REGION H
Water Planning Group

MEETING MATERIALS

August 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
August 7, 2024
San Jacinto River Authority Office
1577 Dam Site Rd, Conroe, Texas 77304

NOTICE TO PUBLIC
Notice of Minor Amendment to the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan

The Region H Water Planning Group (RHWPG) will consider adoption of a minor amendment to the 2021 Region H Water Plan (RWP) as included in item 5 of the attached agenda. The purpose of the amendment is to incorporate the planned Baytown East Surface Water Treatment Plant Expansion into the RWP. The proposed amendment has been determined by the Texas Water Development Board to constitute a minor amendment and will be discussed and acted upon during a public meeting of the RHWPG. An electronic copy of the proposed amendment to the Regional Water Plan is available on the Region H website at http://www.regionhwater.org/. 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 August 7, 2024 RHWPG meeting for inclusion with the submitted amendment package. 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.

AGENDA

1. Call to order.
2. Introductions.
3. Review and approve minutes of the May 1, 2024 meeting.
4. **Receive public comments on specific issues related to agenda items 5 through 7**. (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
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 Baytown East Surface Water Treatment Plant Expansion.
    b. Consider taking action to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan to incorporate the proposed Baytown East Surface Water Treatment Plant Expansion.
    c. Receive presentation from Consultant Team regarding the proposed application by the City of Houston to amend the 2021 Region H RWP and consider approving the submittal of the application package to TWDB for the determination of minor amendment status.
6. Plan Development and Administration
    a. Receive update on changes to the planning process for sixth cycle of RWP development.
    b. Receive update from Water Management Strategy Committee and Consultant Team regarding the status of investigation of water supply alternatives and other analyses for the 2026 Region H RWP.
    c. Receive update on the 89th Texas Legislature and the discuss potential legislative and policy issues and recommendations for the 2026 Region H RWP.
    d. Discuss the Region H Legislative Committee for the 2026 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: November 6, 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 May 1, 2024 meeting.

REGION H
Water Planning Group

REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
MAY 1, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bailey, John Bartos, Arthur Bredehoft, Brad Brunett, Carl Burch, Jun Chang, Mark Evans, Robert Istre, Ken Kramer, Marvin Marcell, Alisa Max, Mike O'Connell, Byron Ryder, Loyd Smith, Michael Turco, Brandon Wade, Cynthia Wagener, and Kevin Ward.

NEWLY APPOINTED MEMBERS: Greg Eyerly, Jason Garrard, and Aubrey Spear.

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Sarah Kouba for Gary Ashmore.

MEMBERS ABSENT: WR Baker, Caleb Cooper, Ivan Langford, and Danny Pierce.

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1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Max introduced Mr. John Lacy, who will serve as her designated alternate.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 7, 2024 MEETING

Mr. Bredehoft made a motion to approve the minutes of February 7, 2024. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turco and carried unanimously.

4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 8

There were no comments.

5. PLANNING GROUP MEMBERSHIP

a. Accept the resignations of Yvonne Forrest, Jace Houston, and Glenn Lord as voting members of the Region H Water Planning Group (RHWPG) and declare vacant positions for voting members representing Municipalities, River Authorities, and Industries

Mr. Bartos made a motion to accept the resignations of Yvonne Forrest, Jace Houston, and Glenn Lord as voting members of the Region H Water Planning Group and declare the positions vacant for voting members representing Municipalities, River Authorities, and Industries. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ward and carried unanimously.

b. Receive Nominating Committee report

Mr. Chang, Chair of the Nominating Committee, stated the vacated positions were posted according to the By Laws and nominations were received. He explained that the committee met prior to this meeting to review the nominations. He stated that the committee recommended Aubery A. Spear to fill the vacancy for River Authorities with term expiring in 2028; Greg Eyerly to fill the vacancy for Municipalities with term expiring in 2026; and Jason Garrard to fill the vacancy for Industries with term expiring in 2028.

c. Discuss and consider taking action to approve members to fill vacancies on the RHWPG

Mr. Smith made a motion to accept and approve Mr. Aubrey Spear, Mr. Greg Eyerly, and Mr. Jason Garrard to fill the vacancies for River Authorities, Municipalities, and Industries, respectively. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bredehoft and carried unanimously.

d. Discuss and consider taking action to elect officers and members of the Executive Committee of the RHWPG

Mr. Evans explained the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and two Members At-Large make up the Executive Committee. Mr. Chang stated that the Nominating Committee deliberated and recommended the following members to serve on the Executive Committee:

Mr. Mark Evans – Chair
Mr. Marvin Marcell – Vice-Chair
Mr. John Bartos – Secretary
Mr. David Bailey – At Large Member, representing GMA 12
Mr. Arthur Bredehoft – At-Large Member, representing Water Utilities

Mr. Ward made a motion to approve the members as stated. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ryder and carried unanimously.

6. SPECIAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

a. Receive presentation from the Consultant Team regarding the proposed application by the City of Montgomery to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan (RWP) and consider approving the submittal of the application package to Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the determination of minor amendment status

Mr. Taucer explained that the City of Montgomery submitted an application to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan which included a new water plant with storage capacity and an expanded groundwater production capacity which would support the future needs of customers. He opined that the proposal should be a minor amendment which would impact the executive summary, the text and summary tables in Chapter 3 – Existing Supplies; text, strategy, project, cost tables, project technical memorandum, and Appendix DB in Chapter 5 – Water Management Strategies; and other various text, tables and figures from Chapters 6, 9, and 11. Mr. Bredehoft made a motion to approve the submittal of the application package to the Texas Water Development

Board for the determination of minor amendment status. The motion was seconded by Ms. Max and carried with all present, voting aye.

b. Receive update on the Interregional Planning Council Report to TWDB

Mr. Kramer requested a presentation of the Interregional Planning Council Report to TWDB. Ms. Rose of TWDB presented various aspects of the report including three statutory charges, recommendations to the legislature, recommendations to TWDB, and recommendations to future Interregional Planning Councils.

7. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

a. Receive update from the Consultant Team regarding technical analyses for the 2026 Region H RWP

Mr. Taucer explained the various refinements to the post technical memo, specifically related to MAG peak factors, non-MAG groundwater availability, Brazos Basin Surface water, Lake Livingston availability, new WUGs, contracts, infrastructure capacity limits, and GRP infrastructure. Mr. Wade reiterated his continued concern related to the Brazos Alluvium.

b. Receive update from the Consultant Team regarding the status of water conservation plan and drought contingency plan submittals

Mr. Taucer provided an update related to the water conservation and drought contingency plans, which are due May 1, 2024. He stated that Region H has received numerous submittals and explained the importance of same.

c. Review and consider taking action to amend the budget for the development of the 2026 Region H RWP

Mr. Taucer explained the necessity for the budget amendment which increases Task 2A, Population Demand, by $15,800; Task 2B, Non-Population Demand, by $60,000; and Task 3, Supply, by $80,434. He reiterated that there is no overall increase to the budget, only the reallocation of funds to Tasks 2A, 2B, and C, as stated above. Mr. Bredehoft made a motion to amend the budget for the development of the 2026 Region H RWP, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kramer and carried unanimously.

8. GENERAL UPDATES AND OUTREACH

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

Mr. Taucer provided an update related to the development of the 2026 Region H RWP, announcing upcoming due dates for several scheduled events and tasks, such as existing supply refinements, socioeconomic impacts analysis, WMS analyses, and conservation and drought activities summaries.

b. Receive update from liaisons to other planning groups

Mr. Wade resigned his position on the Region 6 Flood Planning Group and recommended the appointment of Alisa Max who is willing to serve on same.

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

Mr. Taucer discussed the various meetings attended in the last few months as well as upcoming outreach efforts.

d. Receive update from TWDB

Ms. Rose provided updates from TWDB related to the Conservation Resources Guide for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans, Water Use Survey, Water Conservation Plans, Annual Reports, Water Loss Audits, Texas Water Service Boundary Viewer, and the Conservation Information Dashboard for Water Supply Planning.

e. Other agency communications and general information

Mr. Bartos introduced Mr. Marty Kelly and Ms. Monica Polgar of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Mr. Erich Peterson, General Manager of The Woodlands Water Agency discussed the One Water Task Force. Mr. Spear discussed his representation on the Water Conservation Advisory Council.

9. Receive public comments.

There were no comments.

10. Next Meeting: August 7, 2024.

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

11. Adjourn.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

Agenda Item 5a

Receive presentation on and discuss a proposal to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan (RWP) related to the Baytown East Surface Water Treatment Plant Expansion.

REGION H
Water Planning Group

Agenda Item 5a
Proposed Amendment

- Purpose
  - Expanded surface water treatment capacity
  - Support current and future needs of customers
- Development
  - Expansion on current facility site
  - Existing rights / contracts
  - Limited disturbance
- Components
  - Treatment units
  - Storage

Agenda Item 5a
Proposed Amendment

Project Profile	
Project Name:	BAWA East SWTP Expansion
Project ID:	TRET-008
Project Type:	Existing Surface Water Source
Potential Supply Quantity:	6,720 ac-ft/yr (6 MGD)
Implementation Decade:	2030
Development Timeline:	2 years
Project Capital Cost:	$51,112,545 (Sept. 2018)
Unit Water Cost:	$714 per ac-ft (during loan period) $179 per ac-ft (after loan period)

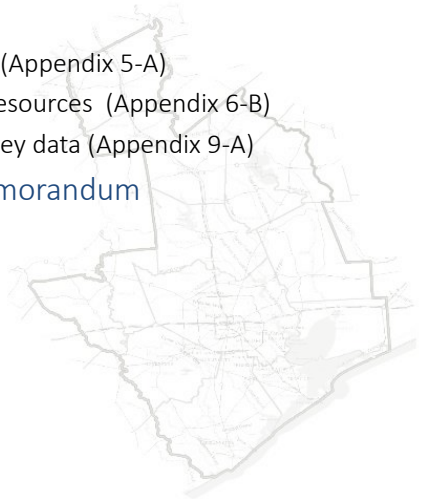
Agenda Item 5a
Proposed Amendment

Volume 1

- Tables
  - Potentially Feasible WMS & Projects
  - Key Project Overview
  - Key Recommended WMS and Projects
  - WMS and Project Relationship
  - Regionalization summary
- Figures
  - Existing supply and allocation
  - WMS allocation
  - Project and WMS count
  - Project cost
- Text - Minor adjustments for above topics

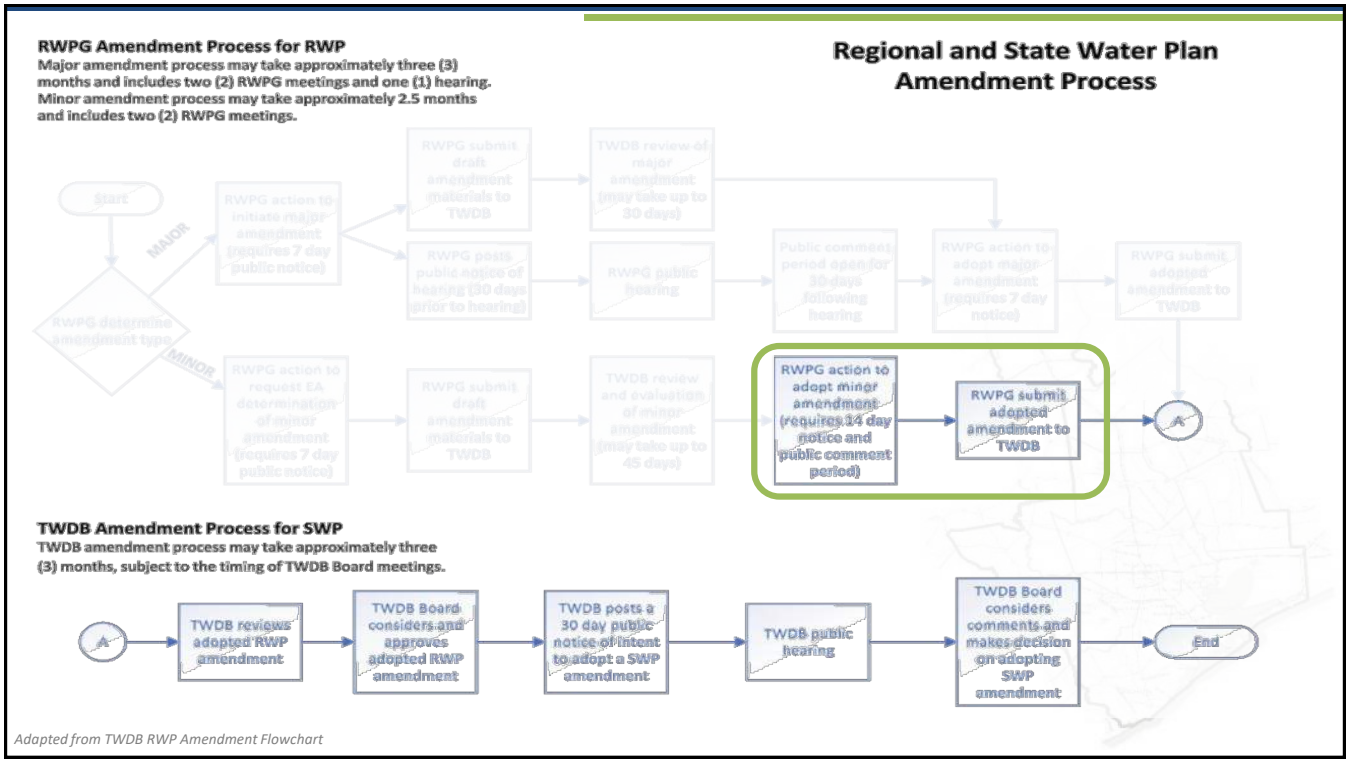
Volume 2

- Tables
  - WMS tables (Appendix 5-A)
  - Impacts to resources (Appendix 6-B)
  - Finance survey data (Appendix 9-A)
- Technical Memorandum
- DB22 data



Agenda Item 5a
Proposed Amendment

May 2022	• RWPG approves for major/minor determination
May 2024	• Draft packet submitted to TWDB
Jul 2024	• TWDB confirms minor amendment status
Jul/Aug 2024	• Public comment period
Today	• Review comments and consider adoption



Adapted from TWDB RWP Amendment Flowchart

Agenda Item 5a
Proposed Amendment

Written Public Comments

TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

P.O. Box 13231, 1700 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78711-3231, www.twdb.texas.gov
Phone (512) 463-7847, Fax (512) 475-2053

June 24, 2024

Mr. Mark Evans
Chair
Region H Regional Water Planning Group
c/o San Jacinto River Authority
P.O. Box 329, Conroe, Texas 77305

Dear Chairman Evans:

I have reviewed Region H's request for a minor amendment determination. Based on the request and supporting materials, I have determined that amending the Region H 2021 Regional Water Plan (RWP) to include the Baytown Area Water Authority East Surface Water Treatment Plant Expansion water management strategy and associated project constitutes a minor amendment under 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §357.51(c).

If the Region H Regional Water Planning Group adopts the proposed minor amendment, the planning group will need to submit the following to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB):

1. Documentation of the planning group action adopting this minor amendment in the form of a cover letter.
2. A final version of the 2021 Region H RWP amendment.

Please note that the final amendment to the 2021 Region H RWP must include the following:

1. A copy of the updated state water planning database (DB22) reports relevant to the amendment (provided by the TWDB).
2. A summary of any public comments received on the proposed amendment and the region's response to the public comments.

After receipt of all required information, the TWDB Board will consider approving the Region H amendment at a regularly scheduled meeting, and then may amend the 2022 State Water Plan, as appropriate.

If Region H makes any substantive changes to the project components or configuration during the minor amendment process, the TWDB will need to review the modified proposed amendment to ensure that any other changes still meet all of the criteria under 31 TAC §357.51(c).

If you have any questions concerning this determination, please contact Heather Rose of our Regional Water Planning staff at 512-475-1558 or heather.rose@twdb.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Bryan McMath Digitally signed by Bryan McMath Date: 2024.07.08 16:27:52 -05'00'

Bryan McMath
Interim Executive Administrator

c: Aubrey Spear, San Jacinto River Authority
Philip Taucer, Freese and Nichols, Inc
Sarah Lee, Water Supply Planning
Heather Rose, Water Supply Planning

Agenda Item 5b

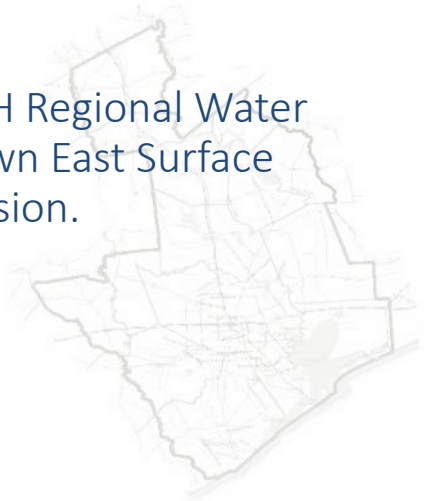
Consider taking action to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan to incorporate the proposed Baytown East Surface Water Treatment Plant Expansion.

REGION H
Water Planning Group

Agenda Item 5b
Amendment Approval

Action:

Approve amendment of the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan to incorporate the proposed Baytown East Surface Water Treatment Plant Expansion.



Agenda Item 5c

Receive presentation from Consultant Team regarding the proposed application by the City of Houston to amend the 2021 Region H RWP and consider approving the submittal of the application package to TWDB for the determination of minor amendment status.

REGION H
Water Planning Group

Agenda Item 5c
Proposed Minor Amendment Determination

- Proposed by City of Houston
  - Expanded treatment capacity in COH system
  - At existing facility site
  - Support current and future needs of customers
- Anticipated minor amendment
  - New WMS Project
  - Supports recommended strategies

Agenda Item 5c
Proposed Minor Amendment Determination

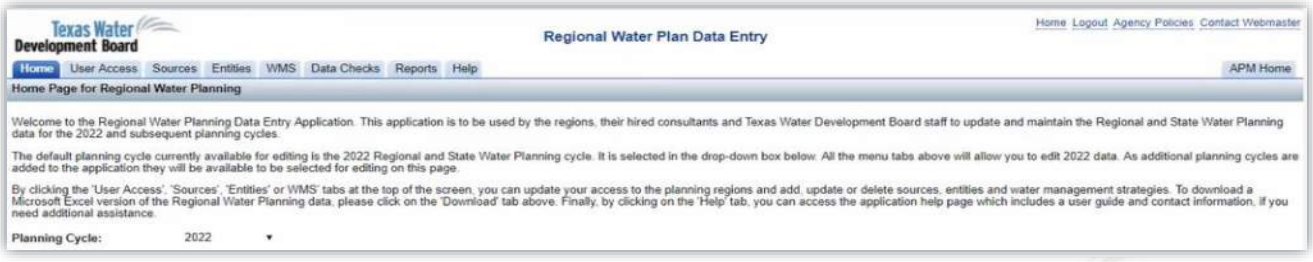
- Executive Summary
- Chapter 5 – Water Management Strategies
  - Revisions to text
  - WMS and Key Project tables
  - Cost figure(s)
  - Appendix 5-A: WMS tables
  - Appendix 5-B: Technical memorandum

Agenda Item 5c
Proposed Minor Amendment Determination

- Chapter 6 – Impacts of the RWP
  - Revisions to text
  - WMS and Key Project tables
  - Appendix 6-B: Impacts to Resources
- Chapter 9 – Financing
  - Revisions to text
  - All tables and figures
  - Appendix 9-A: Tabulated Survey Results

Agenda Item 5c
Proposed Minor Amendment Determination

- Chapter 11 – Implementation and Comparison
  - Revisions to text
  - WMS figures and tables
  - Appendix 11-A: Implementation Report
- DB22 data entry



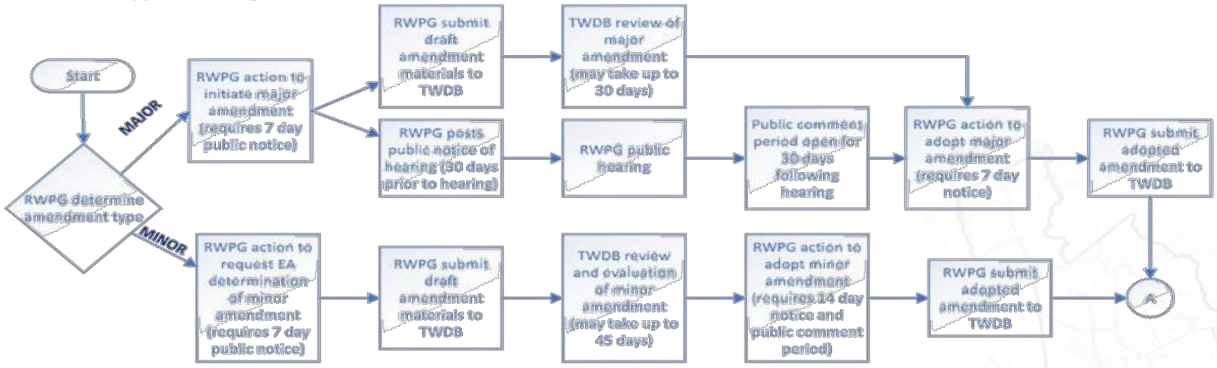
Agenda Item 5c
Proposed Minor Amendment Determination

1. RWPG considers concept for referral to TWDB
2. TWDB determines minor or major amendment status
3. Public process
4. RWPG considers approval of amendment
5. TWDB considers approval of amendment

RWPG Amendment Process for RWP

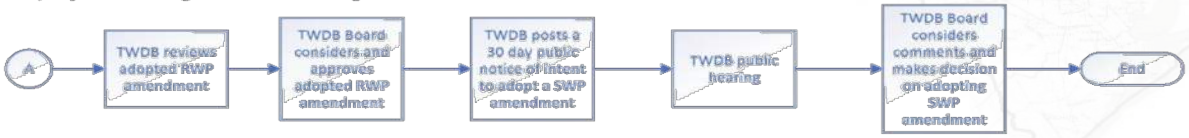
Major amendment process may take approximately three (3) months and includes two (2) RWPG meetings and one (1) hearing. Minor amendment process may take approximately 2.5 months and includes two (2) RWPG meetings.

Regional and State Water Plan Amendment Process



TWDB Amendment Process for SWP

TWDB amendment process may take approximately three (3) months, subject to the timing of TWDB Board meetings.



Adapted from TWDB RWP Amendment Flowchart

Agenda Item 5c
Proposed Minor Amendment Determination

Action:

Approve the submittal of the application package to TWDB for the determination of minor amendment status.

Agenda Item 6a

Receive update on changes to the planning process for sixth cycle of RWP development.

REGION H
Water Planning Group

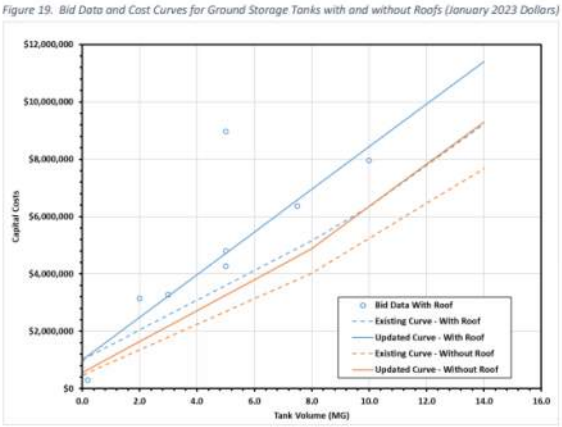
Agenda Item 6a
RWP Process

- Process headed in the same direction
- Many changes from 5th cycle
- Most are relatively small

Agenda Item 6a
RWP Process – WMS

- Demand Management
  - MUST include conservation measures
    - Have needs
    - Required to have WCP
  - Conservation differentiated by type
  - Document consideration of drought management *measures* for all entities required to have DCP
- ASR
  - Specific assessment where significant needs identified (RWPG defined)
  - Recovery %

Agenda Item 6a
RWP Process – WMS



- Documenting implementation status
  - Reservoirs
  - Seawater desal
  - Large DPR
  - Large Brackish GW
  - Large ASR
  - Out of state transfers
- Potentially Feasible for flood benefit
- New cost curves

Agenda Item 6a
RWP Process – Drought Response

- Documentation of
  - How RWPG plans for uncertainty
  - How planning for worse than DOR
  - Non-recommended measures available
- Reporting triggers and actions for existing supplies
- ID counterproductive responses

Agenda Item 6a
RWP Process – Implementation, Funding, and Outreach

- IFR moved to TWDB function
- Simplified implementation survey
- No more RWPG SWIFT prioritization
- Socioeconomic analysis post-IPP
- New rural outreach
- Increased coordination documentation

Agenda Item 6b

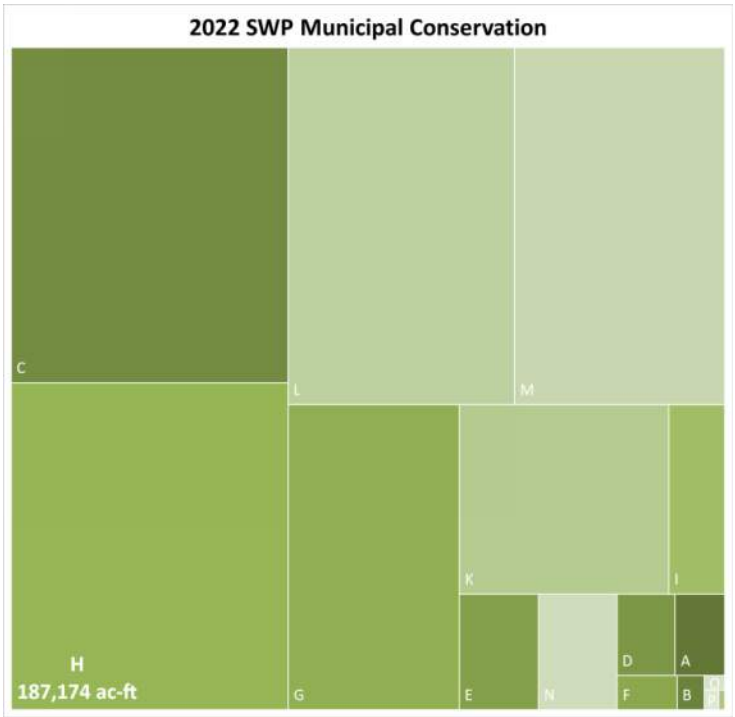
Receive update from Water Management Strategy Committee and Consultant Team regarding the status of investigation of water supply alternatives and other analyses for the 2026 Region H RWP.

REGION H
Water Planning Group

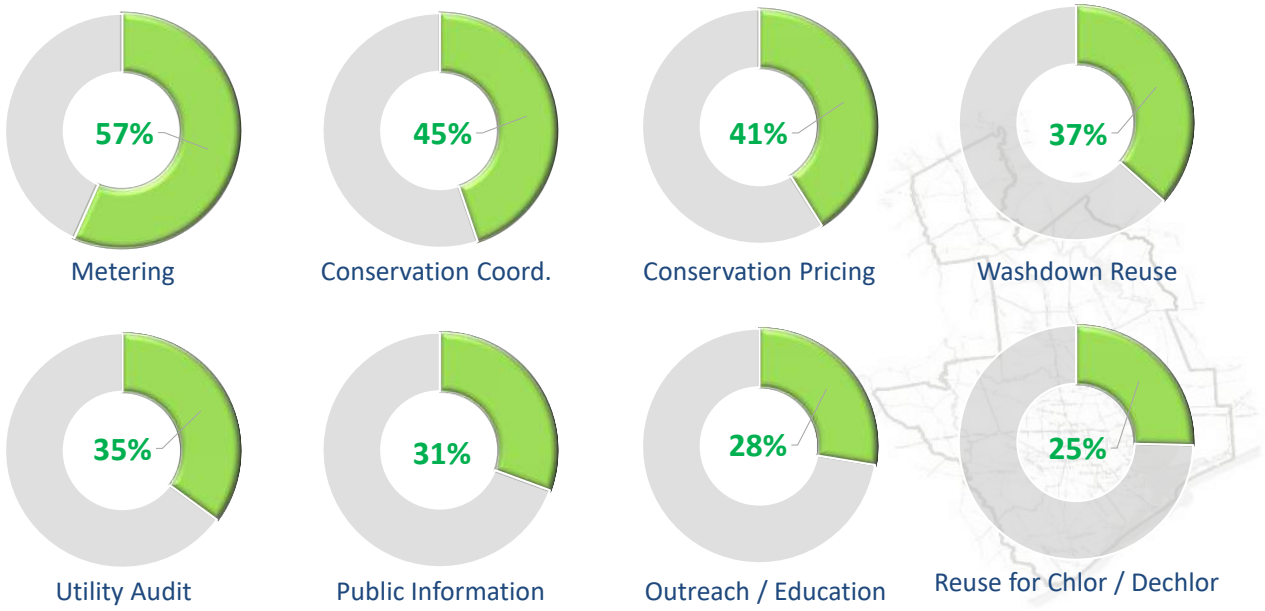
Demand Management:
Current State of the Region

Agenda Item 6b
Technical Analyses

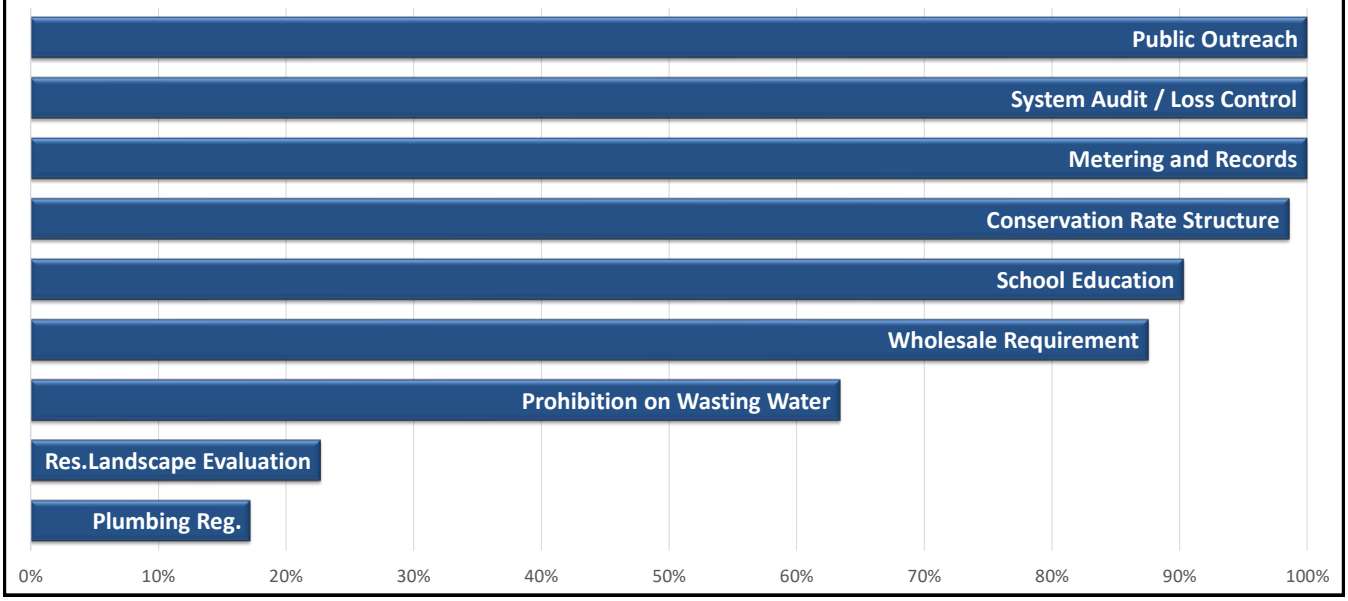
- Conservation Subchapter
- Current planning
- RWP recommendations
- Multiple references
  - 145 new WCPs
  - 52 survey responses
  - TWDB records



Agenda Item 6b
Technical Analyses – Conservation BMPs Implemented in 2022



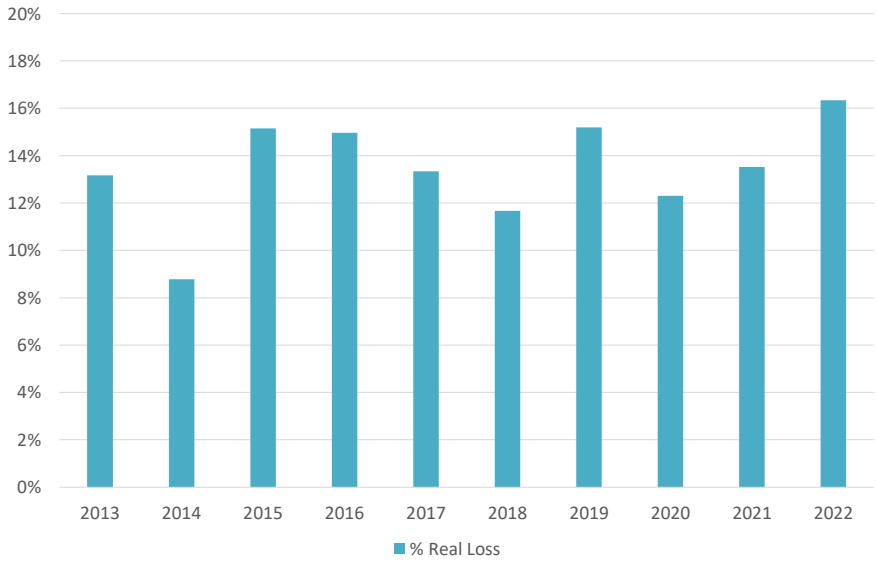
Agenda Item 6b
Technical Analyses – WCP Listed Measures



Agenda Item 6b
Technical Analyses – WCP 10-Year Goals

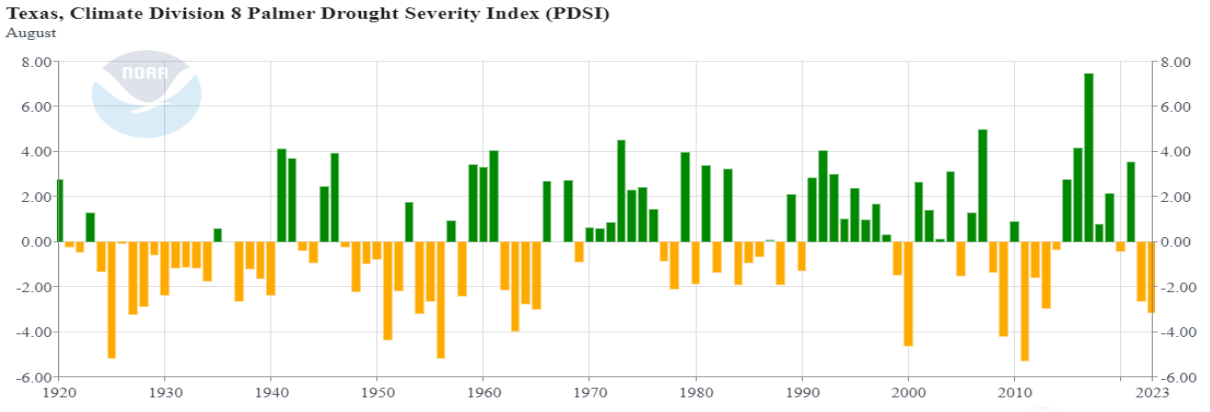
Goal Type	# of WCPs	Minimum	Average	Maximum
Target GPCD (GPCD)	103	38	133	750
Target Reduction (GPCD)	24	1	10	40
Water Loss Goal (%)	126	0%	6%	23%

Agenda Item 6b
Technical Analyses – Water Loss



Agenda Item 6b
Technical Analyses – Drought Planning

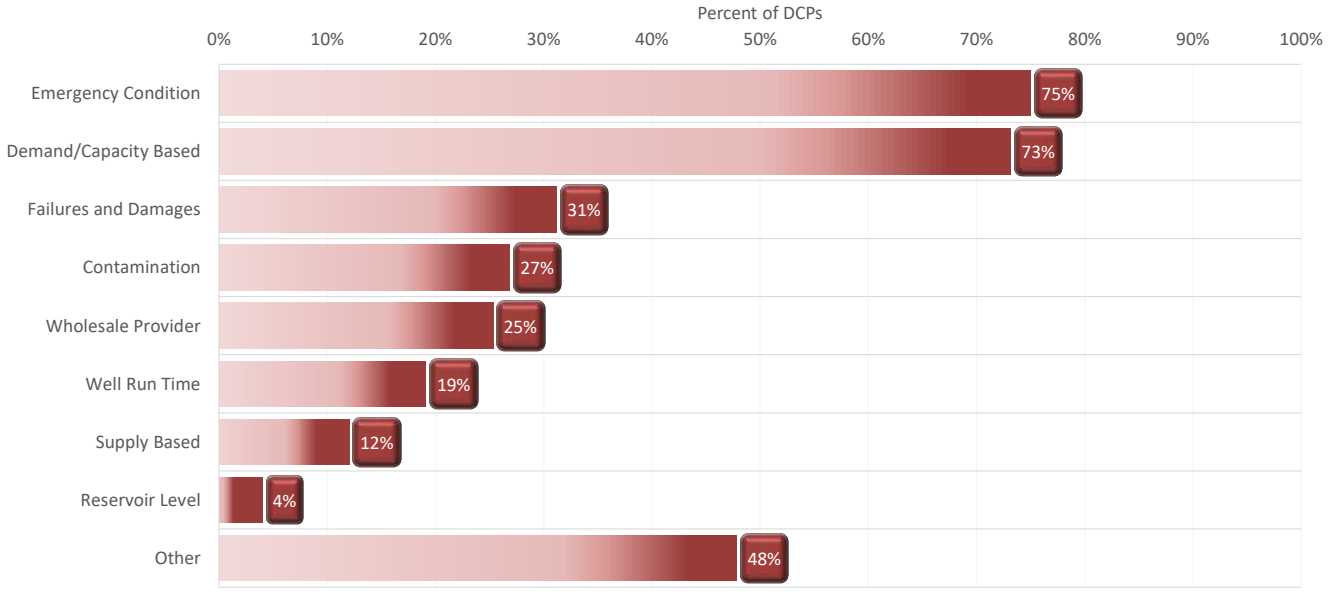
- Documented in RWP Chapter 7
  - Drought history
  - Current preparations
  - Recommendations
- Multiple references
  - 203 new DCPs
  - 52 survey responses
  - TCEQ drought records



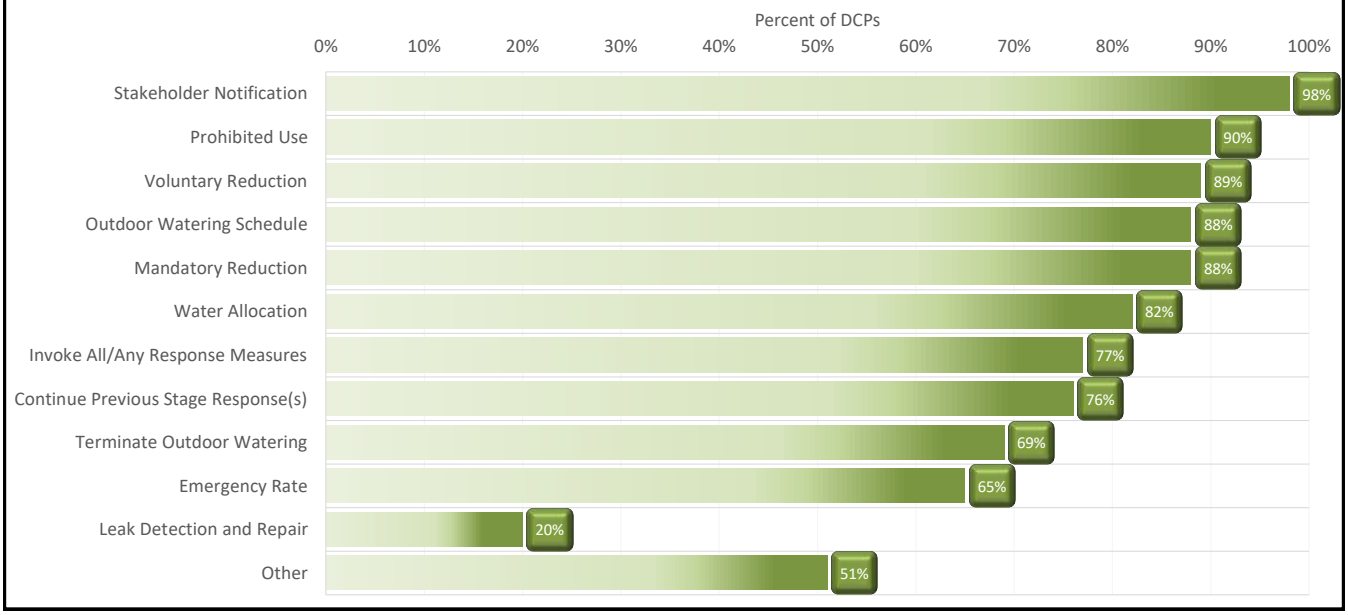
Agenda Item 6b
Technical Analyses – Drought Planning

- TCEQ requirement
  - PWS
  - Wholesale providers
  - Irrigation districts
  - Some water right holders
- Five-year cycle
- Most due May 1, 2024

Agenda Item 6b
Technical Analyses – DCP Triggers



Agenda Item 6b
Technical Analyses – DCP Responses



Demand Management:

Potential Water Management Strategies

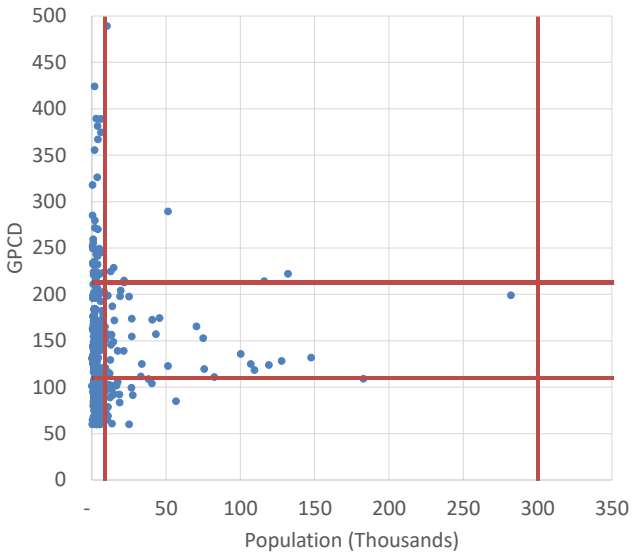
Agenda Item 6b
Technical Analyses – Recommendations

- RWPG supports vigorous conservation
- Conservation and Water Loss WMS
  - Reservoir-sized savings
  - Simple concept, complex reality
  - Evolving process

Agenda Item 6b
Technical Analyses – Advanced Municipal Conservation

Step 1: Update RHWG Tool

Step 2: Classify Entity Potential



Agenda Item 6b
Technical Analyses – Advanced Municipal Conservation

Step 3: Implementation Schedules

- Select conservation measures
  - What programs
  - How many users implementing
- Most aggressive for large utilities with high use
- Outdoor focus

Step 4: Math and More Math!

Mid Potential Large Utility		Percentage of SF Connections Participating Annually					
Single-Family Measures		2020-2029	2030-2039	2040-2049	2050-2059	2060-2069	2070
PRE-SF-01	HE Toilet Rebate						
PRE-SF-02	Bathroom Retrofit						
PRE-SF-03	Showerhead and Aerator Kit						
PRE-SF-04	Clothes Washer Rebate						
PRE-SF-05	Home Water Reports	1.00%	2.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
PRE-SF-06	Irrigation Audits - High Users	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
PRE-SF-07	High-Efficiency Sprinkler Nozzle Rebate	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
PRE-SF-08	Smart Irrigation Controller Rebate	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
PRE-SF-09	WaterWise Landscape Rebate	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
PRE-SF-10	Rainwater Harvesting Rebate	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
PRE-SF-11	Rain Barrel	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%

Mid Potential Large Utility		Percentage of MF Connections Participating Annually					
Multi-Family Measures		2020-2029	2030-2039	2040-2049	2050-2059	2060-2069	2070
PRE-MF-01	HE Toilet Rebate						
PRE-MF-02	Bathroom Retrofit						
PRE-MF-03	Showerhead and Aerator Kit						
PRE-MF-04	Clothes Washer Rebate						
PRE-MF-05	Irrigation Audits - High Users	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
PRE-MF-06	High-Efficiency Sprinkler Nozzle Rebate	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
PRE-MF-07	Smart Irrigation Controller Rebate	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
PRE-MF-08	WaterWise Landscape Rebate	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
PRE-MF-09	Rainwater Harvesting Rebate	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%

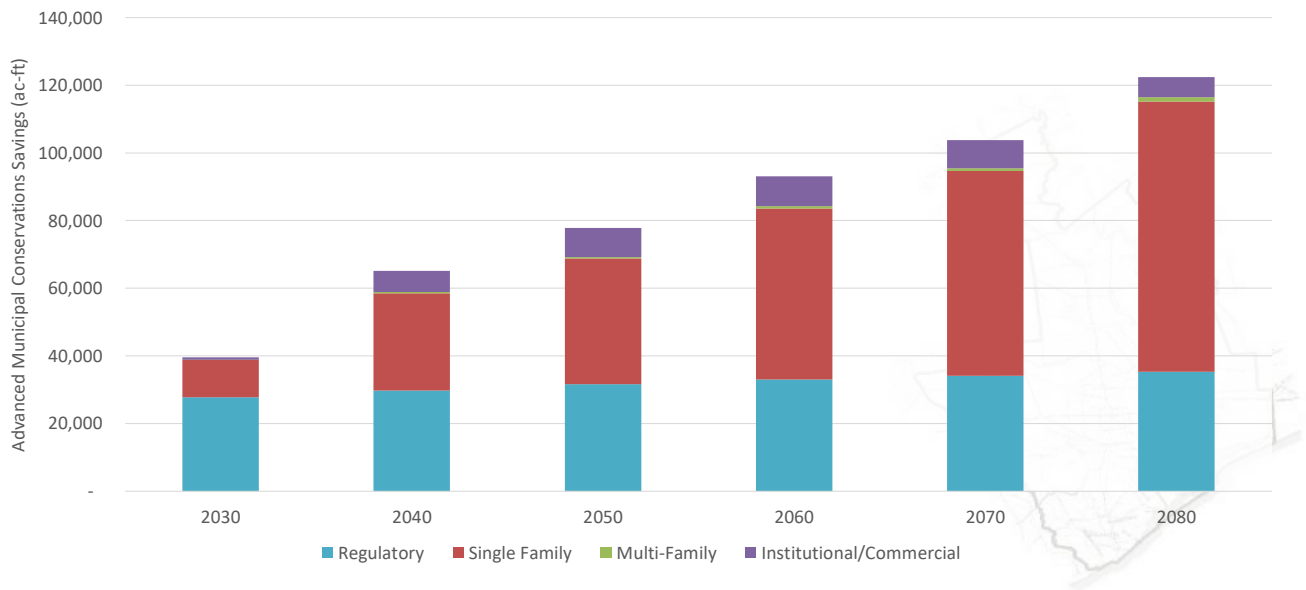
Mid Potential Large Utility		Percentage of ICI Connections Participating Annually					
ICI Measures		2020-2029	2030-2039	2040-2049	2050-2059	2060-2069	2070
PRE-ICI-01	HE Toilet Rebate						
PRE-ICI-02	Urinal Rebate						
PRE-ICI-03	Clothes Washer Rebate						
PRE-ICI-04	Commercial General Rebate	0.90%	0.80%	0.70%	0.60%		
PRE-ICI-05	Kitchen Pre-Rinse Spray Valve Installation	0.90%	0.80%	0.70%	0.60%		
PRE-ICI-06	Irrigation Audits - High Users	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
PRE-ICI-07	High-Efficiency Sprinkler Nozzle Rebate	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
PRE-ICI-08	Smart Irrigation Controller Rebate	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
PRE-ICI-09	WaterWise Landscape Rebate	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
PRE-ICI-10	Rainwater Harvesting Rebate	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
PRE-ICI-11	Commercial Dishwasher Rebate	0.90%	0.80%	0.70%	0.60%		
PRE-ICI-12	Commercial Food Steamer Rebate	0.90%	0.80%	0.70%	0.60%		

Agenda Item 6b
Technical Analyses – Advanced Municipal Conservation

Step 5: Refinements (Ongoing)

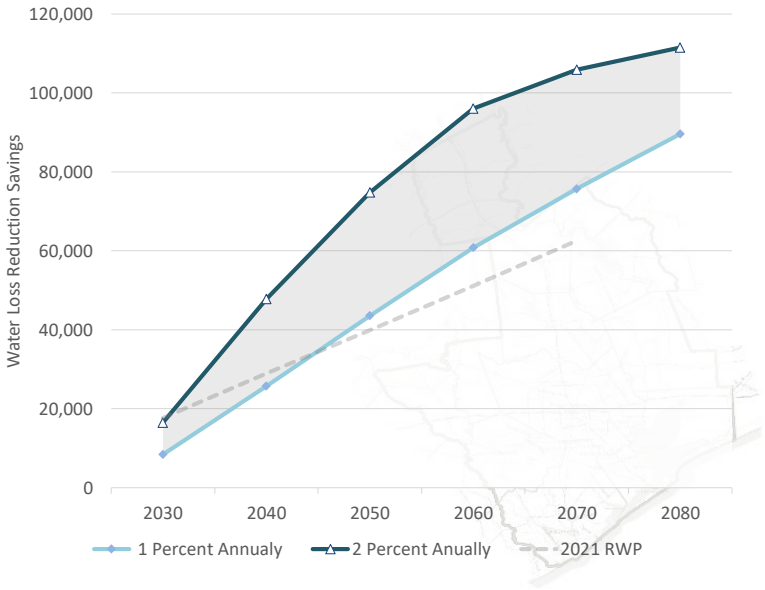
- Start dates
- Targeted outreach
- Additional measures
  - AMI
  - Others from WCP analysis
- Adjusted implementation schedules

Agenda Item 6b
Technical Analyses – Advanced Municipal Conservation

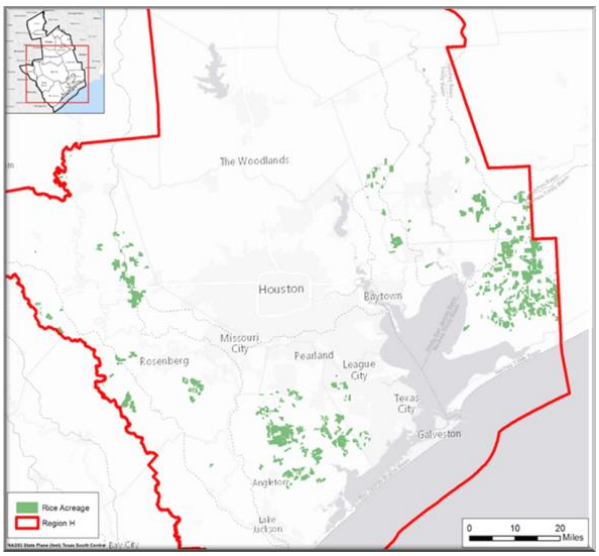


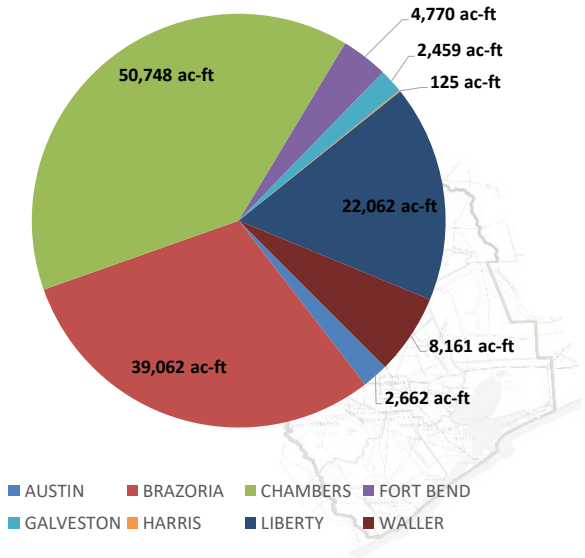
Agenda Item 6b
Technical Analyses – Water Loss Reduction

- WUG distribution systems
- Real losses
- Reservoir-sized loss
- Max. 2018-2022 TWDB data
- Target WUG losses > 10%
- Gradual annual reduction until target reached



Agenda Item 6b
Technical Analyses – Irrigation Conservation





Other Ongoing and Upcoming Technical Analyses

Agenda Item 6b
Technical Analyses – Other Items

- Other demand management WMS
- Package costs (WUG Expansions)
- WUG and MPC Reuse
- Emerging technologies
- Sponsor outreach
- Emergency response assessment

Agenda Item 6c

Receive update on the 89th Texas Legislature and the discuss potential legislative and policy issues and recommendations for the 2026 Region H RWP.

REGION H
Water Planning Group

Agenda Item 6c
89th Legislative Session

- 89th Texas Legislature
- Begins January 14, 2025
- Filing deadline March 14, 2025
- Concludes June 2, 2025
- Prior sessions have impacted RWP/SWP process

Agenda Item 6c
89th Legislative Session

Recommendations from 2021 RWP

Groundwater

- Support Rule of Capture
- Support GCDs
- GAM Funding

Other Funding

- Ongoing RWPG Activities
- Texas Bays and Estuaries
- Water Supply Project Financing

Conservation

- Ag. Conservation Funding
- Support for Water Conservation
- Water Conservation Research

Other

- Technology in Projections
- Interbasin Transfer rules
- Flood Liability of Reservoirs

Agenda Item 6c
89th Legislative Session

Potential Recommendations from RWPG Observations

Infeasible WMS	• Further constrain to near-term large projects • Refine terminology to avoid confusion • Adjust schedule to avoid confusion
Projections	• Additional funding for 2031 RWP to refine

Agenda Item 6c
89th Legislative Session

Potential Recommendations from RWPG Observations

Groundwater	• Funding of research and monitoring of Brazos Alluvium
Conservation	• Recognizing Legislature's efforts on water loss reduction
IBTs	• Removal of requirements placing undue burden on RWPGs
Emerging Technology	• Funding and data support for assessing

Agenda Item 6c
89th Legislative Session

- Other legislative recommendations?

- Other Chapter 8 Recommendations?
  - Regulatory
  - Agency
  - USS/URS

APPENDIX 8-A

DETAILED DISCUSSION OF OTHER REGULATORY, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

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Recommendation	Type
Quantitative Environmental Analysis	Regulatory and Administrative
Discussion:	
The Regional Water Planning Guidelines require that the evaluation of potentially feasible water management strategies include a quantitative analysis of environmental factors including effects on wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and effect of upstream development on bays, estuaries, and arms of the Gulf of Mexico (31 TAC §357.7.(a)(8)(A)). The TWDB has provided detailed guidance on specific study methods to be used in determining population, water demand, project costs, socioeconomic impacts and yield from current and proposed supply sources, but it has not provided similar guidance in the area of environmental impacts. This lack of specificity is resulting in different methods being used in different regions. Additionally, it places the planning groups at risk of needing to conduct additional analysis after state agencies review the Initially Prepared Plans and add those results to the report after the public review period has closed.	
Recommendation:	
The Region H Water Planning Group recommends that the TWDB determines, in conjunction with the TCEQ and TPWD, which specific environmental studies and analysis are required for each category of management strategy (i.e., new water right, new reservoir, etc.). Furthermore, the guidance should be added to the Planning Guidelines, so that Regional Water Planning Groups can reflect the cost of those requirements in their budgets and scopes of work. Adding environmental guidelines will also make water plans consistent across the state.	

Recommendation	Type
Identification of Ecologically Significant River and Stream Segments	Regulatory and Administrative

Discussion:

The Regional Water Planning Guidelines offer planning groups the opportunity to identify river and stream segments of unique ecological value within a planning area (31 TAC §357.43(b)), including those with important biological or hydrologic functions, riparian conservation areas, threatened, endangered, or unique wildlife communities, or other criteria indicative of ecological significance. In prior planning cycles, the planning groups benefitted in this assessment from TPWD's evaluation and recommendation of streams relative to the statutory criteria. TPWD's recommendations for listings of ecologically significant segments were most recently updated in 2003. Due to the continuing growth in the state, the potential for changing stream and riparian conditions, and the importance of protecting ecological function, an updated identification of ecologically significant river and stream segments would be highly beneficial in guiding planning groups in making informed recommendations.

Recommendation:

The Region H Water Planning Group recommends that the TPWD, in cooperation with TWDB and the Regional Water Planning Groups, develop an updated analysis of ecologically significant river and stream segments, including identification of river and stream segments of unique ecological value.

Recommendation	Type
Access to Current Water Availability Models	Regulatory and Administrative
Discussion:	
Water Availability Models (WAMs) are a core component of the regional water planning process and, furthermore, are required by TWDB's rules for plan development. In response to requests by planning groups and others seeking water rights applications, House Bill 723 was adopted to provide for updates to the Brazos, Neches, Red, and Rio Grande River Basins prior to December 1, 2022. These updates will address revised drought conditions and general updates that have been made since the initial development of these WAMS. Due to the vital importance of these tools in statewide water planning, it is imperative that this initiative continue throughout the state and that up-to-date models are made readily accessible through the TCEQ WAM website.	
Recommendation:	
The Region H Water Planning Group recommends that TCEQ continue routine updates to Water Availability Models across the state based on a prioritized methodology based on observed climate conditions and the overall limitation on water resources in each basin. This may be prescribed in future rulemaking. Furthermore, these rules should require that the most recent model for each basin be made available through the TCEQ website for use by both the RWPGs and the public.	

Recommendation	Type
Availability of Groundwater within Jurisdictions of Groundwater-Regulating Entities	Regulatory and Administrative

Discussion:

During the development of the 2016 Region H Regional Water Plan, it was recognized that the approach to groundwater availability required by TWDB's rules may place an unrealistic limit on groundwater production for various reasons, including local preference for how Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) may be met, differences between average and peak pumping, and the undue pressure on the Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) to keep up with the regional planning cycle. The TWDB worked to address these issues with the implementation of a Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) peaking factor that helps align the average conditions considered by GMAs with the peak demand conditions considered by RWPGs. This approach has greatly improved the harmonization of the two planning processes.

Recommendation:

Provide for additional opportunities for Groundwater Management Areas and Regional Water Planning Groups to align their planning through rules that recognize the inherent differences of these processes and account for the timing of the methodologies so that changes in groundwater management can be reflected in the Regional Water Plans.

Recommendation	Type
Promoting OneWater Approaches in Regional Planning	Regulatory and Administrative
Discussion:	
A OneWater or comprehensive approach to water management has demonstrated potential for achieving the highest practicable value to return on investment for managing water, wastewater, recovered water, and stormwater resources. Recently, Austin's Water Forward program has done the most to push Texas toward a comprehensive approach to water management. However, obstacles still exist to implementation of these sorts of programs. First, more can be done to promote these concepts of demand management and water supply development with water suppliers and utilities. Often, this requires utilities to work with regional partners in order to capture the complete water budget into a program. Second, several strategies such as the conjunctive use of water sources and "banked" supplies like aquifer storage and recovery are difficult to incorporate into Regional Water Plans due to their focus solely on drought-of-record supply. Effort should be made to better reflect these opportunities to maximize water supply.	
Recommendation:	
Work with water utilities and planners to identify the limitations of current planning approaches regarding OneWater management and how these programs may best be reflected in regional plans. This will have the added benefit of promoting these options for comprehensive water management.	

Recommendation	Type
Interbasin Transfers	Legislative
Discussion:	
Senate Bill One states that water rights developed as a result of an interbasin transfer become junior to other water rights granted before the interbasin transfer permit. Senate Bill One made obtaining a permit for interbasin transfer significantly more problematic than it was under prior law and thus, it discouraged the use of interbasin transfers for water supply. This is undesirable for several reasons. First, current supplies greatly exceed projected demands in some basins, and the supplies already developed in those basins can only be used via interbasin transfers. Second, interbasin transfers have been used extensively in Texas and are an important part of the State's current water supply. For example, three of the Region H Major Water Providers (City of Houston, Trinity River Authority, and San Jacinto River Authority) maintain current permits for interbasin transfers collectively of over 1,000,000 acre-feet per year. A substantial portion of future water demands within the San Jacinto basin (Harris County in particular) of Region H must rely on interbasin transfers. Third, emerging regional water supply plans for major metropolitan areas in Texas (Dallas-Fort Worth and San Antonio) rely on interbasin transfers as a key component of their plans. It is difficult to envision developing a water supply for these areas without significant new interbasin transfers. Furthermore, the inability to meet demands through transfer of existing supplies may result in the need for development of additional, in-basin projects that may have additional cost and environmental impact.	
Recommendation:	
The Region H Water Planning Group recommends that the Legislature remove the unnecessary and counterproductive barriers to interbasin transfers that exist in current law.	

Recommendation	Type
Texas Bays and Estuaries Program Funding	Legislative
Discussion:	
The Texas 80th Legislature established the current process of assessing the environmental quality of riverine and estuarine systems and applying the "best available science" in prescribing actions to preserve these systems. These recommendations have, in turn, been incorporated into the Regional Water Planning process and serve as a critical standard for the evaluation of future water management strategies. However, the current levels of funding within the State of Texas Bay & Estuary program are insufficient to continue the needed monitoring, study, and development of management strategies for the bay.	
Recommendation:	
The Region H Water Planning Group recommends establishment of additional and dedicated funding to pursue necessary future efforts of the State's bay and estuary programs.	

Recommendation	Type
Rule of Capture	Legislative
Discussion:	
Groundwater is a vital resource within Region H. This is especially true within the rural counties of the region that are predominantly dependent on groundwater. Current groundwater law based on the Rule of Capture has facilitated orderly development of groundwater systems throughout the State of Texas, barred the intrusion of private interests, and it could continue to serve the water usage interests throughout the state. It appears that the Rule-of-Capture could continue per the status quo to serve the groundwater interests within the region.	
Recommendation:	
The Region H Water Planning Group supports continued usage of the Rule of Capture as the basis of groundwater law throughout the State of Texas except as modified through creation of certified groundwater conservation districts.	

Recommendation	Type
Groundwater Conservation Districts	Legislative
Discussion:	
Region H communities, particularly those within the rural areas of the region, are dependent on groundwater supplies. Groundwater is a very valuable resource to this region. Region H contains counties, specifically Austin, Leon and Madison, where some municipalities, water supply corporations, and property owners believe Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCD) are needed to retain long-term groundwater supplies within their respective counties. Region H also has several counties, including Brazoria, Waller and Montgomery, where groundwater supplies will reach their maximum sustainable yield due solely to projected in-county water usage. A GCD is a potential vehicle for these counties to manage and protect groundwater supplies from over-development within each respective county.	
Recommendation:	
The Region H Water Planning Group supports creation of groundwater conservation districts, as necessary, by local subarea water interests. These districts provide a unique opportunity for balancing local management with regional planning through the joint planning exercises of Groundwater Management Areas.	

Recommendation	Type
Water Supply Project Financing Mechanism	Legislative

Discussion:

The Region H Regional Water Plan includes development of several major water supply projects. The capital cost to develop these projects is significantly higher than the historic cost of water supply projects, as future resources are more difficult to perfect than the supplies that have already been developed. The high projected costs can dissuade local communities from making a financial commitment to support future projects and these challenges may delay the implementation of needed projects.

The 80th Texas Legislature (2007) appropriated funding to enable issuance of $440 million in bonds for the Water Infrastructure Fund (WIF) to fund water plan projects. The program is designed with a maximum repayment period of 20 years, which may not be adequate for financing larger projects such as surface water reservoirs.

In 2013, the Texas Legislature created the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) which was approved by Texas voters to provide $2 billion dollars for the creation of a new loan program for the implementation of the State Water Plan. This program offers low-interest and deferred loan with maturities up to 30 years which enhances the opportunity for finding large, capital projects that are critical to the SWP. In addition, the program also funds the option of State ownership in projects as another alternative for development.

Recommendation:

The Region H Water Planning Group wishes to recognize the Legislature's efforts in implementing the SWIFT program and also supports ongoing and expanded support for financing methods by the State of Texas for development of water supply projects recommended within adopted Regional Water Plans.

Recommendation	Type
Groundwater Availability Modeling Funding	Legislative
Discussion:	
Many areas of Region H are totally dependent on groundwater to support the long-term viability of these areas. The current Groundwater Availability Modeling (GAM) effort is supported since it is the most comprehensive groundwater assessment and analysis effort of the previous 20 years.	
Recommendation:	
The Region H Water Planning Group supports continued funding for the Groundwater Availability Modeling effort and recommends comprehensive analysis of all groundwater resources within the state.	

Recommendation	Type
Agricultural and Irrigation Conservation Funding	Legislative
Discussion:	
The Region H water management plan includes a number of irrigation conservation based water management strategies. It is apparent that adoption of irrigation conservation practices may benefit the irrigation and agricultural industry in addition to local communities that may take advantage of water supply savings resulting from irrigation conservation. Additionally, the RHWPG supports further research and development of water-efficient and drought-resistant crops and species.	
Recommendation:	
The Region H Water Planning Group supports funding of research and development studies associated with the efficient usage of irrigation technologies and practices.	

Recommendation	Type
Water Conservation	Legislative
Discussion:	
The Region H Water Planning Group (RHWPG) strongly supports water conservation at all levels. The RHWPG has incorporated water conservation in the regional water plan as a management strategy. However, realizing advanced conservation savings in municipal county-other areas may be difficult, as these practices require some management, funding, and oversight. While the RHWPG does not advocate a one-size-fits-all conservation program for the State of Texas, they recommend that the Legislature address water conservation and provide some guidance and ability for county and local governments to implement these programs. The 78th Legislature appointed a Water Conservation Task Force to study water conservation policies and best management practices, and to report their results to the 79th Legislature in 2005. The 80th Legislature passed Senate Bill 3 creating a Water Conservation Advisory Council consisting of 23 members to provide a resource with expertise in water conservation. In 2018, TWDB funded the development of a water conservation planning tool specifically constructed for Texas water utilities. These efforts provide significant assistance to water suppliers that lack the resource to plan and implement water conservation approaches independently.	
Recommendation:	
The Region H Water Planning Group supports water conservation and recommends that the Legislature continue to address and improve water conservation activities in the state. In addition, the RHWPG recommends the State consider improvements to statewide efforts and messaging regarding the importance of water conservation.	

Recommendation	Type
Water Conservation Research Funding	Legislative
Discussion:	
The Water Conservation Implementation Task Force identified numerous best management practices in *TWDB Report 362 – Water Conservation Best Management Practices Guide*. The Best Management Practices outlined in the report were developed using information compiled from past research and studies along with information provided by the task force members. Additional water-saving technologies may still be developed in the future.	
Recommendation:	
The Region H Water Planning Group recommends that the State fund research into advanced conservation technologies.	

Recommendation	Type
Flood Liability of Water Supply Reservoirs	Legislative

Discussion:

Flood control reservoirs are generally drawn down at the beginning of the annual wet season so that when large rain events occur, the runoff may be captured and later released more slowly into the receiving stream. These reservoirs therefore reduce downstream flood levels and prevent inundation in low areas. In contrast, water supply reservoirs are operated to capture and retain as much stream flow as allowable under their permits in order to have supply available during periods of high demand. This practice results in less available storage volume to capture runoff during major storms. When a major storm event occurs upstream or above a water supply reservoir, the reservoir operator must sometimes release flood flows during and after the event to prevent flooding upstream of the reservoir or to prevent damage to the dam and other facilities associated with the reservoir. Although this flood flow can contribute to downstream flooding, most reservoirs actually reduce the amount of flooding which could have occurred had the reservoir not been constructed.

In recent years, plaintiffs with property in the downstream floodplains have brought multiple lawsuits against major water supply reservoir operators. Some recent court decisions have held the operators liable for damages to the downstream properties. If this trend is allowed to continue, it will increase insurance rates for these entities and will force operational changes to occur that may result in less available water supply for periods of need. The net effect to water users will be an increase in the cost of surface water throughout the state.

Recommendation:

The Region H Water Planning Group recommends that the State consider legislation clarifying the liability exposure of reservoir operators for passing storm flows through water supply reservoirs.

Recommendation	Type
Incorporation of Technology Advancements in Projections	Legislative
Discussion:	
Current population projections based on traditional historic growth patterns may not accurately reflect the changes likely to occur in the future as digital connectivity continues to alter our economic, educational, and social institutions.	
Recommendation:	
The Region H Water Planning Group recommends that the State direct the State Demographer's office to explore the potential changes in population distribution made possible by rapid advancements in information technology.	

Recommendation	Type
Ongoing RWPG Activities	Legislative
Discussion:	
It is apparent that the RWPGs will have to meet periodically to address changed conditions related to the adopted regional water management plans. Ongoing activities will include, but not be limited to: 1. Consideration of additions and modifications to the adopted plans 2. Serving as communications liaisons with the water user communities within each region 3. Assisting in the reconciliation of inter-regional water issues It will be necessary to consider additional and adequate funding to support maintenance of the RWPGs.	
Recommendation:	
The Region H Water Planning Group recommends that the TWDB request additional and adequate funding and the adoption of the appropriate administrative procedures from the Legislature to facilitate ongoing activities of the RWPGs. Funding should be made available throughout the entirety of the planning cycle without funding gaps that make it difficult for planning groups to accomplish their ongoing efforts.	

Recommendation	Type
State Revolving Fund Programs (Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and Clean Water State Revolving Fund)	Infrastructure Finance

Discussion:

These programs provide loans at subsidized interest rates for the construction of water treatment and distribution systems and for source water protection (DWSRF) and for wastewater collection and treatment systems (CWSRF). As the loans are paid off, the TWDB uses the funds to make new loans (thus the name Revolving Fund). State funds for the program receive a federal match through the Environmental Protection Agency. These loans are intended for projects to bring existing systems into compliance with rules and regulations, and are available to political subdivisions, water supply corporations, and privately-owned water systems. Applications are collected at the beginning of each year, given a priority ranking, and funded to the extent possible. Projects not funded in a given year may carry forward into the next year's ranking.

These programs are important in that they assist sub-standard water systems in attaining the minimum water quality mandated by Federal and State regulations, but they are not intended to fund system expansions due to projected growth. However, these programs may apply to individual systems in the Region experiencing water quality declines, or to those systems affected by the changed standard for Arsenic. The SRF Fund may also provide assistance to water providers with aging treatment systems and transmission lines.

Recommendation:

The Region H Water Planning Group recommends increasing the funding of the State Revolving Funds Program in future decades and expand the program to include coverage for system capacity increases to meet projected growth for communities.

Recommendation	Type
Agricultural Water Conservation Loan Program	Infrastructure Finance

Discussion:

This program provides loans to soil and water conservation districts, underground water conservation districts and districts authorized to supply water for irrigation. These districts may further lend the funds to private individuals for equipment and materials, labor, preparation, and installation costs to improve water-use efficiency related to irrigation of their private lands. There is also a grant program for equipment purchases by eligible districts for the measurement and evaluation of irrigation systems and agricultural water conservation practices, and for efficient irrigation and conservation demonstration projects, among others. However, these grants are not available to individual irrigators. Similar Federal loan and grant programs are available but require a 25% to 50% local match.

In the Region H Water Plan, irrigation conservation is a recommended strategy in eight counties (Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, and Waller). In some cases, the conservation of water through these agricultural programs provides additional water for use by municipalities that also use groundwater supplies. As it is unlikely that municipalities will seek out and fund irrigation conservation projects, the task of encouraging conservation will fall to the wholesale water providers and those government entities with jurisdiction in those counties. Even with Agricultural Water Conservation Loan Program assistance, irrigators will be slow to invest in water-conserving equipment until water rates increase, making it economically advantageous to do so. The difficulty increases in areas where groundwater is the primary supply source for irrigation.

Additionally, irrigators in Region H also find it difficult to access funding programs as these typically require ownership of the irrigated property. Much of the production within the region is performed by farmers who lease land from others, making them ineligible for these programs.

Eligible districts will need to act as conservation brokers, identifying those irrigators with the potential to reduce water demand through equipment improvements, and matching them with available loans. To assist with the immediate adoption of these improved conservation practices, a one-time grant or subsidy program for water-efficient equipment purchases may help by reducing the loans amounts required by each irrigator. If the requirements of an existing Federal loan or grant program could be met, the State could provide all or part of the local matching share. Since the methods used by irrigators vary across the state, such a program would need to be flexible, with local oversight provided by those districts currently eligible for the Agricultural Water Conservation Loan Program. Consistency with the applicable Regional Water Plan may be included as a prerequisite for this program, as it is for other State grants and loans.

Recommendation:

Provide a mechanism to leverage federal grant programs for agriculture by providing the local matching share. Increase funding of associated loan programs and consider adding a one-time grant or subsidy component to stimulate early adoption of conservation practices by individual irrigators. Provide opportunities for joint cooperation between growers and landowners to facilitate the use of funding programs for property under long-term lease agreements.

Recommendation	Type
Texas Community Development Program	Infrastructure Finance
Discussion:	
The federal Community Development Block Grant program provides grants and loans to low-income communities for certain projects, including water and wastewater infrastructure. It is administered in Texas under the Office of Rural Community Affairs as the Texas Community Development Program. The Small Town Environment Program (STEP) under the TCDP provides water and sewer system grants to cities and counties not eligible for funding under the Colonias or Economically Disadvantaged Areas Programs (EDAP). Within Region H, there are no Colonias or EDAP-eligible communities, but STEP grants may be obtained.	
Recommendation:	
The Region H Water Planning Group recommends continued state and federal support of the Texas Community Development Program and increasing the allocation of funds for the Small Town Environment Program.	

Recommendation	Type
Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants from the USDA Rural Utilities Service	Infrastructure Finance

Discussion:

This Federal program provides loans and grants in rural areas and communities of up to 10,000 people for water, wastewater, storm water, and municipal solid waste projects. The program is intended for communities that cannot obtain commercial loans at reasonable rates. Loans are made at or below market rates, depending upon the eligibility of the recipient. Grants can cover up to 75% of project costs when required to reduce user costs to a reasonable level. A separate program of Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (up to $500,000 per project) is also available to communities experiencing rapid declines in water quality or quantity.

This program is similar to the state loan and revolving fund programs. It offers another option to small communities and rural areas unable to finance required infrastructure without assistance. However, this is a nationwide program, and the competition for available funds is correspondingly greater. Colonias and border areas are specifically identified as target areas for the grant portion of this program, and it is therefore in the State's interest to support its continued funding.

Recommendation:

The Region H Water Planning Group recommends continued support and increased funding of Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants from USDA Rural Utilities Service at the federal level.

Recommendation	Type
Innovative Water Technologies	Infrastructure Finance
Discussion:	
The Texas Water Development Board's Innovative Water Technologies Program has provided technical assistance for development of seawater desalination, brackish groundwater, rainwater harvesting, water reuse, and aquifer storage and recovery programs. This has included several statewide feasibility studies and participation in site-specific demonstration programs. These and similar projects will be an essential resource in progressing the status of innovative water supply projects that will form a critical component of the overall water budget as Texas continues to grow.	
Recommendation:	
Provide technical assistance grants for the advancement of desalination water supplies and implementation of new desalination technologies available to wholesale and retail water suppliers. Provide resources for identification and feasibility assessment of opportunities for aquifer storage and recovery projects. Continue to fund appropriate demonstration facilities to develop a customer base and pursue federal funding for desalination programs.	

Recommendation	Type
Regionalization	Infrastructure Finance

Discussion:

As communities assess the growing costs of water infrastructure, economies of scale can be realized by combining the needs of water user groups into larger, more efficient water supply, treatment and distribution facilities. Regional facilities offer interconnections between existing systems, which can increase overall reliability. The individual system connections to these systems can be phased over time to meet regional demands with less impact on individual systems than each individually trying to expand. In areas where groundwater limits are being reached, regional groups can identify areas where surface water supply is most needed, and allow other areas to remain on groundwater systems. Sharing costs across a wide customer base keeps rates comparable between service areas.

A range of cooperative options exists, including formation of regional authorities, inter-local agreements, public-private partnerships, local government corporations, and public contracting with a private regional supplier. The optimal arrangement between political subdivisions depends upon the specific project and the goals of the parties. Partnerships with private investors through public-private partnerships and direct contracting with privately-owned facilities offer an advantage of using private financing to meet part of the initial planning and construction costs. The regulations governing these partnerships must protect the public represented by the partnership, but if too restrictive, may prevent the partnership from realizing potential cost savings through the use of private-sector procurement and construction practices.

Consideration should be given to reducing procurement restrictions for Local Government Corporations to encourage the pooling of resources for funding regional projects. Also, existing assistance programs should remain available when political subdivisions enter into public/public or public/private partnerships.

Recommendation:

Region H supports the forming of regional partnerships and encourages the State to allow them the greatest possible latitude for financing in their governing regulations. Additionally, funding opportunities should be made available to these public/private partnerships and to private nonprofit water supply corporations.

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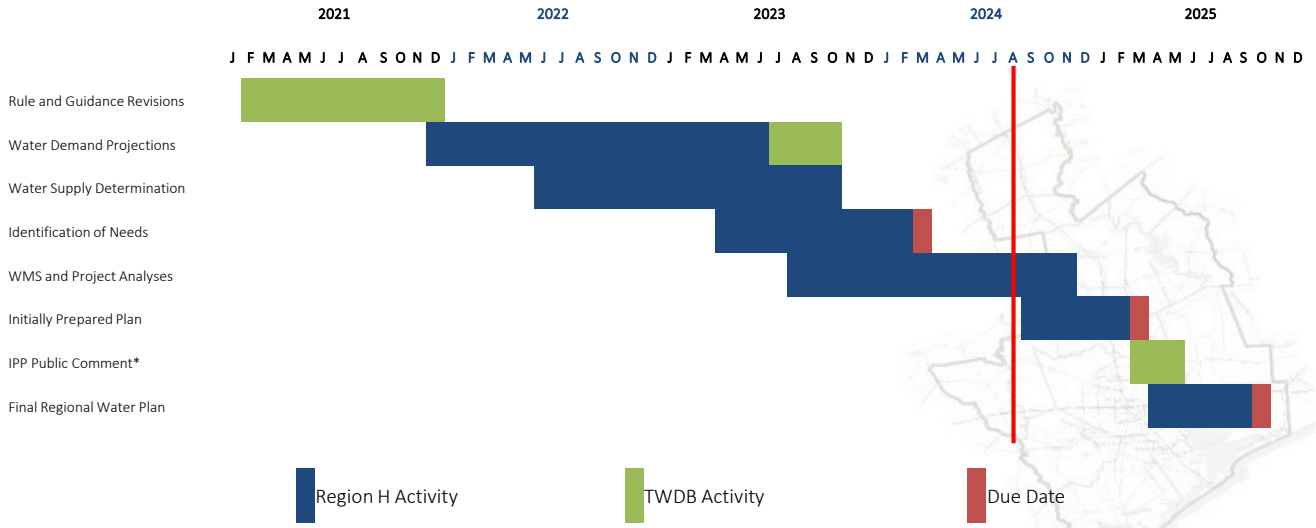
Agenda Item 7a

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

REGION H
Water Planning Group

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
08/2024	RWPG Meeting
10/2024	RWPG Meeting
11/2024	RWPG Meeting
01/2025	89th Texas Legislature convenes
03/2025	Initially Prepared Plan due to TWDB
06/2025	89th Texas Legislature closes
10/2025	RWP due to TWDB

Agenda Item 7a
2026 RWP Schedule

- Upcoming RWPG Activities
  - Continued WMS analyses and outreach
  - Legislative recommendation evaluation
  - Preparation for Initially Prepared Plan process

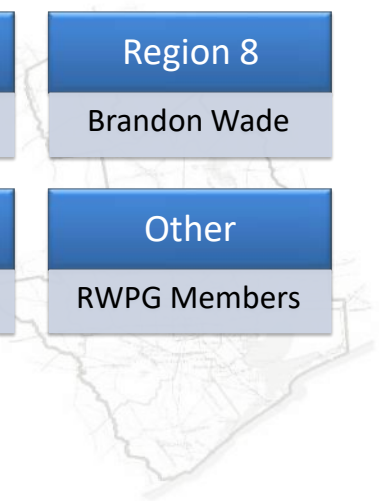
Agenda Item 7b

Receive update from liaisons to other planning groups.

REGION H
Water Planning Group

Agenda Item 7b
Liaison Updates

Region C	Brazos G	Region 6	Region 8
Kevin Ward	Zach Holland	Alisa Max	Brandon Wade
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.

REGION H
Water Planning Group

Agenda Item 7c
Community Outreach

August	• Project Sponsor Outreach • Rural Entity Outreach
September	• North Houston Association Water Committee
October	• Texas Municipal League

Agenda Item 7d

Receive update from TWDB.

REGION H
Water Planning Group

Region H Regional Water Planning Group Meeting

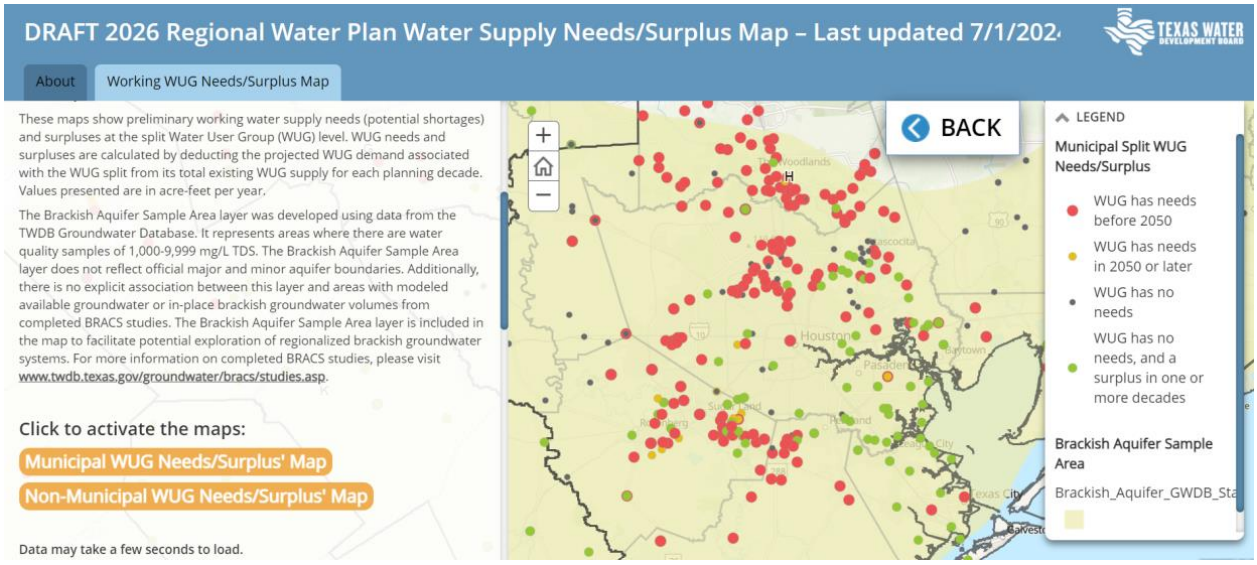
Updates from the Texas Water Development Board

August 7, 2024, Conroe TX

TWDB Update

- **Water Conservation Plans, Annual Reports,** and **Water Loss Audits** were due May 1, 2024.
- Chair's Call on May 10, 2024
- New resources available (next two slides)

Draft 2026 RWP Water Supply Needs/Surplus Map now available



View map ->

WUG List and Local Plan Information Provided

Example of WUGs with Plans Submitted

Entity Name	TWDB Action on Revision Request	RWPG Comment	TWDB Comment	Type of Plan
Galveston	Recommended	RWPG proposes HGSD-FBSD 2023 JRPR as basis for population projection.	TWDB recommends Region H's request to use own study (2023 JRPR) to project population.	multi-county plan (Subsidence District)
Galveston County WCID 1	Recommended	RWPG proposes HGSD-FBSD 2023 JRPR as basis for population projection.	TWDB recommends Region H's request to use own study (2023 JRPR) to project population.	multi-county plan (Subsidence District)
Garland	Recommended	NTMWD Long Range Water Supply Plan	Revision requests are reasonable compared to draft, thus recommended.	water district plan/study
Greenville	Recommended	Requested revision based on WUG-specific adjustment to population projections submitted by the City of Greenville, and revised 10-year maximum as baseline GPCD without reduction for PC savings from baseline.	Region D requested to increase the population projections based on information from the City of Greenville 2021 Water Distribution Master plan as explained on pages 23-24 of the revision request memo. In the plan, population projections are on pages 5-6 and a list of proposed developments (4,254 units), some of which are shown as completed, are in Appendix A on page 69. Both the Census and migration scenarios indicate an increasing population in Hunt County, and the Census indicates an increasing population in Greenville. The revisions have higher near-term increases at the beginning of the planning period with slower growth in the last three decades. The WUG's revisions are supported by the WUS historical growth and the planned development documentation provided by the region. The TWDB recommends this revision. GPCD - Region used 2010-2020	master plan
Houston	Recommended	RWPG proposes HGSD-FBSD 2023 JRPR as basis for population projection.	TWDB recommends Region H's request to use own study (2023 JRPR) to project population.	multi-county plan (Subsidence District)
Lake Cities Municipal Utility Authority	Recommended	Ongoing UTRWD Study	Recommend due to minor revision to WUG buildout population.	water district plan/study

Example of WUGs with *No* Plans Submitted

Entity Name	Submitted Pop Revisions?
Paris	Y
Port Arthur	
San Angelo	
Seguin	Y
Seagoville	
Sharyland WSC	

TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

SWIFT Updates

- The TWDB Board approved the following SWIFT funding requests for Region H projects at their July 23, 2024 meeting:
  - **Brazosport Water Supply Corporation** (Brazoria County) for $747M for planning, acquisition, design, and construction of a reservoir expansion project.
  - **Coastal Water Authority** (Harris County) for $320M for planning, design, and construction of a water supply project.

Texas Water Fund (TWF) Implementation Plan

- TWDB sought stakeholder feedback through surveys, invitations for public comment and board and stakeholder meetings, and a dedicated TWF email from January to April 2024.
- **Three surveys** on (1) Financial Assistance for Water Infrastructure Projects, (2) New Water Supply for Texas Fund, and (3) Statewide Water Public Awareness Program
  - Feedback summarized in Board memorandum
- **Implementation Plan** released July 23, 2024
  - Addresses statutory directives and responses to stakeholder feedback
  - Plan is flexible and subject to change
  - Plan includes proposed funding distribution and timeline
  - https://www.twdb.texas.gov/board/2024/07/Board/Brd02.pdf
- Receive future updates by signing up for TWDB's Financial Assistance email list: https://www.twdb.texas.gov/newsmedia/signup.asp

TWF Implementation Plan – Proposed Funding Allocations

Rural Water Assistance Fund	
100 % grant for conservation/water loss projects from SRF solicitation (under 1,000 population)	$45M
90 % grant/10 % loan or local match for conservation/water loss projects from SRF solicitation (1,000 to 10,000 in population)	$130M
High-risk or need projects (100 % grant)	$20M
Rural Water Assistance Fund subtotal:	**$195M**
Water Loan Assistance Fund	
70 % grant/30 % loan or local match for conservation/water loss projects from 2025 SRF solicitation (10,001 to 150,000 in population)	$90M
SWIFT program support	$300M
New Water Supply for Texas Fund	$250M
Potential bond leveraged funding through existing financial assistance programs	$150M
Statewide water public awareness program	$15M
Grand total:	**$1B**

TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

TWF Implementation Plan Updates - Timeline

July 2024
- TWDB Board adopted Rural Water Assistance Fund (RWAF) rules, SWIFT program commitments for financial assistance, and Texas Water Fund transfer to SWIFT
- Invitations to apply were sent to entities with high-risk projects.
- Draft prioritization of RWAF and Water Loan Assistance Fund (WLAF) water loss projects were posted for public comment.

August 2024
- TWDB Board to consider WLAF rule proposal, adoption of RWAF and WLAF water conservation/water loss project prioritization, and high-risk project commitments.
- Invitations will be sent to apply sent to RWAF water conservation/water loss projects.

Fall 2024
- TWDB Board to consider adoption of WLAF rules, New Water Supply for Texas Fund rule proposal, and statewide water public awareness campaign contract.
- Invitations to apply will be sent to WLAF water conservation/water loss projects.

Winter 2024/2025
- TWDB Board to consider RWAF and high-risk project commitments
- TWDB Board to consider adopting New Water Supply for Texas Fund rules

Spring 2025
- TWDB Board to consider WLAF project commitments

TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Questions?

Heather Rose
Regional Water Planner, TWDB
Heather.Rose@twdb.texas.gov

TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Philip Taucer

From: RegionalWaterPlanning <RegionalWaterPlanning@twdb.texas.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 4:19 PM
To: RegionalWaterPlanning
Cc: OOP-WSP-RWP; Temple McKinnon; Matt Nelson
Subject: List of flood mitigation projects with water supply benefit

Good afternoon,

We wanted to inform you that as part of the ranking system for the Flood Infrastructure Fund, the scoring identifies flood mitigation projects included in the regional flood plans that were identified as providing a water supply benefit. This list is being provided to RWPGs for consideration during development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans.

Users may filter column BT in the following spreadsheet to "Yes" to filter to the projects with a water supply benefit: https://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/fif/doc/FMP-Ranked-List.xlsx

As a reminder, planning groups are required by the regional water planning Scope of Work, Task 5A, item 11, to *Identify those potentially feasible WMSs, that, in addition to providing water supply, could potentially provide non-trivial flood mitigation benefits or that might be the best potential candidates for exploring ways that they might be combined with flood mitigation features to leverage planning efforts to achieve potential cost savings or other combined water supply and flood mitigation benefits. The work required to identify these WMSs will be based entirely on a high-level, qualitative assessment and should not require modeling or other additional technical analyses.*

Please contact your TWDB regional water planner with any questions.

This email has been sent to RWPG chairs, sponsors, and technical consultants.

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
www.twdb.texas.gov

TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

P.O. Box 13231, 1700 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78711-3231, www.twdb.texas.gov
Phone (512) 463-7847, Fax (512) 475-2053

May 31, 2024

Mr. Mark Evans
Region H Chair
Region H Regional Water Planning Group
c/o San Jacinto River Authority
P.O. Box 329
Conroe, TX 77305

Dear Chairman Evans:

In addition to reviewing the Technical Memorandum report for administrative completeness, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff have reviewed the draft data and methodologies presented in the planning group's Technical Memorandum. The attached comments are being provided for Region H's consideration during the remainder of their regional water plan development.

Unlike TWDB comments on the initially prepared plans (IPP), these informal comments do not require responses from the planning group. This process allows for TWDB staff to conduct a more thorough review of source data and methodologies and provides a longer timeline for planning group consideration, prior to the IPP comment and response period.

While resolution of state water planning database (DB27) data checks and appeals must be resolved no later than the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) deadline (March 3, 2025), RWPG consultants are requested to make a best effort to complete the DB27 data checks related to source and existing supply/sales by October 2024 to ensure accurate water supply needs data for the region's socioeconomic impact analysis and lessen the chance of errors from working through large batches of data checks. TWDB staff will use needs identified in DB27 as of March 3, 2025 to conduct the socioeconomic impact analysis.

Please do not hesitate to contact Heather Rose of our Regional Water Planning staff at 512-475-1558 or heather.rose@twdb.texas.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matt Nelson Digitally signed by Matt Nelson
Date: 2024.06.01 12:52:22 -05'00'

Matt Nelson
Deputy Executive Administrator
Office of Planning

Attachment: TWDB Informal Comments on Technical Memorandum

cc: Aubrey Spear, San Jacinto River Authority
Philip Taucer, Freese and Nichols, Inc.
Courtney Corso, Freese & Nichols, Inc.
Jordan Skipwith, Freese and Nichols, Inc.
John Dupnik, Water Science and Conservation
Temple McKinnon, Water Supply Planning
Sarah Lee, Water Supply Planning
Daryn Hardwick, Groundwater
James Golab, Ph.D., Conservation and Innovative Water Technologies
Heather Rose, Water Supply Planning

Region H Regional Water Planning Group
TWDB Informal Comments on the Technical Memorandum

1. TWDB acknowledges the note on page 113 of the technical memorandum that determination of regional water planning group-estimated non-relevant groundwater availability is ongoing. The regional water planning group-estimated availability reflected in the technical memorandum for the non-modeled available groundwater (MAG) sources listed below may be physically incompatible with adjacent or nearby desired future conditions (DFC) of the regional aquifers.

    - **All non-MAG splits.**

    The TWDB acknowledges that real world conditions, such as the timing or placement of possible projects, aquifer characteristics, and monitoring, or other approaches may show that the availability is compatible. Please consider this information during regional water plan development. The TWDB provided planning groups with DFC-compatible non-relevant groundwater availability values, which are also available for your consideration.

2. Reuse sources are included in the technical memorandum. At this time, the TWDB has not reviewed the region's reuse methodology. Per the regional water planning contract Exhibit C, Section 2.3.3, please ensure that Chapter 3 of the initially prepared plan includes a separate subsection on reuse that describes the data sources and methodology used to calculate reuse availability.

Philip Taucer

From: RegionalWaterPlanning <RegionalWaterPlanning@twdb.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2024 10:27 AM
To: RegionalWaterPlanning
Cc: OOP-WSP-RWP; Ryke Moore; Sabrina Anderson; Yun Cho; Natalie Ballew; Temple McKinnon; Matt Nelson
Subject: 2026 Regional Water Plan Water Supply Needs/Surplus Map

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good morning,

TWDB's Water Supply and Strategy Analysis team has recently updated and released the Draft 2026 Regional Water Plan Water Supply Needs/Surplus Map. The purpose of this map is to visualize the preliminary working regional water planning data and to be a resource for RWPG consultants during data entry and the plan development process to help identify entities that might have similar needs in near proximity that could be met by a shared project. This cycle, the map also includes a brackish aquifer sample area layer, which is included to facilitate potential exploration of regionalized brackish groundwater systems. More information may be found in the map description section on the 'Working WUG Needs/Surplus Map' tab.

Users should review the 'About' tab for information on the data displayed and instructions of how to use the application. The data may be viewed by clicking on the 'Working WUG Needs/Surplus Map' tab and further clicking the activation buttons for either the 'Municipal WUG Needs/Surplus' Map or Non-municipal WUG Needs/Surplus' Map. Please note that this cycle, the data presented is not connected directly to the state water planning database (DB27) and the data will be updated periodically, as noted on the 'About' tab.

This is a working tool primarily for use by RWPG consultants and RWPG members and is not meant for general widespread consumption.

Please contact the WSSA team at rwpdataentry@twdb.texas.gov or your TWDB Regional Water Planner with any questions.

This email has been sent to all RWPG members, RWPG 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
512-936-2387 | sarah.lee@twdb.texas.gov
www.twdb.texas.gov

From: RegionalWaterPlanning
To: RegionalWaterPlanning
Cc: OOP-WSP-RWP; Katie Dahlberg; Temple McKinnon; Matt Nelson
Subject: Projections Revision Process - WUG List and Local Plan Information
Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 11:24:12 AM
Attachments: 2026RWP_WUGPopRevisions_LocalPlanBased.xlsx

Good morning,

During the projection's revisions process, supporting documentation including local water supply plans was submitted to the TWDB to justify revision requests. We have compiled a list of the WUGs and public water systems, their associated 2022 population estimates, and whether or not they submitted local plans as supporting documentation.

We are providing this compiled information for your consideration should it be helpful to support any rural outreach activities by the planning groups.

Please contact 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
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