Strategy (WMS) Committee regarding a process for identifying and evaluating potentially feasible WMS and consider taking action to approve the process for use in 2026 Region H RWP.

Mr. Taucer explained per 31 TAC 357.12(b), the Region H Water Planning Group is required to prepare a summary of its process for identifying and selecting Water Management Strategies (WMSs) for development of the 2026 Regional Water Plan. He provided an overview of each of the necessary steps. Discussion ensued. Mr. Bartos made a motion to approve the process for identifying and evaluating potentially feasible Water Management Strategies in 2026 Region H Regional Water Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chang and carried unanimously.

d. Receive update from Consultant Team and WMS Committee regarding potentially infeasible WMS and WMS Projects in the 2021 RWP.

Mr. Taucer explained that infeasible WMS and WMS projects are defined as those that sponsors have not taken affirmative steps toward implementation. Further he explained that if any projects were identified as infeasible, steps could be taken to amend the plan to adjust online decade, amend the plan to remove it, or amend the plan to replace it. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Houston opined that based on the legislative history and intent, he believes no projects on the list should be considered infeasible. Mr. Houston made a motion to accept and consider all projects on the list as feasible. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bartos and carried unanimously.

- e. Consider approving the submittal of an amendment package to Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for determination of minor amendment status, and authorization to post public notice and hold a public hearing should the amendment status be deemed major.**

This item was not considered due to the determination that no projects were infeasible related to item 6d.

- f. Receive report from Consultant Team and WMS Committee regarding notice-to-proceed activities and recommendations for WMS analyses.**

Mr. Taucer provided an overview of the process regarding notice to proceed (NTP) for the WMS analyses which includes a scope and fee request and Texas Water Development Board approval. Mr. Taucer stated that the Region H Water Planning Group will consider taking action in February to approve a NTP request and authorize the consultant team, WMS Committee, and the San Jacinto River Authority to submit the request to TWDB, coordinate with TWDB as needed on follow-up information, and execute the subsequent contract amendment.

- g. Discuss and consider taking action regarding certification of administrative expenses to be submitted to TWDB for reimbursement for the sixth cycle of RWP development.**

Mr. Taucer explained that TWDB recognized the effort provided and cost to the political subdivision in administering the RWP and created some flexibility for those costs. He explained, to be eligible for the funding, the Water Planning Group must certify administrative expenses to be submitted to TWDB for reimbursement for the sixth cycle of RWP development. Mr. Chang made a motion to certify administrative expenses to submit to TWDB for reimbursement for the sixth cycle of RWP development. The motion was seconded by Ms. Max and carried unanimously.

- h. Consider taking action to ratify execution of contract amendment no. 2 between San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) and TWDB and take action authorizing SJRA to execute amended contracts with subconsultants.**

Mr. Taucer explained that the contract amendment includes the remaining scope and funding as well as additional legislative appropriation in an approximate amount of \$420,000. He stated that to meet the deadlines, the amendment was executed between SJRA and TWDB, therefore asking the Water Planning Group to ratify contract Amendment No. 2. Mr. Bredehoft made a motion to ratify SJRA executing contract Amendment No. 2 between

SJRA and TWDB and authorize SJRA to execute amended contracts with subconsultants.
The motion was seconded by Mr. Kramer and carried unanimously.

7. GENERAL UPDATES AND OUTREACH

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

Mr. Taucer provided a recap of the schedule of events and upcoming tasks for the 2026 Region H RWP.

b. Receive update from liaisons to other planning groups.

Mr. Evans reported on the Interregional Planning Council stating that the Interregional Planning Council Report is currently in draft form and will be submitted to TWDB in 2024.

c. Receive report regarding recent and upcoming activities related to communications and outreach efforts on behalf of the Region H Water Planning Group.

Mr. Taucer provided information related to the upcoming Gulf Coast Symposium and Water Forum taking place in February, 2024.

d. Receive update from TWDB.

Ms. Rose reported that TWDB is working through the process of implementing funds approved by Proposition 6.

e. Other agency communications and general information.

There were no other agency communications reported.

8. Receive public comments.

There were no comments.

9. Next Meeting: February 7, 2024.

It was announced that the next Region H Water Planning Group meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2024.

10. Adjourn.

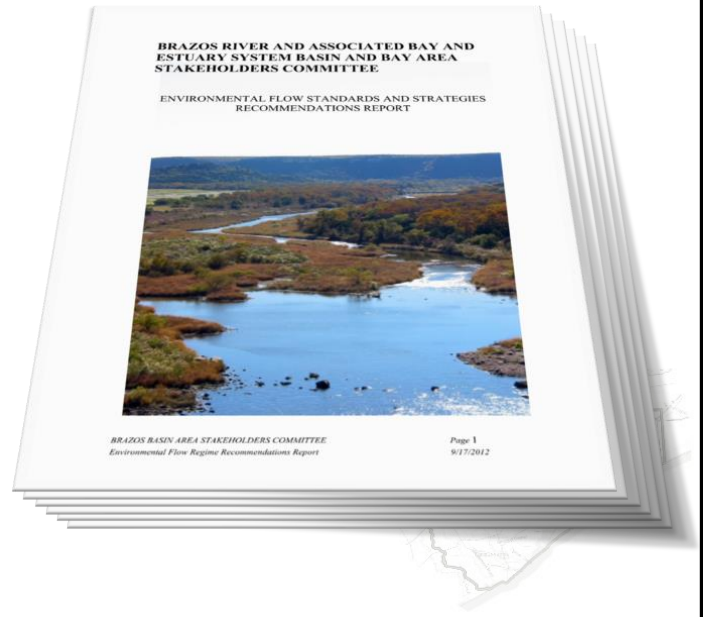
Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35AM.

Agenda Item 5b

Receive update on the Brazos Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee (Brazos BBASC) and consider taking action to make a nomination for a member of the BBASC representing Regional Water Planning Groups.

Agenda Item 5b BBASC Nomination

- Formed in October 2010
- Supports environmental flows process for Texas
- Coordinates with Expert Science Team
- Develops environmental flow recommendations
 - River basin
 - Bay System



Agenda Item 5b BBASC Nomination

Action:

Make a nomination for a member of the BBASC representing Regional Water Planning Groups.





October 26, 2023

Hon. Dale Spurgin, Chairman – Brazos BBASC
Hon. Mark Evans, Chairman – Region H Water Planning Group

Dear Dale and Mark,

As you are aware, the Brazos Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee (BBASC) was created in 2007 through the enactment of SB3 to develop environmental flow recommendations to be considered in the TCEQ permitting process. I have served on the Brazos BBASC as a representative of regional water planning groups from the beginning as the Vice-Chairman.

I am rapidly nearing my retirement date and I intend to fully withdraw from all official water related activities. I am writing to notify you that I will be resigning my position as a regional water planning group representative of the Brazos BBASC effective upon selection of my replacement by the Brazos BBASC. The next Brazos BBASC meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2024, in Waco.

I have been searching for my replacement and I am very pleased to support Mr. Bret Raley as my replacement. I have worked with Mr. Raley for over ten years, and I know him to be a reliable, thoughtful, and caring steward of Texas' water resources. I am asking that Region H place an item on the upcoming agenda to accept my resignation effective at the next Brazos BBASC meeting and nominate my replacement. I respectfully suggest that Bret Raley be nominated by the Region H Water Planning Group to serve on the Brazos BBASC as a regional water planning representative. Attached to this letter is a Brazos BBASC member nomination form that I took the liberty to fill out with Bret Raley's information should Region H choose to move forward on nominating Mr. Raley.

It has been a great honor to serve from the very first days of both the Brazos BBASC and the Region H Water Planning Group. It has been my career and my personal mission statement to leave things better than I found them and I hope I have served Texas well all of my years in the public sector water arena.

I pray that Texas continues to be represented by the dedicated people that I have been blessed to work with over the last thirty-five years.

Sincerely,

Tom Michel

Cc: Mr. Ed Shackleford, Acting General Manager for the San Jacinto River Authority
Mr. Bret Raley, Lake Conroe Division Manager for the San Jacinto River Authority
Ms. Jade Rutledge, Program Support Coordinator for the TCEQ



Bret serves as Division Manager of SJRA's Lake Conroe Division where he is responsible for all aspects of operating and maintaining the Lake Conroe dam and reservoir. Programs under Bret's management include licensing and permitting of residential and commercial activities on the lake, regulating on-site sewage facilities, invasive species management, native-plant restoration, and implementing water quality initiatives outlined in the Lake Conroe Watershed Protection Plan in order to preserve or improve the quality of water in Lake Conroe.

Immediately prior to joining SJRA, Bret worked as a biologist for Lake Doctors, a privately owned lake and pond management company in Jacksonville, Florida. He is trained to identify and develop treatment strategies to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic plants, which opened the door for Bret to join SJRA as an aquatic plant management specialist.

Born in the Texas panhandle, Bret was raised in Maryland, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Natural Science with an environmental concentration from Towson University.

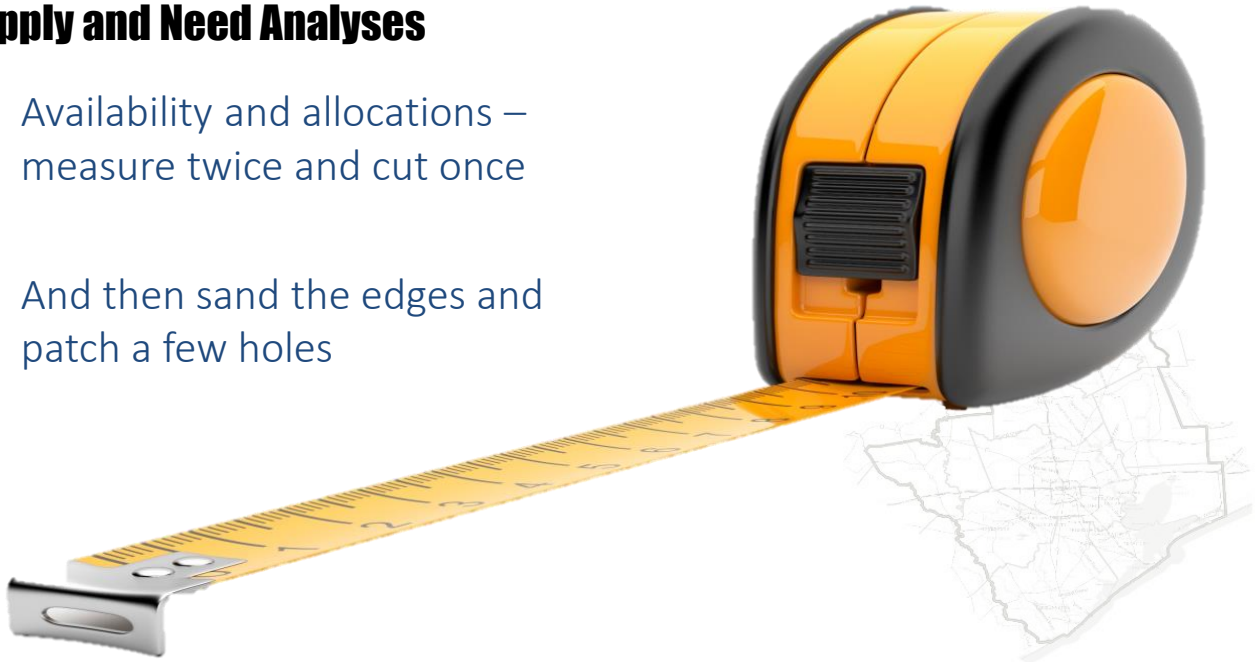
Now in his Seventeenth year with SJRA, Bret has resided at the Lake Conroe campus for sixteen years providing round-the-clock operational capacity and added security.

Agenda Item 6a

Receive update from the Consultant Team regarding water supply analyses and projected needs for the 2026 Region H Regional Water Plan (RWP).

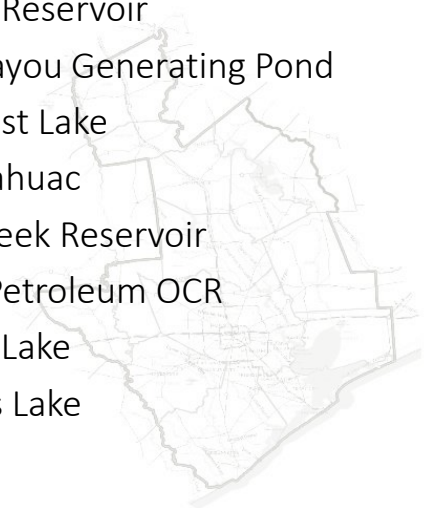
Agenda Item 6a Supply and Need Analyses

- Availability and allocations – measure twice and cut once
- And then sand the edges and patch a few holes



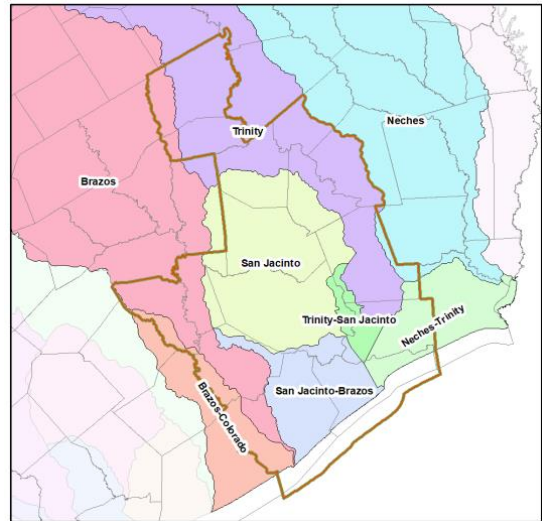
Agenda Item 6a Supply and Need Analyses: Surface Water

- **Completed**
 - Neches
 - Neches-Trinity
 - Trinity-San Jacinto
 - San Jacinto
 - Brazos-Colorado
- **Coordination in Progress**
 - Trinity
 - Brazos / San Jacinto-Brazos
- **Added Reservoirs**
 - Brazoria Reservoir
 - Cedar Bayou Generating Pond
 - Eagle Nest Lake
 - Lake Anahuac
 - Lewis Creek Reservoir
 - Phillips Petroleum OCR
 - Sheldon Lake
 - Smithers Lake

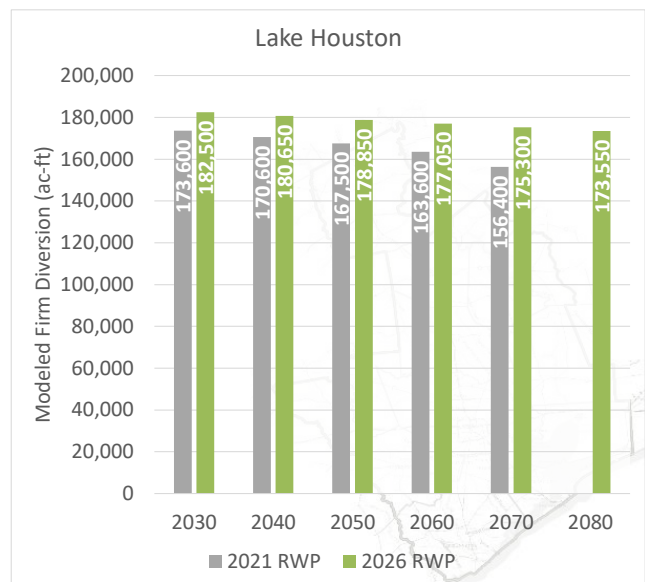
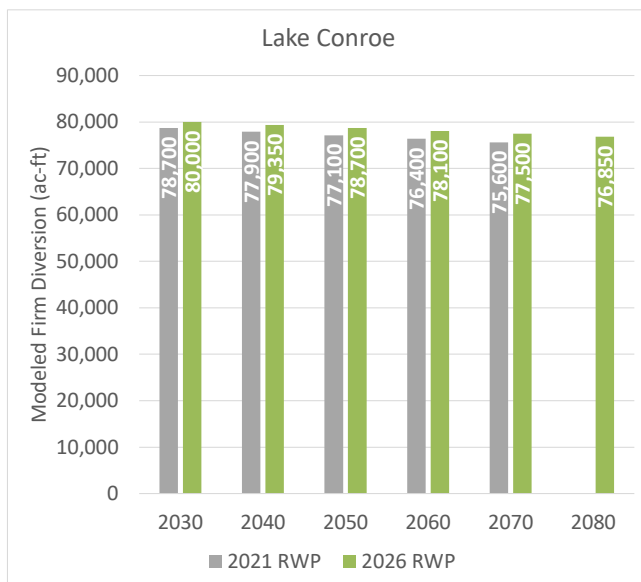


Agenda Item 6a Supply and Need Analyses: Surface Water

Basin	Projected 2030 ROR Availability (ac-ft)		
	2021 RWP	2026 RWP	Δ
Brazos-Colorado	11,729	11,730	0.0%
Brazos	452,964	452,964	0.0%
San Jacinto-Brazos	38,827	38,827	0.0%
San Jacinto	12,627	12,627	0.0%
Trinity-San Jacinto	5,537	5,539	0.0%
Trinity	137,252	137,250	0.0%
Neches-Trinity	37,481	37,475	0.0%
Neches	176	161	-8.5%
TOTAL	696,593	696,573	0.0%

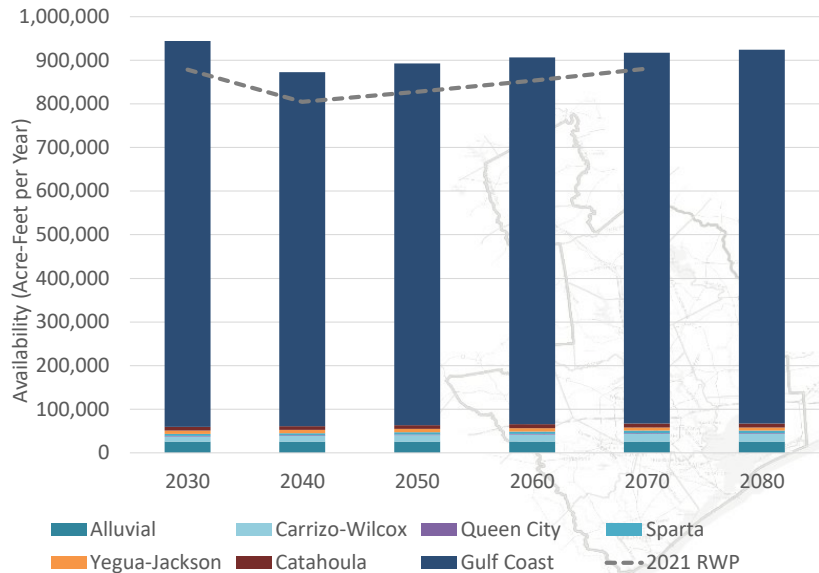


Agenda Item 6a Supply and Need Analyses: Surface Water

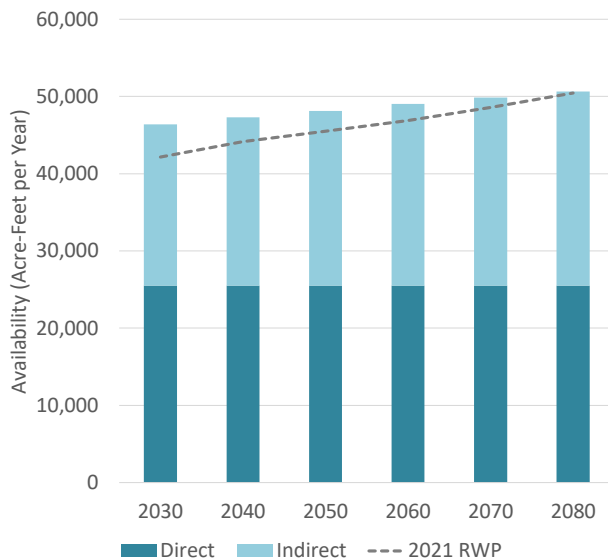


Agenda Item 6a Supply and Need Analyses: Groundwater

- Completed:
 - Historic production and infrastructure analyses
 - Subsidence District availability analysis
 - Draft allocations
- In Progress
 - MPF coordination
 - Non-MAG assessment

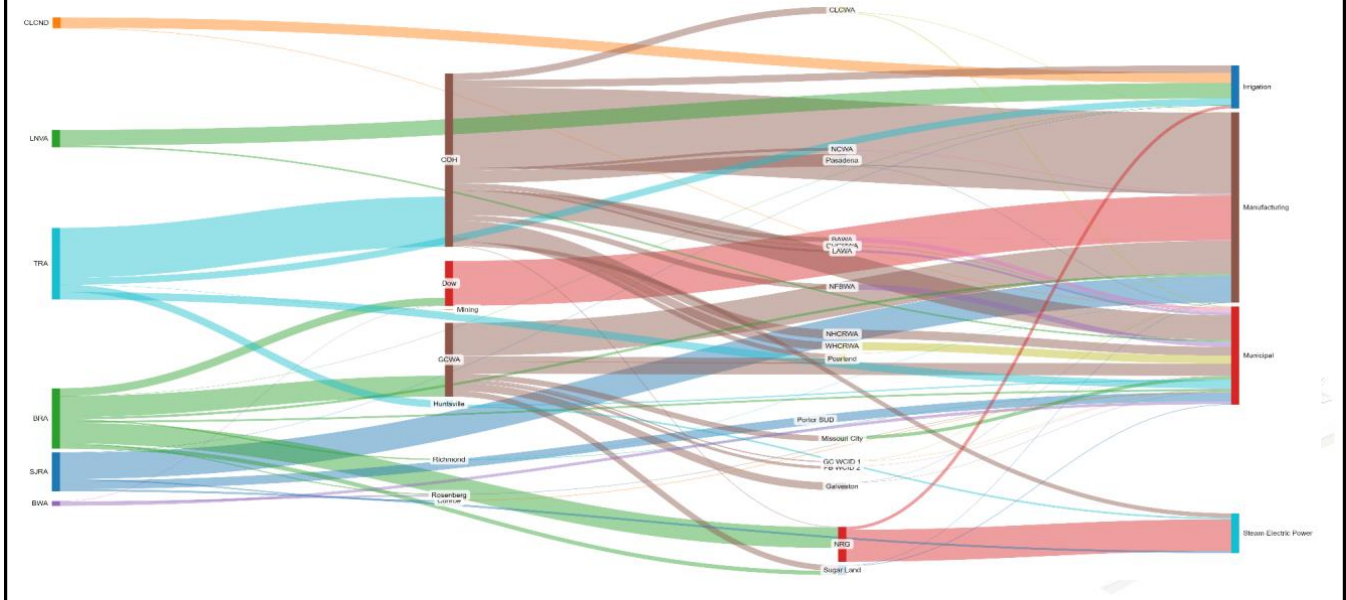


Agenda Item 6a Supply and Need Analyses: Reuse



- Balanced approach
 - Historic and future potential
 - Infrastructure
 - Dry year impacts
- Available references
 - TWDB WUS data
 - WUG survey
 - Permits

Agenda Item 6a Supply and Need Analyses: Transfers



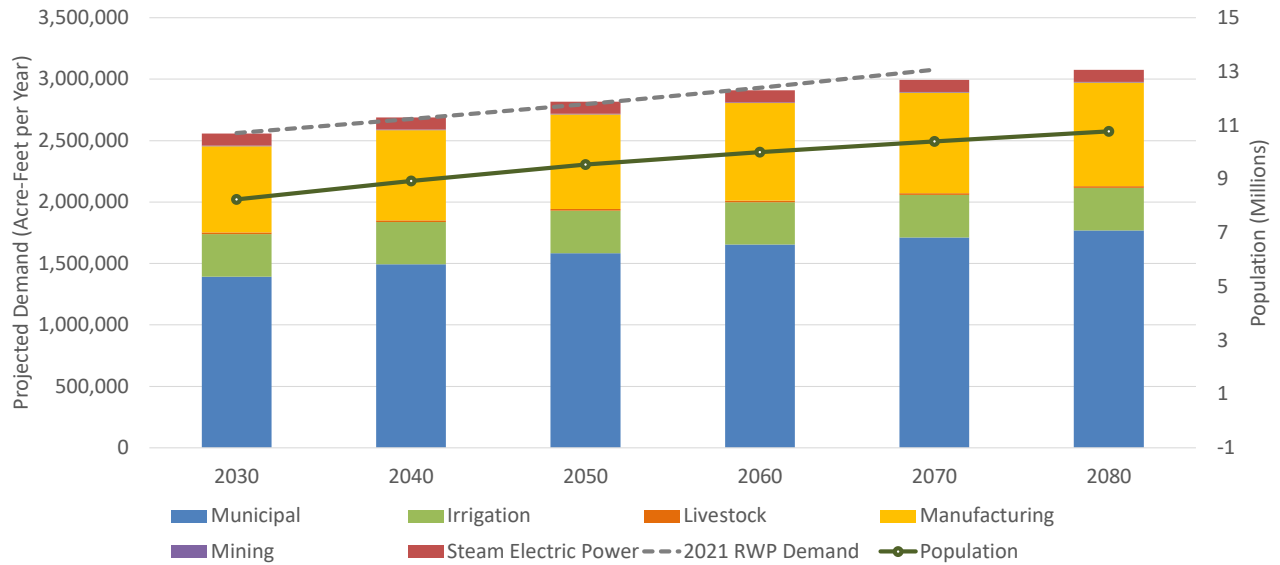
Agenda Item 6a Supply and Need Analyses: Transfers



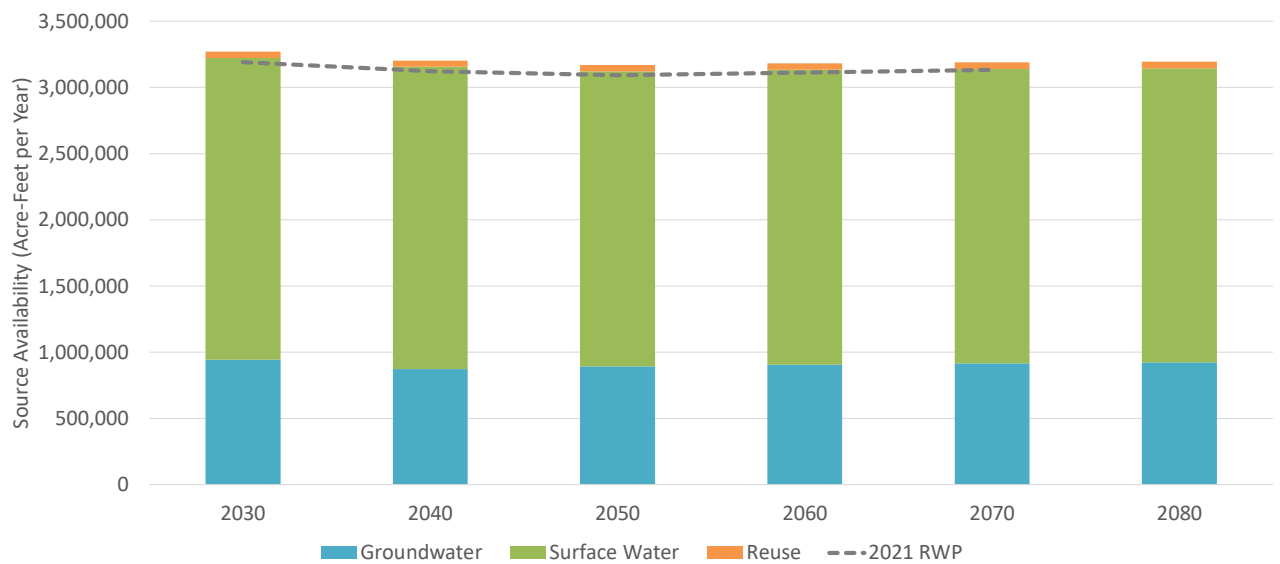
- WUG Survey and stakeholder data
- TWDB databases
- TCEQ Drinking Water Watch
- Contract documents
- Prior RWPs
- Meeting minutes
- And anything else out there



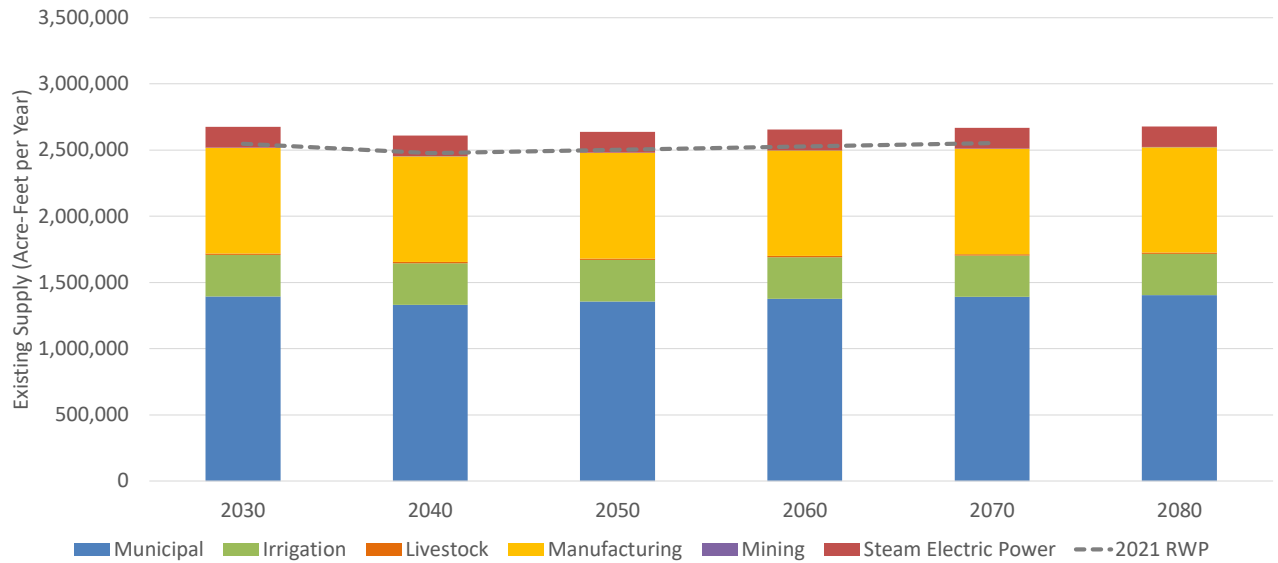
Agenda Item 6a Supply and Need Analyses: Summary



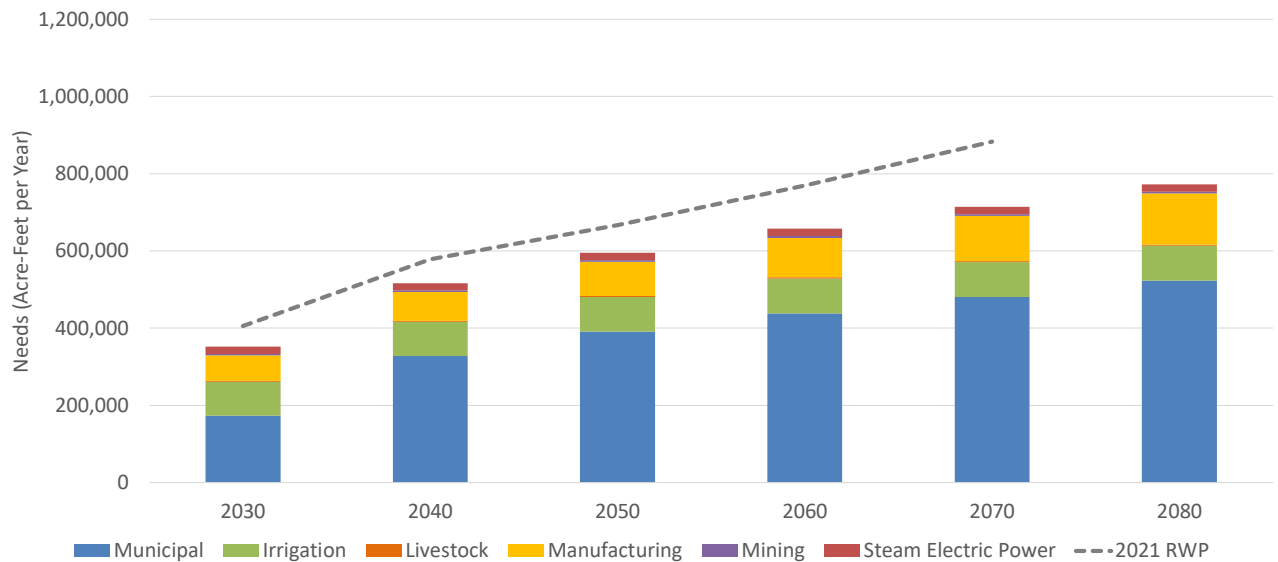
Agenda Item 6a Supply and Need Analyses: Summary



Agenda Item 6a Supply and Need Analyses: Summary



Agenda Item 6a Supply and Need Analyses: Summary



Agenda Item 6a

Supply and Need Analyses: Next Steps

- Updated SW modeling
- MAG Peak Factor(s)
- New sponsor data
 - Contracts
 - Infrastructure
- Fine-tuning allocations
 - County-basin splits
 - Interregional splits
 - General review

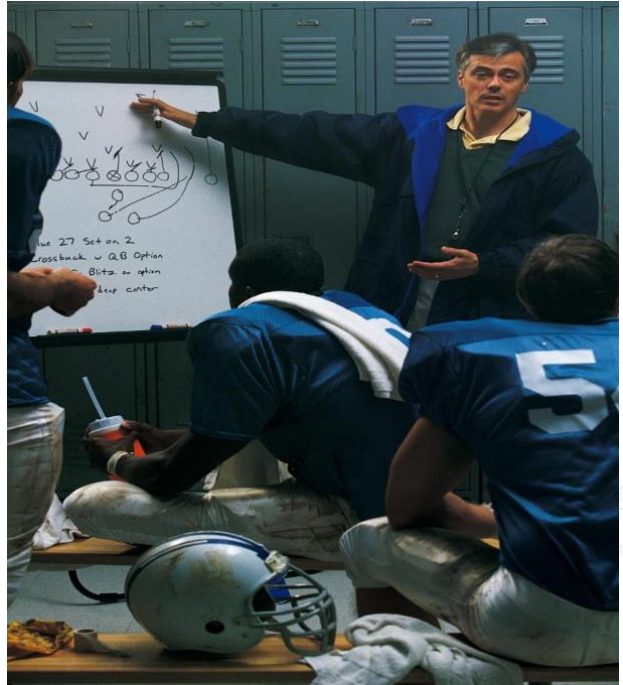


Agenda Item 6b

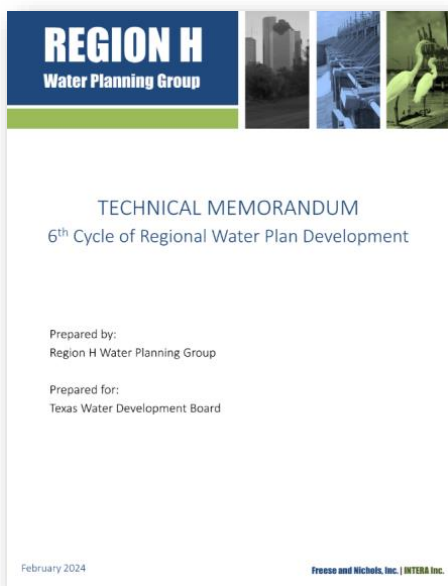
Receive update from the Consultant Team regarding the Region H Technical Memorandum and consider authorizing the preparation and submittal of the required documentation to Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).

Agenda Item 6b Technical Memorandum

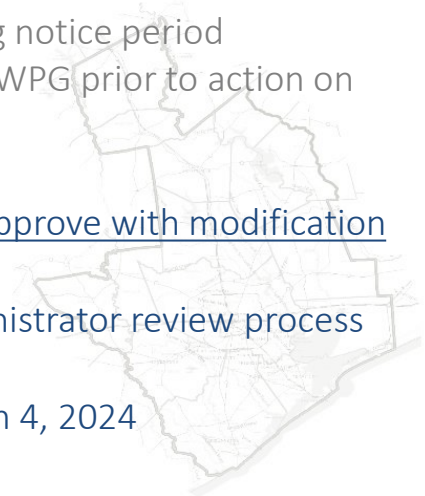
- Chance to review the game plan
- Summarize progress
 - Population and demand
 - Source availability
 - Existing supplies
 - Needs
 - Strategy identification
 - Administrative milestones
- Draft data



Agenda Item 6b Technical Memorandum



- 14-day notice
- Public comment during notice period (to be considered by RWPG prior to action on memorandum)
- Action to approve or approve with modification
- TWDB Executive Administrator review process
- Due to TWDB by March 4, 2024



Agenda Item 6b Technical Memorandum



Summary Information

- Projections, supplies, and needs
- Interregional coordination
- TWDB DB27 reports



Modeling

- Sedimentation methodology
- Run history and unmodified yield estimates
- Electronic files



Variances & RWPG Assessments

- Requests
- Approvals
- Non-MAG groundwater approach



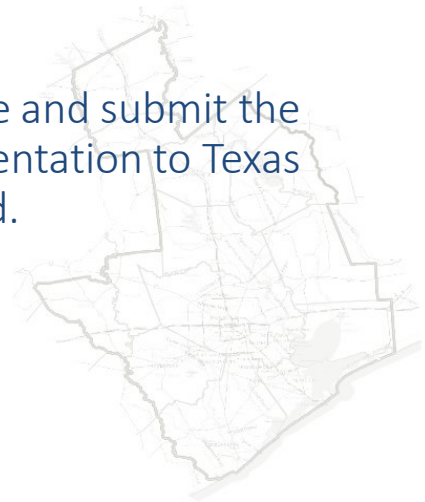
Strategies

- WMS ID and evaluation process
- Potentially feasible WMS list
- Infeasible WMS analysis

Agenda Item 6b Technical Memorandum

Action:

Authorize the Consultant Team to prepare and submit the required Technical Memorandum documentation to Texas Water Development Board.

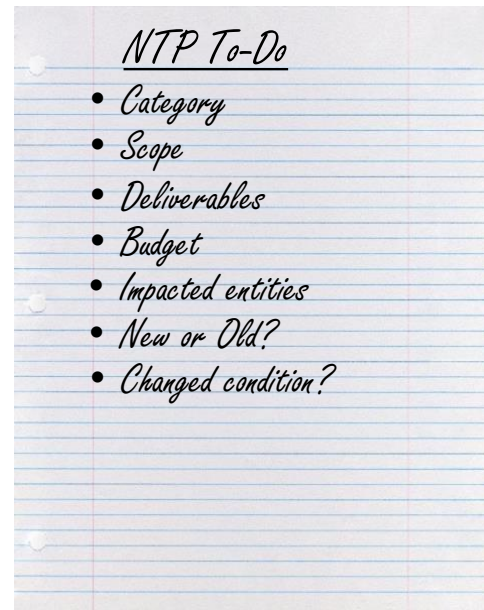


Agenda Item 6c

Receive report from Consultant Team and Water Management Strategy (WMS) Committee regarding potential WMS analyses and consider taking action to approve a notice-to-proceed request and authorizing the Consultant Team, WMS Committee, and San Jacinto River Authority to submit the request to TWDB, coordinate with TWDB as needed on follow-up information, and execute the subsequent contract amendment issued.

Agenda Item 6c WMS Analyses Notice-to-Proceed

- Funded under Phase 2
- Additional steps for release
 - Scope and fee request
 - TWDB approval
- Can make multiple requests
 - Better assess RWP focus
 - Inter-task flexibility



Agenda Item 6c WMS Analyses Notice-to-Proceed



Dev. of WMS Planning Database \$61,300

- Planning tools and data management
- Structure for DB27



Supply and Flood Management \$16,300

- Coordinate with RFPGs
- Analyze potential projects



Update & Reallocation \$74,300

- Evaluations based on approved process
- Allocation of selected WMS



Contractual Transfers \$43,500

- ID needed contractual agreements
- Summarize relationships



Comprehensive Cost Updates \$80,800

- Update for data and new methods
- Identify under-documented elements

Agenda Item 6c

WMS Analyses Notice-to-Proceed



Municipal Conservation

\$56,100

- Advanced municipal conservation
- Water loss reduction



Industrial Conservation

\$11,500

- Investigate stakeholder and other data
- Characterize potential savings



Irrigation Conservation

\$6,600

- Update for crop acreage and use
- Other factors as applicable



Other Demand Management

\$25,300

- Estimate achievable savings
- Coordinate with WWP's on practices

Agenda Item 6c

WMS Analyses Notice-to-Proceed



Expanded Use of Groundwater

\$36,500

- Regulating agency coordination
- Identify users and allowable allocations



Aquifer Storage and Recovery

\$61,800

- Assess supply potential and costs
- Evaluate constraints and impacts



Groundwater Reduction Plans

\$91,100

- Project sponsor coordination
- Refine technical details and entities



Brackish GW and Blending

\$38,400

- Assess viable areas and entities
- Coordinate with users on expansion

Agenda Item 6c WMS Analyses Notice-to-Proceed



Regional and Local Reuse Projects \$66,300

- Evaluate source potential
- Coordinate with potential sponsors



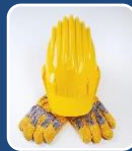
Coastal Desalination \$22,600

- Consider data on existing facilities
- Incorporate local sponsor plans



Interbasin Transfers \$23,200

- Update assessments of size, timing, etc.
- Refine est. of components and routing



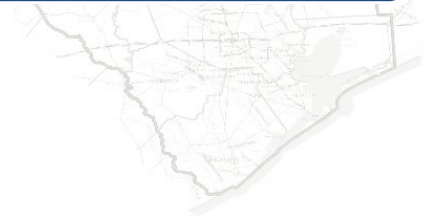
Other Facility & Storage Projects \$137,900

- Coordinate with sponsor on status
- Update technical details



Allens Creek Strategy Evaluation \$23,000

- Coordinate with sponsor on status
- Update technical details



Agenda Item 6c WMS Analyses Notice-to-Proceed

- Structured to cover anticipated studies for IPP
- Reflective of evolving projections and project concepts
- ≈20% in reserve
 - New concepts
 - Post-IPP adjustment

Task	Cost
Development of WMS Planning Database	\$61,300
Update & Reallocation of Strategies	\$74,300
Comprehensive Cost Updates	\$80,800
Supply and Flood Management	\$16,300
Contractual Transfers	\$43,500
Municipal Conservation	\$56,100
Irrigation Conservation	\$6,600
Industrial Conservation	\$11,500
Other Demand Management	\$25,300
Expanded Use of Groundwater	\$36,500
Groundwater Reduction Plans	\$91,100
Aquifer Storage and Recovery	\$61,800
Brackish Groundwater and Groundwater Blending	\$38,400
Regional and Local Reuse Projects	\$66,300
Interbasin Transfers	\$23,200
Allens Creek Strategy Evaluation	\$23,000
Coastal Desalination	\$22,600
Other Facility and Storage Projects	\$137,900
TOTAL	\$876,500
REMAINING UNASSIGNED	\$227,450

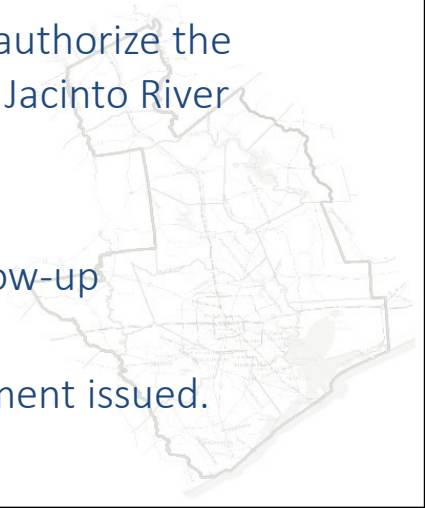
Agenda Item 6c

WMS Analyses Notice-to-Proceed

Action:

Approve the notice-to-proceed request and authorize the Consultant Team, WMS Committee, and San Jacinto River Authority to:

1. Submit the request to TWDB.
2. Coordinate with TWDB as needed on follow-up information.
3. Execute the subsequent contract amendment issued.



Template for Scoping Currently Contracted Task 5B Funding for Region-Specific Subtasks (See Exhibit C Section 2.5.6)

Strategy Type(s)	NSR	Conservation/Trough Management	Groundwater Desal	Groundwater Drip	Reuse	New Major Reservoir	Other Surface Water	Rewater Desal	Conjunctive Use	Other WMS (Subordination, etc)	Region	Overall TWDB Task Number	Subtask WMS evaluation number	Subtask WMS Database	Subtask Scope of Work Write-up	Deliverable	Subtask Budget (\$)	WUG(s) &/OR WWP Entities Potentially Served by WMS(s)	Addressing a changed condition? If yes, describe the changed condition.	When was this WMS identified by RWPG as potentially feasible?	Was the WMS updated in previous Regional Water Planning Cycles?	Is evaluation a limited update to previous evaluation information? If no, indicate specific update in subtask row column E
										X	H	5B	01.1	Development of WMS Planning Database	Prepare a planning tool for allocation of WMS volumes and costs to enhance project allocation. Coordinate with TWDB regarding structure and functionality of DB27 in order to mirror statewide process for project and WMS tracking.	Inputs to DB27 for all WMS and projects.	\$ 61,300	Multiple	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
										X	H	5B	02.1	Update & Reallocation of Strategic	Evaluate potential water management strategies based on technical evaluations and selection criteria matrix and develop WMS selection process. Allocate WMS volumes to document and incorporate strategy allocations into DB27. Develop Chapter 5 document incorporating modifications from public, RWPG, and agency comments.	Chapter 5 of the Regional Water Plan describing the DB27 interface.	\$ 74,200	All with projected needs	Yes - based on updated needs assessment and recommended WMS	N/A	No	No
										X	H	5B	03.1	Comprehensive Cost Updates	Revisit cost updates for all projects and apply proper cost adjustments for inflation. Also investigate projects to identify opportunities to more thoroughly assign costs for under-documented project components in previous RWPGs.	Updated technical memoranda for all projects not studied under specific, detailed analyses.	\$ 80,800	Any WUG or WWP with a WMS not studied in detail under separate funding	Yes - Updates for enhanced and detailed project definition	Multiple WMS in previous RWPGs	Yes - All planning cycles	Yes
										X	H	5B	04.1	Supply and Flood Management	Coordinate with Regional Flood Planning Groups and project sponsors regarding considered or recommended strategies in the Regional Flood Plans which may provide water supply benefit. Perform planning-level analyses of potential reliable water supply. Review recommended strategies from the prior Regional Water Plan to identify opportunities for flood management benefits.	Technical memoranda describing strategy and summarizing as applicable supply sources and quantities, sponsors and users, facility locations, implementation schedule, cost, issues and considerations regarding implementation, and relevant references.	\$ 16,300	Multiple	Yes - Reflects consideration of new Regional Flood Planning Process	2026 RWP	No	No
										X	H	5B	05.1	Contractual Transfers	Examine WMS to identify which require contractual agreements and determine volumes associated with these agreements. Review will include both new supplies and recursive strategies such as transmission infrastructure WMS. Summarize recommended contractual relationships by entity and supply source.	Technical memorandum describing strategy and summarizing the contractual volumes and associated entities necessary to facilitate implementation of other WMS.	\$ 43,500	Any with WMS contained in a contract.	Yes - Potential for different contractual needs based on other WMS	Contractual transfer strategies recommended in 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2021 Regional Water Plans	Yes - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th planning cycles	No
											H	5B	06.1	Municipal Conservation	Review WUG survey responses, water conservation plans, TWDB outdoor water use data, TWDB Water Loss Audit, and other available data to determine estimated achievable municipal conservation and water loss reduction levels based on WUG size or other key characteristics. Coordinate with municipal WUGs regarding conservation volumes and practices and incorporate any data received into strategy documentation and allocations.	Technical memorandum describing strategy and summarizing as applicable supply sources and quantities, sponsors and users, facility locations, implementation schedule, cost, issues and considerations regarding implementation, and relevant references.	\$ 56,100	Municipal WUGs	No	Was a recommended WMS in 2011, 2016, 2021 Regional Water Plans	Yes - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th planning cycles	No
											H	5B	06.2	Irrigation Conservation	Review technical documentation from the 2021 RWP and available crop acreage data and update calculations as appropriate to reflect changes in irrigation water demand projections. Update technical details, yields, costs, and other appropriate factors as applicable.	Technical memorandum describing strategy and summarizing as applicable supply sources and quantities, sponsors and users, facility locations, implementation schedule, cost, issues and relevant references.	\$ 6,600	Irrigation WUGs	No	Was a recommended WMS in 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021 Regional Water Plans	Yes - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th planning cycles	Yes

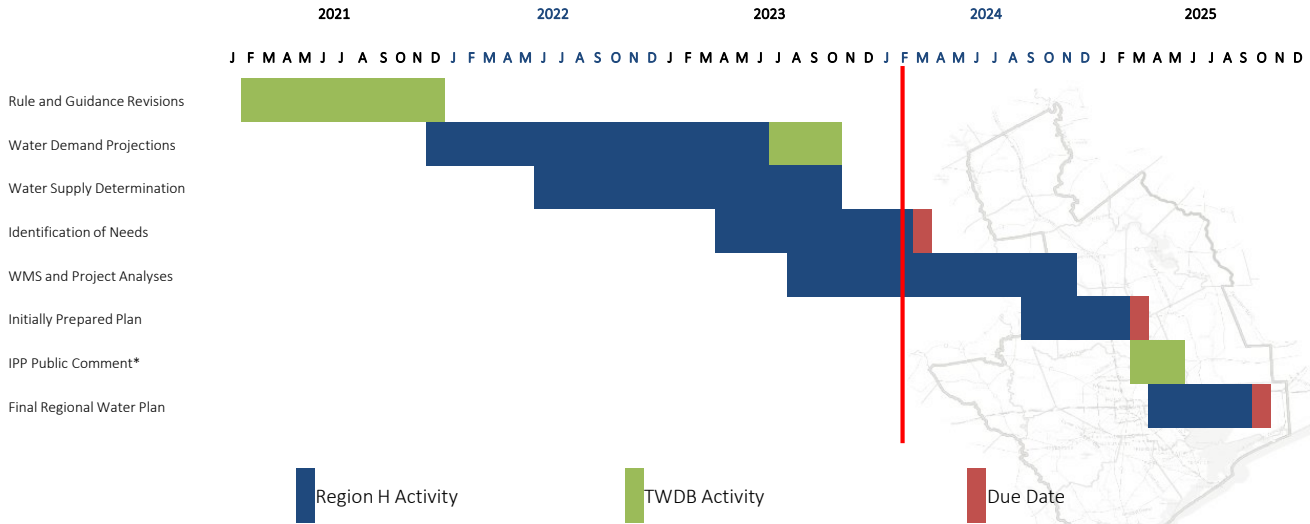
Strategy Type(s)	ASR	Conservation/Drought Management	Groundwater Desal	Groundwater Drip	Reuse	New Major Reservoir	Other Surface Water	Stewater Desal	Conjunctive Use	Other WMS (Subordination, etc)	Region	Overall TWDB Task Number	SubTask WMS evaluation number	SubTask WMS	SubTask Scopes of Work Write-up	Deliverable	SubTask Budget (\$)	WUG(s) &/OR WWP Entities Potentially Served by WMS(s)	Addressing a changed condition from previous cycle? If yes, describe the changed condition.	When was this WMS identified by RWFG as potentially feasible?	Was the WMS evaluated in any previous Planning Cycles?	Is evaluation a limited technical evaluation? If no, indicate specific update in subtask row column 1
	X										H	5B	063	Industrial Conservation	Review available literature and correspond with industrial water users regarding industrial water conservation practices within the region. Characterize volumes of potential conservation savings where entry-specific data is available. Update technical details, yields, costs, and other appropriate factors as applicable.	Technical memorandum describing strategy and summarizing as applicable supply sources and quantities, sponsors and users, facility locations, implementation schedule, cost, issues and considerations regarding implementation, and relevant references.	\$ 11,500	Manufacturing, Mining and Surface Electric Power WUGs	Yes - substantial changes to industrial demand projections and evolution of industry and water use.	Was a recommended WMS in 2006, 2011, and 2016 Regional Water Plans	Yes - 2nd, 3rd, and 4th planning cycles	No
	X										H	5B	064	Other Demand Management	Review WUG survey responses, drought contingency plans, TWDB and TCRQ data, and other available data to determine estimated achievable savings from drought contingency measures or other demand management based on measure type, WUG size, or other key characteristics. Update technical details for municipal WUGs regarding volumes and practices and incorporate any data received into strategy documentation.	Technical memorandum describing strategy and summarizing as applicable supply sources and quantities, sponsors and users, facility locations, implementation schedule, cost, issues and considerations regarding implementation, and relevant references.	\$ 25,300	Multiple potential WUGs and WUGs in Region H	No	Was a considered WMS in 2006, 2011, and 2016 Regional Water Plans	Yes - 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th planning cycles	No
				X							H	5B	071	Expanded Use of Groundwater	Coordinate with the groundwater regulating agencies regarding the status and results of the ongoing groundwater availability rules. Identify WUGs or groups of WUGs currently utilizing groundwater sources. Complete a regional analysis of modeled available supplies for all the existing and potential water supplies. Allocate remaining modeled available groundwater to WUGs with needs within the limits of groundwater reduction plans and subsidence and conservation district rules. Update technical details, yields, costs, and other appropriate factors as applicable.	Technical memorandum describing strategy and summarizing as applicable supply sources and quantities, sponsors and users, facility locations, implementation schedule, cost, issues and considerations regarding implementation, and relevant references.	\$ 365,500	WUGs in counties with projected needs and unallocated groundwater supplies	Yes - Updated technical details, estimates, and groundwater rule making	Was a recommended WMS in 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021 Regional Water Plans	Yes - 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th planning cycles	No
									X		H	5B	072	Groundwater Reduction Plans	Coordinate with project sponsors regarding the status of their projects. Update technical details, yields, costs, and other appropriate factors as applicable.	Technical memoranda describing strategy and summarizing as applicable supply sources and quantities, sponsors and users, facility locations, implementation schedule, cost, issues and considerations regarding implementation, and relevant references.	\$ 911,000	Multiple WUGs and WWPs in Fort Bend, Galveston, and Harris Counties	Yes - Partial implementation and updates to a number of GRPs	Multiple GRPs recommended in 2016 and 2021 Regional Water Plans	Yes - 4th and 5th planning cycles	No
	X										H	5B	073	Aquifer Storage and Recovery	Identify aquifers and locations with potential to receive and store treated source water and amount storable and retrievable. Identify required rates, other characteristics, impacts to subsidence and physical and technical limitations. Identify potential available production from aquifers. Investigate source and receptor water quality and consider treatment needs and methods to avoid or manage clogging. Summarize project cost and legal and regulatory constraints. Coordinate as applicable with potential project sponsors and local regulating entities.	Technical memorandum describing strategy and summarizing as applicable supply sources and quantities, sponsors and users, facility locations, implementation schedule, cost, issues and considerations regarding implementation, and relevant references.	\$ 61,800	Multiple	No	Was a considered WMS in 2016 and 2021 Regional Water Plan	Yes - 4th and 5th planning cycles	No
											H	5B	074	Brackish Groundwater and Groundwater Blending	Identify areas within Region H where water from two different aquifers could be blended to obtain a combined supply not requiring advanced treatment. Assess viable areas in the context of current regulatory structures to identify areas or entities that could benefit from blended groundwater sources. Coordinate with current users of brackish water regarding potential future expansions of brackish groundwater capacity. Update technical details, yields, costs, and other appropriate factors as applicable.	Technical memorandum describing strategy and summarizing as applicable supply sources and quantities, sponsors and users, facility locations, implementation schedule, cost, issues and considerations regarding implementation, and relevant references.	\$ 384,400	Multiple potential WWPs and WUGs in Region H in proximity to brackish groundwater	Yes - increased development of brackish aquifer supplies in the Region	Was a recommended WMS in 2016 and 2021 Regional Water Plans	Yes - 4th and 5th planning cycles	No

Strategy Type(s)	CSR	Conservation/Drought Management	Groundwater Desal	Groundwater Drip	Reuse	New Major Reservoir	Other Surface Water	Seawater Desal	Conjunctive Use	Other WMS (Subordination, etc)	Region	Overall TWDB Task Number	SubTask WMS evaluation number	SubTask WMS	SubTask Scope of Work Write-up	Deliverable	SubTask Budget (\$)	WUG(s) &/OR WWP Entities Potentially Served by WMS(s)	Addressing a changed condition from previous cycle? If yes, describe the changed condition.	When was this WMS identified by RWFG as potentially feasible?	Was the WMS evaluated in any previous Regional Water Planning Cycles?	Is evaluation a limited technical evaluation? If no, indicates specific update in table as row column F
				X							H	5B	081	Regional and Local Reuse Projects	Coordinate with strategy sponsors regarding the status of reuse projects. Update technical details, yields, costs, and other appropriate factors as applicable. Evaluate potential source availability with consideration for updated demand distribution, utility-based WIG boundaries, and existing and pending reuse authorizations. Strategies include potential WIG-level potential expansion of cost reuse facilities and wastewater reclamation for municipal irrigation.	Technical memorandum describing strategy and summarizing as applicable supply sources and quantities, sponsors and users, facility locations, implementation schedule, cost, issues and relevant references.	\$ 663,300	Multiple potential WWSs and WUGs in Region H	Varies by project	Revised or recommended in 2011, 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021 Regional Water Plans	Yes - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th planning cycles	No
						X					H	5B	091	Interchain Transfers	Examine available literature regarding potential inter-basin transfers to supply users in Region H, including strategies considered or recommended in prior RWPGs. Coordinate with sponsors regarding the status of projects and sponsor analyses, including expected changes to project capacity, implementation timeline, and costs. Where applicable, refine RWPG-level estimates of infrastructure components and potential transfer routing. Update technical details, yields, costs, and other appropriate factors as applicable.	Technical memorandum describing strategy and summarizing as applicable supply sources and quantities, sponsors and users, facility locations, implementation schedule, cost, issues and relevant references.	\$ 232,000	Multiple potential WWSs and WUGs in Region H	Yes - Changes in supply resources among basins	Considered or recommended in 2011, 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021 Regional Water Plans	Yes - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th planning cycles	Yes
						X					H	5B	092	Allens Creek Strategy Evaluation	Coordinate with sponsor regarding the status of project development and identify any expected changes to project capacity, implementation timeline, and costs. Update technical details, yields, costs, and other appropriate factors as applicable.	Technical memorandum describing strategy and summarizing as applicable supply sources and quantities, sponsors and users, facility locations, implementation schedule, cost, issues and relevant references.	\$ 23,000	Brazos River Authority and customer WWSs/WUGs	Yes - Project actively moving forward	Was a recommended WMS in 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021 Regional Water Plans	Yes - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th planning cycles	No
							X				H	5B	093	Coastal Desalination	Coordinate with identified or potential sponsors regarding the status of project concepts and sponsor studies. Examine data regarding yields, costs, supply potential and other appropriate factors as applicable. Update technical details, yields, costs, and other appropriate factors as applicable.	Technical memorandum describing strategy and summarizing as applicable supply sources and quantities, sponsors and users, facility locations, implementation schedule, cost, issues and relevant references.	\$ 226,600	Multiple potential municipal and industrial WWSs and WUGs in Region H	Yes - Changing supply economics over time and increased interest in concept by local WWSs	Was a recommended WMS in 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021 Regional Water Plans	Yes - 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th planning cycles	No
									X		H	5B	094	Other Facility and Storage Projects	Coordinate with identified or potential sponsors regarding the status of projects. Update technical details, yields, costs, and other appropriate factors as applicable. Strategies include new and expanded treatment facilities, transmission, and storage projects.	Technical memoranda describing strategy and summarizing as applicable supply sources and quantities, sponsors and users, facility locations, implementation schedule, cost, issues and relevant references.	\$ 137,900	Multiple	Varies by project	Various infrastructure and storage concepts in prior Regional Water Plans	Yes - 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th planning cycles	Yes
														REGION-SPECIFIC SUBTASKS TOTAL BUDGET		\$ 876,500						

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

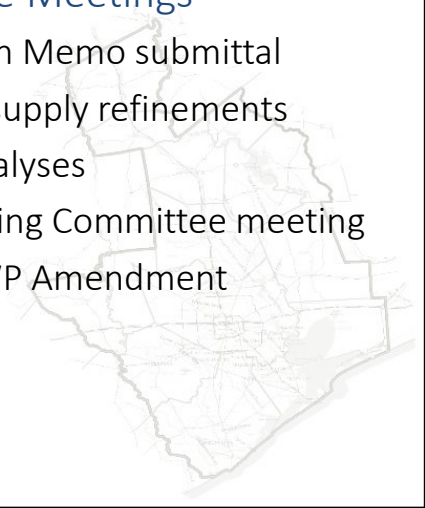
Date	Scheduled Events/Tasks
02/2023	RWPG Meeting
03/2024	Technical Memorandum due to TWDB
05/2024	RWPG Meeting
03/2025	Initially Prepared Plan due to TWDB
10/2025	RWP due to TWDB

Agenda Item 7a

2026 RWP Schedule



- Upcoming RWPG Activities and Committee Meetings
 - Final Tech Memo submittal
 - Existing supply refinements
 - WMS analyses
 - Nominating Committee meeting
 - 2021 RWP Amendment



Agenda Item 7b

Receive update from liaisons to other planning groups.

Agenda Item 7b Liaison Updates



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

- February 2024
Gulf Coast Water Conservation
Symposium
- March 2024
TIEEP Water Forum



Agenda Item 7d

Agency communications and general information.

From: RegionalWaterPlanning <RegionalWaterPlanning@twdb.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 2:53 PM
To: RegionalWaterPlanning
Cc: OOP-WSP-RWP; Katie Dahlberg; Temple McKinnon; Matt Nelson
Subject: Updated process for TWDB issued socioeconomic analysis reports

Good afternoon,

Historically, the TWDB has conducted the analysis of the socioeconomic impacts of not meeting the identified water needs in accordance with [31 TAC §357.40\(a\)](#). In past planning cycles, the TWDB has required that RWPGs take action and submit a formal request in order for the TWDB to conduct the analysis on behalf of the planning group.

For this planning cycle, the TWDB will be proactively conducting the socioeconomic impact analysis and issuing a report for each region. Regions do **not** have to take action or submit a request to receive a socioeconomic impact report from the TWDB. Each region, however, still has the discretion to conduct their own analysis, in lieu of using TWDB's report.


TWDB *anticipates* releasing the socioeconomic reports to RWPGs in August 2025 for inclusion in the final 2026 Regional Water Plans. Since the reports will not be available for inclusion in the Initially Prepared Plans, the Initially Prepared Plans may include language stating that the report will be included in the final plan.

Please reach out to your TWDB Regional Water Planner with any questions.

This email has been sent to RWPG chairs, sponsors, 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





Texas Water Fund Issues for Consideration and Request for Feedback

Response requested by April 30, 2024

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is seeking public input to assist in implementing the [Texas Water Fund](#), a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund to be administered by the TWDB.

Administrative rules are not required to implement the Texas Water Fund itself; however, stakeholder feedback is requested to inform funding priorities as well as the administration of the programs to which funds may be transferred. Formal rulemaking for the water loss technical assistance program required by [Senate Bill 28](#) has already taken place.

Other [rulemaking](#) related to the Texas Water Fund may include:

- Minor changes to the Rural Water Assistance Fund rules in 31 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 365
- Minor changes to financial assistance rules in 31 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 363
- New rules for the New Water Supply for Texas Fund, as a new subchapter in 31 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 363

The TWDB is seeking stakeholder input via three survey instruments:

- [Texas Water Fund Survey 1: Financial Assistance for Water Infrastructure Projects](#)
- [Texas Water Fund Survey 2: New Water Supply Fund for Texas](#)
- [Texas Water Fund Survey 3: Statewide Water Public Awareness Program](#)

The information requested in these surveys is intended to solicit general and specific feedback that will inform formal rulemaking and other implementation efforts. Written feedback may also be submitted to TexasWaterFund@twdb.texas.gov. Information provided in the surveys or submitted via email is requested by April 30, 2024.

In addition to the surveys, we will be inviting public comment on the Texas Water Fund at TWDB Board meetings through March and providing information at upcoming [financial assistance workshops](#) around the state. We will also be hosting a stakeholder meeting in Austin in March and a stakeholder Board meeting in Lubbock in April. See the [Proposition 6 and Texas Water Fund Frequently Asked Questions and Implementation Timeline](#) for details as they become available.

We invite you to join us in these discussions and look forward to hearing from you over the coming months.

Proposition 6 and Texas Water Fund Frequently Asked Questions and Implementation Timeline

January 2024

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q: What is the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)?

A: The mission of the Texas Water Development Board is to lead the state's efforts in ensuring a secure water future for Texas. Our mission is a vital part of Texas' overall vision and the state's mission and goals that relate to maintaining the viability of the state's natural resources, health, and economic development.

The TWDB's main responsibilities are threefold: collecting and disseminating water-related data; assisting with regional water supply and flood planning that contributes to preparing the state water plan and state flood plan; and administering cost-effective financial programs for constructing water supply, wastewater treatment, flood control, and agricultural water conservation projects.

Since 1957, the TWDB has been charged with addressing the state's water needs. The TWDB works to ensure Texans have access to sufficient, clean, and affordable water supplies that foster a healthy economy and environment.

2. Q: What is the Texas Water Fund?

A: In 2023, the 88th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 28 and Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 75 providing for the creation of the Texas Water Fund. In addition, SB 30 authorized a one-time, \$1 billion supplemental appropriation of general revenue to the Texas Water Fund, contingent on enactment of SB 28 and approval of SJR 75 by voters. Proposition 6 (the proposition for SJR 75), creating the Texas Water Fund to assist in financing water projects in Texas, passed on November 7, 2023, with more than 77 percent in favor.

The Texas Water Fund will be a special fund created in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund to be administered by the TWDB. SB 28 directs that the TWDB may only use the Texas Water Fund to transfer money to the following funds or accounts administered by the TWDB:

- The **New Water Supply for Texas Fund**, a new fund created by SB 28.
- The **State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT)** and the State Water Implementation Revenue Fund for Texas, which support the [SWIFT financial assistance program](#) that provides low-cost financing for projects in the state water plan.

- The [Clean Water or Drinking Water State Revolving Funds](#), existing financial assistance programs that provide low-cost financial assistance for planning, acquisition, design, and construction of water, wastewater, reuse, and stormwater infrastructure.
- The [Rural Water Assistance Fund](#), an existing financial assistance program designed to assist small rural utilities in obtaining low-cost financing for water and wastewater projects.
- The **statewide water public awareness account**, a newly created account that will direct funds toward a statewide public awareness program.
- The [Texas Water Development Fund II water financial assistance account](#), an existing program.
- The [Texas Water Development Fund II state participation account](#), an existing program that enables the TWDB to provide funding and assume a temporary ownership interest in a regional water, wastewater, or flood control project when the local sponsors are unable to assume debt for an optimally sized facility.

The statutory provisions relating to the Texas Water Fund take effect January 1, 2024.

Q: What are the Texas Legislature’s priorities for use of the Texas Water Fund?

A: Of the initial amount appropriated to the Texas Water Fund, the TWDB must allocate no less than 25 percent (\$250 million) to the New Water Supply for Texas Fund. The TWDB must also ensure that a portion of the money transferred from the fund is used for the following:

- water infrastructure projects, prioritized by risk or need, for rural political subdivisions and municipalities with a population of less than 150,000
- projects for which all required state or federal permitting has been substantially completed
- the statewide water public awareness program
- water conservation strategies
- water loss mitigation projects

Q: Where will the money for the Texas Water Fund come from and how will it be managed?

A: The legislature has authorized a one-time, \$1 billion appropriation of general revenue to the Texas Water Fund. Creating the fund outside the general revenue fund ensures that money in the Texas Water Fund will be dedicated for the same purpose in future state budget cycles.

Money in the Texas Water Fund will be held and invested by the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company, similar to how the SWIFT is currently managed. The TWDB may not transfer money to a fund or account until the application for the project for which the money is to be used has received a financial assistance commitment from the TWDB’s governing Board.

Q: What will the Texas Water Fund do for Texas, and why do we need it?

A: The Texas Water Fund will support the TWDB’s mission of leading the state's efforts in ensuring a secure water future for Texas. According to the 2022 State Water Plan, the population of Texas is projected to increase 73 percent between 2020 and 2070, from 29.7 million to 51.5 million. The Texas Water Fund will provide funding for loans and grants that help communities across the state implement water supply and wastewater projects through existing TWDB programs. It will also support the newly created New Water Supply for Texas Fund, which is designed to implement innovative water supply strategies such as marine and brackish water desalination; oil and gas produced water treatment projects; and aquifer storage and recovery projects.

The Texas Water Fund will help communities implement cost-effective water and wastewater projects through both new and existing TWDB programs. The costs associated with these types of projects can often make them difficult for some communities to implement. By providing low-cost, flexible financing options, the funding will provide the economic opportunity for communities to overcome cost hurdles.

Q. What can the Texas Water Fund not fund?

A. The Texas Water Fund is not able to transfer funds to the Economically Distressed Areas Program, the Flood Infrastructure Fund, or the Agricultural Water Conservation Fund.

Q. Is the Texas Water Fund a new financial assistance program?

A. The Texas Water Fund will not be a new program at the TWDB and cannot offer loans and/or grants directly. Rather, it will enable the TWDB to provide funding through existing financial assistance programs and the newly created New Water Supply Fund for Texas. Each program will have administrative rules, guidance documents, and in some cases an “Intended Use Plan” that will outline how the program will allocate and distribute funds.

Q. Will the Texas Water Fund allow for grants in addition to loans?

A. Money appropriated to the Texas Water Fund will be transferred to allowable program funds and accounts, as approved by the TWDB’s governing board. Once transferred, all statutory and rule requirements applicable to each program will apply. Programs that have authorization for grants (or principal forgiveness) include the Rural Water Assistance Fund, the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, and the newly created New Water Supply for Texas Fund. Some programs, such as the Texas Water Development Fund and SWIFT, do not offer grants due to statutory or constitutional limitations.

Q: What is the New Water Supply for Texas Fund?

A: The New Water Supply for Texas Fund is a special fund in the state treasury administered by the TWDB. The fund may be used for the following purposes:

- (1) To provide financial assistance to political subdivisions of the state to develop water supply projects that create new water sources for the state, including
 - desalination projects, including marine and brackish water desalination;
 - produced water treatment projects, other than projects that are only for purposes of oil and gas exploration;
 - aquifer storage and recovery projects; and
 - the development of infrastructure to transport water that is made available by these types of projects.

- (2) To make transfers to
 - the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas,
 - or the Texas Water Development Fund II.

- (3) To make transfers to the Texas Water Bank Account, which was established to facilitate the transfer, sale, or lease of water and water rights throughout the state, including purchasing, holding, and transferring water rights in the TWDB's name.

The TWDB is directed to undertake the financing of projects through the New Water Supply Fund for Texas that will lead to 7 million acre-feet of new water supplies by December 31, 2033.

Q: Does the New Water Supply Fund allow for public-private partnerships?

A: Yes, financial assistance may be provided from the New Water Supply Fund for a qualifying project under Chapter 2267, Government Code, which covers public-private partnerships. The project must comply with all requirements of that chapter of the Government Code. The applicant must be a political subdivision of the state of Texas.

Q: What is the Statewide Water Public Awareness Program?

A: SB 28 directs the TWDB to develop and implement a statewide water public awareness program to educate residents about water. The program will take into account the difference in water needs of various geographic regions of the state and will be designed to complement and support existing local and regional water education or awareness programs.

In early 2024, the TWDB plans to solicit applications leading to the possible award of contract(/s) to fund an existing or proposed statewide water public awareness program. Funding will be in the form of grants from the Texas Water Fund. We will also seek feedback on other TWDB-led initiatives to further public awareness of water.

Q: What is the water loss audit technical assistance program?

A: SB 28 directs the TWDB to establish a program that provides technical assistance to retail public utilities in conducting required water loss audits and in applying for financial assistance from the TWDB to mitigate the utility system's water loss. The TWDB adopted rules to establish

the program and provide for the prioritization of technical assistance to retail public utilities based on water loss audits submitted to the TWDB, the population served by the utility, and the integrity of the utility's system.

This directive will expand services provided by the Technical Assistance in Water Loss Control (TAWLC) program, currently in development, where TWDB staff will work with utilities one-on-one and conduct water loss data validation to improve the accuracy of their water loss data. Beginning in 2025, water loss audit validation will be required of all utilities receiving financial assistance from the TWDB or that will be applying for financial assistance.

Overall, these water loss technical assistance and data validation services will help to:

- provide robust technical assistance,
- yield more accurate data collection and dissemination,
- conserve state water resources,
- promote affordable water service for utility customers,
- guide water utilities on how to best address and fund water loss mitigation, and
- ensure that state financial resources are expended effectively.

Q: How will the program funds be disbursed?

A: The TWDB will prepare rules, and in some cases an Intended Use Plan (IUP), for each financial assistance program that is eligible to receive funds; these will outline the intended method for allocating funds for that program. Communities and other eligible entities will apply for financial assistance, and the TWDB will evaluate projects according to specific application requirements. Funds will be disbursed for projects that meet all requirements, rank within the amount of funds available, and receive a formal commitment from the TWDB's governing board.

Q: When will funding be available?

A: In the coming year, the TWDB will be seeking stakeholder input and exploring options to provide funding through eligible programs; please see the implementation timeline below.

In the meantime, entities may be eligible for [financial assistance](#) for water projects through other TWDB, state, or federal financial assistance programs. Please contact us for more details.

Q: How can I get involved in implementing the Texas Water Fund?

A: See the timeline below for opportunities to be involved in implementing the Texas Water Fund. Subscribe to our "General Information" and "Financial Assistance" [email lists](#) to receive the latest information on how you can participate.

Texas Water Fund Implementation Timeline

Financial assistance workshops listed below will include an overview of Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) financial assistance programs, information on the Texas Water Fund, as well as opportunities for discussion with the TWDB.

Projects from the [Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project Information Form State Fiscal Year 2025 solicitation](#) could be eligible to receive Texas Water Fund financial assistance. As such, TWDB encourages water and wastewater systems to submit Project Information Forms that include projects that meet Texas Water Fund priorities, specifically water conservation strategies and water loss mitigation projects, by March 1, 2024.

November 2023

- 7: Passage of Proposition 6 constitutional amendment

December 2023

- 15: [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund State Fiscal Year 2025 solicitation opens](#)

January 2024

- Release issues for stakeholder input, including electronic surveys
- 16: [Financial assistance workshop in Lumberton](#)
- 18: [Board meeting in Austin](#), including agenda item for Texas Water Fund stakeholder input
- 23: [Financial assistance workshop in Iowa Park](#)
- 25: [Financial assistance workshop in Valentine](#)

February 2024

- 1: [State Water Implementation Fund for Texas \(SWIFT\) program abridged applications due](#)
- 8: [Board meeting in Austin](#), including agenda item for Texas Water Fund stakeholder input
- 21: [Financial assistance workshop in Weslaco](#)

March 2024

- 1: [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project Information Forms due](#)
- 5: [Board meeting in Austin](#), including agenda item for Texas Water Fund stakeholder input
- Open Request for Applications for statewide water public awareness program
- Informal stakeholder meeting in Austin area with virtual option (date and location to be determined)
- Financial assistance workshops (dates and locations to be determined)

April 2024

- 10: Texas Water Fund stakeholder Board meeting in Lubbock
- 11: [Board meeting in Lubbock](#)
 - Earliest date for Board to consider approving Rural Water Assistance Fund rule proposal for publication
 - Earliest date for Board to consider approving Texas Water Development Fund rule proposal for publication
- Financial assistance workshops (dates and locations to be determined)
- Close stakeholder input period (date to be determined)

May 2024

- 9: [Board meeting in Austin](#)
 - Board to consider approving grant recipient for statewide water awareness program

Summer 2024

- Draft Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan/Project Priority List published for 30-day public comment period
- Earliest time for Board to consider approving New Water Supply for Texas Fund rule proposal for publication
- Earliest time for Board to consider approval of final Rural Water Assistance Fund rules
- Earliest time for Board to consider approval of final Texas Water Development Fund rules
- Contract in place for statewide water awareness program

Fall/Winter 2024

- Earliest time for Board to consider approval of final New Water Supply for Texas Fund rules
- Solicitation for New Water Supply Fund, Rural Water Assistance Fund, and Texas Water Development Fund financial assistance
- Adoption of Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plans
- Initial invitations to apply and review of project applications for Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund financial assistance

Spring 2025

- Initial Board consideration of New Water Supply for Texas Fund project financial assistance

From: [RegionalWaterPlanning](#)
To: [RegionalWaterPlanning](#)
Cc: [OOP-WSP-RWP](#); [Temple McKinnon](#); [Matt Nelson](#)
Subject: Regional Water Planning Newsletter - January 2024
Date: Thursday, January 25, 2024 4:40:11 PM

Regional Water Planning Newsletter – January 2024

Good afternoon RWPG Stakeholders,

Please see below the January newsletter with updates from the TWDB Regional Water Planning program.

Upcoming TWDB and other resources for RWPGs

TWDB staff have been continuing our work on developing a variety of resources to assist planning groups with plan development. These resources and anticipated release dates are noted below.

Rural outreach

The TWDB will provide two resources to assist RWPGs with their rural outreach efforts. These include a *County water supply planning information & resources document* for each county in Texas and list of rural entities that meet the criteria of being classified as rural based on Senate Bill 469, 88th Legislature.

The county water supply information document will include highlights from the 2021 Regional Water Plan such as water supply sources, water needs, and recommended strategies within that county, a list of municipal water user groups, including which are considered rural, and a list of potentially vulnerable systems. TWDB anticipates releasing these materials by February 2024.

Conservation resources

Conservation resources to be released this spring include a conservation resource guide that will provide information on how to access conservation resources and how they can be used to support regional water plan development. The resource guide will discuss how data such as water use surveys, water loss audits, water conservation plans, and conservation plan annual reports can be used to support the evaluation of conservation strategies and the development of the conservation subchapter of the plan. Supporting conservation data such as GPCDs and water loss audit data will be released on dashboard platforms, allowing planning groups to view and download the data at their convenience.

Drought resources

TWDB staff continues to coordinate with the Drought Preparedness Council (DPC) to ensure that the DPC provides timely recommendations to planning groups for consideration in the 2026 Regional Water Plans. It is anticipated that the DPC will provide their recommendations to planning groups in the Spring.

TWDB coordinated with the TCEQ to develop a list of entities that are required to submit drought contingency plans to the TCEQ. This list was provided to planning groups this week and is intended to assist planning groups with the requirement in [31 TAC §357.34](#) to describe drought management measures for each water user groups which is required to submit a drought contingency plan to the TCEQ.

TWDB staff is updating the drought management costing tool for use this cycle and the anticipated release date for the updated tool is March 2024.

Uniform costing model

TWDB is under contract with HDR, Inc to update the uniform costing model for use this planning cycle. This spreadsheet-based tool is required to be used by planning groups to estimate the cost of water management strategy projects if project-specific costing information is not available. The updated tool will be finalized in March 2024 and made available to planning groups.

Amendment guidance

The TWDB has recently updated the guidance document [Amending an Approved Regional Water Plan](#). Planning groups pursuing a plan amendment should refer to this document which includes details on the process that planning groups must follow for each type of plan amendment (substitution, minor, or major). The updated guidance also provides additional details on the proposed and final materials that must be developed and submitted to the TWDB.

Interregional Planning Council

The Interregional Planning Council (Council) will hold its next meeting on February 8, 2024. The Council's report to the TWDB is due March 4, 2024, and the Council will consider adopting the report at the February meeting. Information on upcoming meetings and resources, including meeting agendas and a draft report can be found on the [Council website](#).

Marvin Nichols Reservoir feasibility review

Pursuant to House Bill 1, 88th Regular Session, the TWDB is conducting a project feasibility review of the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir project to be located on the Sulphur River and upstream of the confluence of the White Oak Creek in Franklin, Titus, and Red River counties. This feasibility review will analyze the implementation timeline, associated costs, land acquisition considerations, and economic impact of the proposed project. A report regarding the findings of this review will be prepared and submitted by the TWDB to the Legislative Budget Board and governor no later than January 5, 2025.

Following a public input period that closed December 1, 2023, the TWDB is reviewing submitted material and drafting the feasibility review report. A draft feasibility review report will be posted on the [TWDB website](#) for public comment once available.

Texas Water Fund updates

The TWDB is seeking public input to assist in implementing the Texas Water Fund, a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund to be administered by the TWDB.

TWDB is seeking input through April 30, 2024 via three surveys available [online](#) and written feedback via email (TexasWaterFund@twdb.texas.gov). In addition to the surveys, TWDB will be accepting public comment on the Texas Water Fund at TWDB Board meetings through March and stakeholder meetings in March and April. More information is available in the [Proposition 6 and Texas Water Fund Frequently Asked Questions and Implementation Timeline](#).

State Revolving Fund applicants with water conservation and water loss mitigation projects are specifically encouraged to apply by March 1, 2024, as noted in the FAQ document linked above.

Other TWDB program updates

Agricultural Water Conservation grants

TWDB will be accepting applications for the Agricultural Water Conservation Program through April 3, 2024. The TWDB plans to award up to \$1.5 million in grants from the Agricultural Water Conservation Fund for fiscal year 2024 funds. More information on eligible projects and the application process may be found [online](#). In order to be eligible for Agricultural Water Conservation grant funding, the application must demonstrate that the grant will assist in the implementation of a water conservation water management strategy identified in the most recent approved regional water plan or state water plan, in accordance with [31 TAC §367.5\(a\)\(11\)](#).

Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System (BRACS)

TWDB's [2023 Annual Report to the 88th Texas Legislature on Brackish Groundwater Production Zone Designation](#) provides a summary of the status of brackish aquifer studies and brackish groundwater production zone designations. In the past year, TWDB completed brackish aquifer studies for the [East Sparta Aquifer](#) and the southern portion of the [Trinity Aquifer](#). Report summaries are posted at the top of each study webpage.

TWDB is currently working on brackish aquifer studies for the [Edwards-Trinity \(Plateau\)](#), [Woodbine](#), and [Eastern Carrizo-Wilcox and Queen City](#) aquifers.

Once a brackish aquifer study to determine the extent and volume of brackish groundwater in an aquifer is completed, work begins on [brackish groundwater production zone](#) designations. The TWDB plans to hold a stakeholder meeting to introduce proposed zones in the southern portion of the Trinity Aquifer this winter.

SWIFT 2024 funding cycle

Abridged applications for [SWIFT 2024 funding cycle](#) are due to the TWDB by February 1, 2024. To be eligible for SWIFT program financial assistance, projects must be recommended in the 2022 State Water Plan.

Water Loss, Use, and Conservation webinars

TWDB's Technical Assistance for Water Loss Control program is providing water loss, use, and conservation webinar opportunities through March 2024. More information about the webinars and registration are available [online](#).

Water Use Survey

The annual Water Use Survey is open through March 1, 2024. Recipients of the survey are required to complete the survey in accordance with Chapter 16 of the Texas Water Code. More information is available [online](#).

Texas Water Service Boundary Viewer (TWSBV) editor

The TWSBV is open for editing through July 1, 2024. The TWSBV is a statewide public water system service area mapping application that strives to collect and provide the most up-to-date and best data available on the water service areas for all community PWS within Texas. More information is available [online](#).

Reminders and previous updates:

- The Technical Memorandum, a mid-point contract deliverable, is due to the TWDB **March 4, 2024**. Deliverable content requirements are outlined in [Exhibit C, Section 2.12.1](#). Technical Memorandums must include all required components to be considered administratively complete.
- The 2026 Regional Water Plan Working Schedule was updated in March 2023 and is available [online](#).
- The regional and state water planning rules pamphlet – that conveniently condenses all the key water planning statute and rules for use by RWPGs, Sponsors, and their Consultants - was updated as of May 2022 and is available [online](#).
- Visit the TWDB's *Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Planning Documents* webpage to view communications from TWDB during this planning cycle, project documents including a working schedule, contract documents, and administrative documents. These documents may be found [online](#).
- Visit the TWDB's [Regional Water Planning Educational Information webpage](#) to view educational documents related to regional and state planning.
- The TWDB receives and maintains a database of all the RWPG member email addresses from the region's sponsor. Sponsors should provide any updated email addresses to your TWDB Regional Water Planner to ensure our membership database is up to date and that all RWPG members receive these newsletters etc. For regions that have members without email addresses, please forward these communications to those members by mail or another effective means.

Contact TWDB RWP staff:

Please contact the TWDB's Regional Water Planning staff for additional information:

- Sarah Lee (Manager): Sarah.Lee@twdb.texas.gov
- Ron Ellis (Team Lead/Planner for Region D): Ron.Ellis@twdb.texas.gov
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- Lann Bookout (Planner for Regions J, I, K): Lann.Bookout@twdb.texas.gov
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- Heather Rose (Planner for Regions E, F, H): Heather.Rose@twdb.texas.gov
- Michele Foss (Planner for Regions A, L, N): Michele.Foss@twdb.texas.gov
- John Maurer (Planner for Regions G, O, P): John.Maurer@twdb.texas.gov

For more information regarding the TWDB Regional Water Planning Program, please visit [our website](#).

Note: This email was sent to all RWPG members, sponsors, and technical consultants. A copy of this newsletter will be posted on the regional water planning newsletter [webpage](#).

Best,

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