

# **REGION H**

## **Water Planning Group**

### **MEETING MATERIALS**

**October 2, 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
RFIG	Regional Flood Planning Group
RHWPG	Region H Water Planning Group
ROR	Run-of-River
RWP	Regional Water Plan
RWPA	Regional Water Planning Area
RWPG	Regional Water Planning Group
SWIFT	State Water Implementation Fund for Texas
SWP	State Water Plan
TAC	Texas Administrative Code
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TWC	Texas Water Code
TWDB	Texas Water Development Board
UCM	Unified Costing Model
URS	Unique Reservoir Site
USS	Unique Stream Segment
WAM	Water Availability Model
WCID	Water Control and Improvement District
WCP	Water Conservation Plan
WMS	Water Management Strategy
WRAP	Water Rights Analysis Package
WUD	Water Utility Database
WUG	Water User Group
WWP	Wholesale Water Provider

### Water Measurements

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

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

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

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



**Region H Water Planning Group  
10:00 AM Wednesday  
October 2, 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 City of Houston East Water Purification Plant Enhancement 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](mailto:info@regionhwater.org) or the address below prior to the October 2, 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](mailto:info@regionhwater.org).

## AGENDA

1. Call to order.
2. Introductions.
3. Review and approve minutes of the August 7, 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 City of Houston East Water Purification Plant Enhancement.
  - b. Consider taking action to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan to incorporate the proposed City of Houston East Water Purification Plant Enhancement.
6. Plan Development and Administration
  - a. Receive update regarding technical analyses for the 2026 Region H RWP.
  - b. Receive update on coordination with rural entities regarding water needs and potential future strategies.
  - c. Receive update from the Region H Legislative Committee and Consultant Team and discuss potential legislative and policy recommendations for the 2026 Region H RWP.
  - d. Receive presentation from the Region H Legislative Committee and Consultant Team regarding ecologically unique stream segments and unique reservoir sites and discuss potential recommendations 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: February 5, 2025.
10. Adjourn.

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

## Agenda Item 3

Review and approve minutes of the August 7, 2024 meeting.





**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 7, 2024**

---

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Bailey, John Bartos, Arthur Bredehoft, Brad Brunett, Carl Burch, Jun Chang, Mark Evans, Greg Eyerly, Jason Garrand, Ken Kramer, Ivan Langford, Alisa Max, Mike O’Connell, Byron Ryder, Aubrey Spear, Michael Turco, and Cynthia Wagener.

**ALTERNATES PRESENT:** Sarah Kouba for Gary Ashmore, Susan Santos for Loyd Smith, and Doug Haude for Kevin Ward.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** W.R. Baker, Caleb Cooper, Robert Istre, Marvin Marcell, Danny Pierce, and Brandon Wade.

---

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS**

There were no introductions.

**3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MAY 1, 2024 MEETING**

Mr. Bredehoft made a motion to approve the minutes of May 1, 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 public comments.

**5. SPECIAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

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

Mr. Taucer presented information related to the proposed amendment by the Baytown Area Water Authority (“BAWA”) which requested the 2021 RWP and the 2022 State Water Plan to be amended to incorporate BAWA’s planned East Surface Water Treatment Plant Expansion Water Management Strategy (“WMS”) and associated WMS Project. He explained the amendment would impact Volume 1 and Volume 2, with very few changes overall. Mr. Taucer stated that no comments from the public

were received. Discussion ensued related to allocation, possible environmental impacts, capacity, and future 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.**

Mr. Langford made a motion to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan to incorporate the proposed Baytown East Surface Water Treatment Plant Expansion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spear and carried unanimously.

- 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.**

Mr. Taucer provided information related to the City of Houston's proposed amendment to the 2021 Region H RWP. He explained that the amendment better reflects the expanded treatment capacity of the existing facility site to support current and future needs of customers. Mr. Taucer stated that the amendment would most likely be considered a minor amendment per TWDB's definition of same. He explained that the amendment would affect the Executive Summary, Chapter 5 – Water Management Strategies, Chapter 6 – Impacts of the RWP, Chapter 9 – Financing, Chapter 11 – Implementation and Comparison, and Data Base 22 data entry. Discussion ensued. Mr. Bredehoft made a motion to approve the submittal of the application package to TWDB for the determination of minor amendment status. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chang and carried unanimously.

## **6. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

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

Mr. Taucer explained that the various changes to the planning process for the sixth cycle of the RWP development were nominal. He provided a brief overview of the various changes relative to Water Management Strategies, drought responses, and implementation, funding, and outreach.

- b. Receive update from the 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.**

Mr. Taucer provided information related to the status of investigation of water supply alternatives and other analyses for the 2026 Region H RWP. He provided a brief overview of the various ongoing and upcoming technical analyses.

- c. Receive update on the 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature and discuss potential legislative and policy issues and recommendations for the 2026 Region H RWP.**

Mr. Taucer explained that the 89<sup>th</sup> Session of the Texas Legislature begins on January 14, 2025, and concludes on June 2, 2025. He provided an overview of the previous legislative recommendations from

the 2021 RWP and provided a summary of potential 2026 recommendations from the RWPGs related to infeasible WMS, projections, groundwater, conservation, IBTs, and emerging technology.

**d. Discuss the Region H Legislative Committee for the 2026 Region H RWP.**

Mr. Evans provided background information related to the appointment of members to the Legislative Committee. He explained that the Legislative Committee is comprised of all the Region H Water Planning Group Committee Chairs. Mr. Evans announced that the members of the Legislative Committee for the upcoming session are Marvin Marcell, Mike Turco, Kevin Ward, John Bartos, Carl Buch, and Jun Chang.

**7. GENERAL UPDATES AND OUTREACH**

**a. Receive update 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.

**b. Receive updates from liaisons to other planning groups.**

Mr. Evans announced the completion of the Interregional Planning Council Report to the Texas Water Development Board now posted on their website. Ms. Max announced the Region 6 Flood Planning Group's next meeting taking place on August 8, 2024.

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

Mr. Taucer announced the various meetings, activities, and outreach opportunities.

**d. Receive update from TWDB.**

Ms. Rose provided various updates from TWDB related to SWIFT funding and the TWF Implementation Plan.

**e. Other agency communications and general information.**

There were no other agency communications and general information to report.

**8. Receive public comments. (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)**

There were no public comments.

**9. Next Meeting: October 2, 2024 and possibly November 6, 2024.**

Mr. Evans announced that the next meeting of the Region H Water Planning Group will take place on October 2, 2024.

**10. Adjourn.**

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:47 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 City of Houston East Water Purification Plant Enhancement.



## Agenda Item 5a Proposed Amendment

### City of Houston East Water Purification Plant (EWPP) Enhancement

Components	Goals	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expansion (290 → 362 mgd)</li><li>• Infr. upgrades</li><li>• Other enhancements</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Address bottlenecks</li><li>• Increase reliability</li><li>• Reduce groundwater</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At current site</li><li>• Existing sources</li><li>• Limited disturbance</li></ul>

## Agenda Item 5a Proposed Amendment

1. Focus on capacity expansion

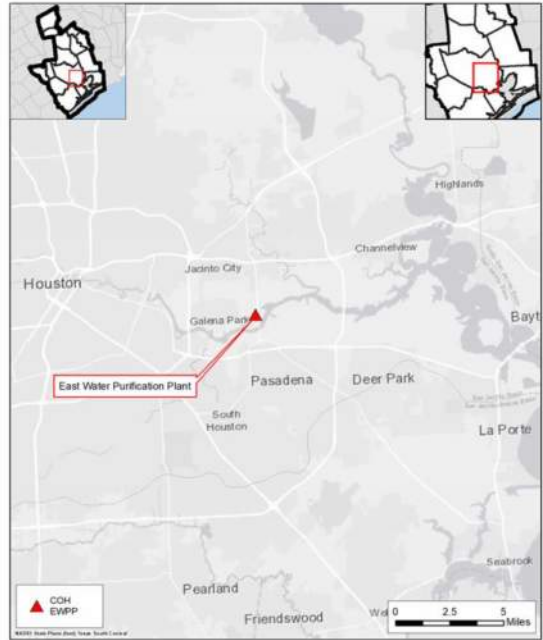
2. Reduce existing COH self-supply

3. Return through stand-alone WMS

4. Associate with companion project

# Agenda Item 5a Proposed Amendment

Project Profile	
Project Name:	City of Houston EWPP Enhancement
Project ID:	TRET-009
Project Type:	Existing Surface Water Source
Potential Supply Quantity:	80,640 ac-ft/yr (72 MGD)
Implementation Decade:	2030
Development Timeline:	5 years
Project Capital Cost:	\$401,521,071 (Sept. 2018)
Unit Water Cost:	\$564 per ac-ft (during loan period) \$214 per ac-ft (after loan period)



# Agenda Item 5a Proposed Amendment

Text

Tables

Minor Adjustments

Needs

Potentially Feasible

WMS List

WMS and Project Relationships

Regional Infrastructure summary



**Agenda Item 5a  
Proposed Amendment**

**Figures**

Existing Supplies

Needs

WMS Allocations  
and Counts

Costs

Comparisons

**Agenda Item 5a  
Proposed Amendment**

**Appendices**

Major Water  
Provider  
Summaries

Detailed WMS  
Data Tables

New Technical  
Memorandum

Impacts  
Summary

Funding  
Summary

DB22 Tables

# Agenda Item 5a Proposed Amendment

Aug. 2024

- RWPG approves for major/minor determination
- Draft packet submitted to TWDB

Sept. 2024

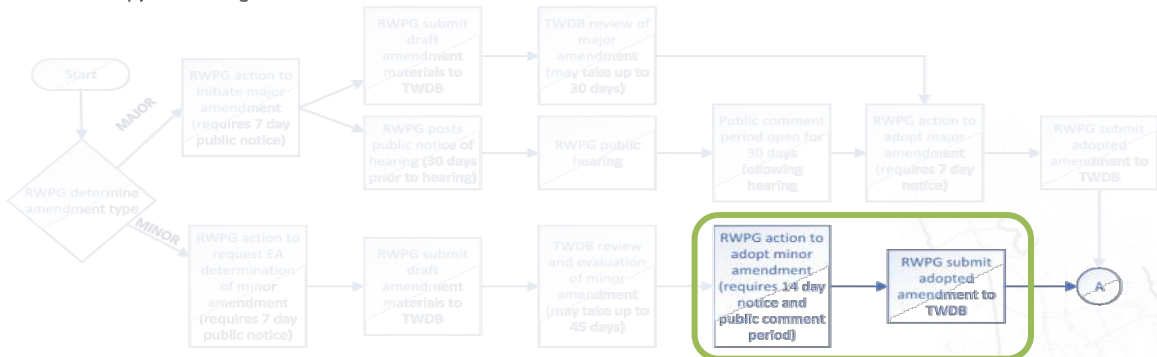
- TWDB confirms minor amendment status
- Public comment period

Today

- Review comments and consider adoption
- Submittal to TWDB for SWP consideration

## RWPG Amendment Process for RWP

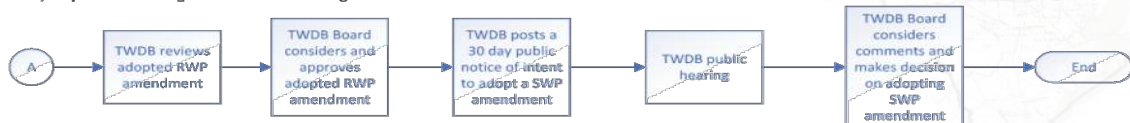
Major amendment process may take approximately three (3) months and includes two (2) RWPG meetings and one (1) hearing. Minor amendment process may take approximately 2.5 months and includes two (2) RWPG meetings.



## 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.



**Agenda Item 5a**  
**Proposed Amendment**

Written Public Comments

August 7, 2024

**Agricultural**  
Caleb Cooper  
Danny Pierce

**Counties**  
Mark Evans, Chair  
Byron Ryder  
Loyd Smith

**Electric Generating Utilities**  
Carl Burch

**Environmental**  
John R. Bartos,  
Secretary

**Groundwater Management Areas**  
Gary Ashmore  
David Bailey,  
Executive Committee

**Industries**  
Jason Garrard  
Cyndi Wagener

**Municipalities**  
Greg Eyerly  
Robert Istre

**Public**  
Ken Kramer

**River Authorities**  
Brad Brunett  
Aubrey Spear  
Kevin Ward

**Small Businesses**  
W.R. Baker  
Ivan Langford  
Mike O'Connell

**Water Districts**  
Jun Chang  
Marvin Marcell, Vice Chair  
Mike Turco

**Water Utilities**  
Arthur Bredehoft,  
Executive Committee  
Alisa Max  
Brandon Wade

Mr. Bryan McMath  
Executive Administrator  
Texas Water Development Board  
1700 Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78701

**Re: Amendment to the 2021 Region H Water Plan  
City of Houston  
Determination of Minor Amendment Status**

Dear Mr. McMath:

The Region H Water Planning Group (RHWPG) is transmitting a draft amendment package, attached with this letter, to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) on behalf of the City of Houston. The City wishes to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan (RWP) and the 2022 State Water Plan to incorporate its planned East Water Purification Plant Enhancement project. This request was considered by the RHWPG at its August 7, 2024 regular public meeting. The RHWPG, in recognition of the need for the amendment in order to better reflect the planned project, took formal action at the meeting to approve the submittal of this package to TWDB for review by your staff in final determination of minor amendment status.

The RHWPG wishes to address this matter at their next meeting, following this determination by TWDB, and consider either amending the 2021 RWP or conducting a hearing if a major amendment is deemed necessary. TWDB staff efforts to expedite a determination are appreciated to facilitate preparation for the proposed Planning Group meeting.

Should you have any further questions regarding this submittal, please feel free to contact me at 281.440.3942 or mevans@nhcrwa.com or the Region H consultant, Philip Taucer, at 713.600.6835 or philip.taucer@freese.com. Thank you for your consideration and the RHWPG looks forward to your response regarding this amendment application.

Sincerely,



Mark Evans  
Region H Chair

cc: Heather Rose, TWDB

---

**TWDB Liaison**  
Heather Rose



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

September 9, 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 City of Houston East Water Purification Plant Enhancement 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. Based on the potential amendment timeline communicated via email by my staff on July 23, 2024 to the City of Houston and Freese and Nichols staff, Region H would need to submit an *adopted* amendment to the TWDB by October 2, 2024, in order for the TWDB to incorporate this regional plan amendment into a state water plan amendment prior to the anticipated 2025 SWIFT cycle abridged application deadline.

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).

<p><a href="#">Our Mission</a></p> <p>Leading the state's efforts in ensuring a secure water future for Texas</p>	<p><a href="#">Board Members</a></p> <p>Brooke T. Paup, Chairwoman   L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Board Member</p> <p>Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator</p>
---	---

Mr. Mark Evans, Chair  
September 9, 2024  
Page 2

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](mailto:heather.rose@twdb.texas.gov).

Sincerely,



Bryan McMath  
Executive Administrator

c: Aubrey Spear, San Jacinto River Authority  
Philip Taucer, Freese and Nichols, Inc  
Jordan Skipwith, Freese and Nichols, Inc  
Nancy Richards, Regional Water Project Development  
Temple McKinnon, Water Supply Planning  
Sarah Lee, Water Supply Planning  
Heather Rose, Water Supply Planni

## Agenda Item 5b

Consider taking action to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan to incorporate the proposed City of Houston East Water Purification Plant Enhancement.

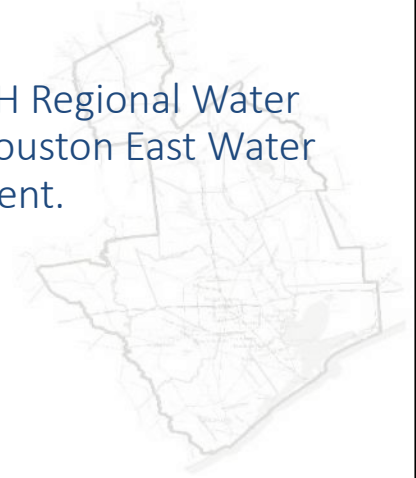




## **Agenda Item 5b Amendment Approval**

### **Action:**

Approve amendment of the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan to incorporate the proposed City of Houston East Water Purification Plant Enhancement.





## Agenda Item 6a

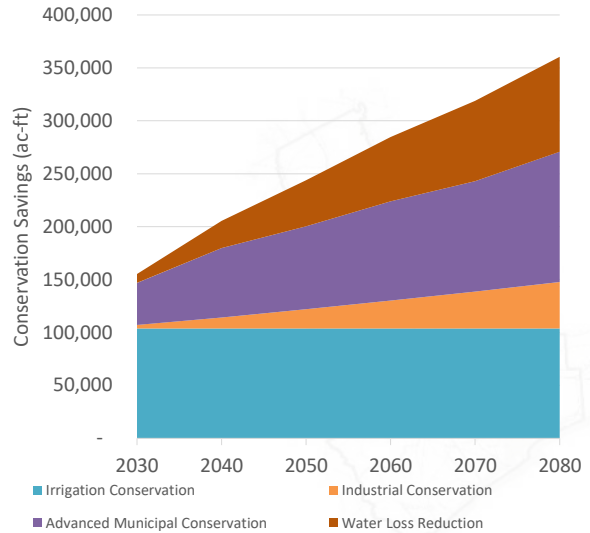
Receive update regarding technical analyses for the 2026  
Region H RWP.



## Agenda Item 6a

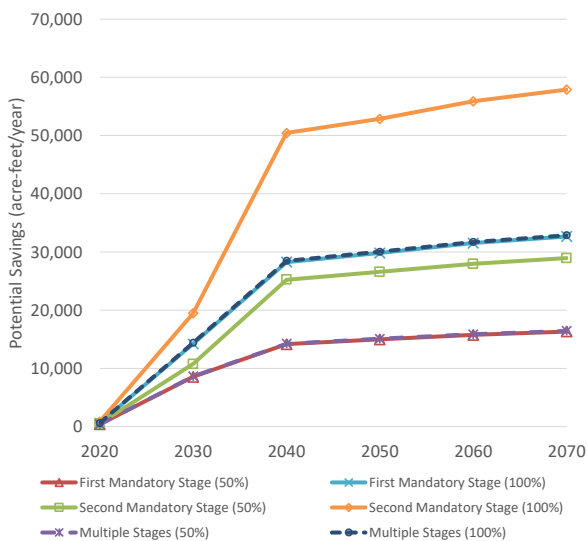
### Technical Analyses – Conservation and Loss Reduction

- Advanced Municipal Conservation
  - Increased aggressiveness
  - Incorporates AMI
- Water Loss Reduction
- Irrigation Conservation
- Industrial Conservation
  - Petroleum and chemical focus
  - Normalized per-facility usage trend



## Agenda Item 6a

### Technical Analyses – Drought Management



- Analysis in progress
- Incorporate new DCPs and implementation data
- Multiple scenarios
  - Stages implemented
  - Compliance
- Non-standard cost analysis
  - TWDB cost tools
  - Residential “willing to pay” cost

## Agenda Item 6a Technical Analyses – Groundwater

### Expansion

- Preliminary analysis complete
- Focus on growing rural areas
- Tight supplies in some areas
- Innovative GW analyses kicking off
  - ASR
  - Brackish
  - Blended

### Reduction

- Volumetric assessments under way
  - Groundwater offsets
  - Participant conversions
- Limited change to
  - Timing
  - Participants
- Coordination on infrastructure in progress

## Agenda Item 6a Technical Analyses – Reuse

- Completed analyses
  - COH Reuse (Right 5827)
  - Reclamation for Municipal Irrigation
- Ongoing
  - Regional Return Flows
  - Industrial reuse
  - WUG-level reuse projects



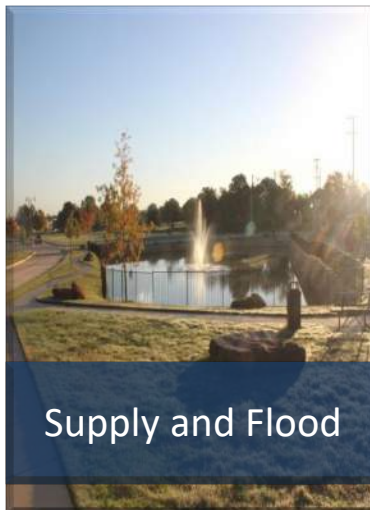
## Agenda Item 6a Technical Analyses – Other Major Infrastructure

Brazos River Authority	Brazosport Water Authority	Brazosport Water Supply Corporation	Dow
Gulf Coast Water Authority	Houston	Lower Neches Valley Authority	San Jacinto River Authority
Baytown	Manvel	Pearland	Sugar Land

## Agenda Item 6a Technical Analyses – Other WMS Elements

ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
<b>PROJECT CAPITAL COST SUMMARY</b>				
01 - ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL, LEGAL, SERVICES AND CONTRACTS	1	LS	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
02 - LAND ACQUISITION	1	LS	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
03 - ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND MITIGATION	1	LS	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
04 - PROJECTS OF INFRASTRUCTURE	1	LS	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
05 - PERFORMANCE BOND	1	LS	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
<b>PROJECT CAPITAL COST</b>				<b>\$5,072,378</b>
<b>ANNUAL COST SUMMARY</b>				
01 - OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE COST	2019	2020	2025	2030
02 - CAPITAL COST	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
03 - OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE COST	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
04 - PURCHASE COST OF WATER	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
05 - PERFORMANCE BOND	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL COST</b>	<b>\$5,072,378</b>	<b>\$5,072,378</b>	<b>\$5,072,378</b>	<b>\$5,072,378</b>

Data and Cost Tools



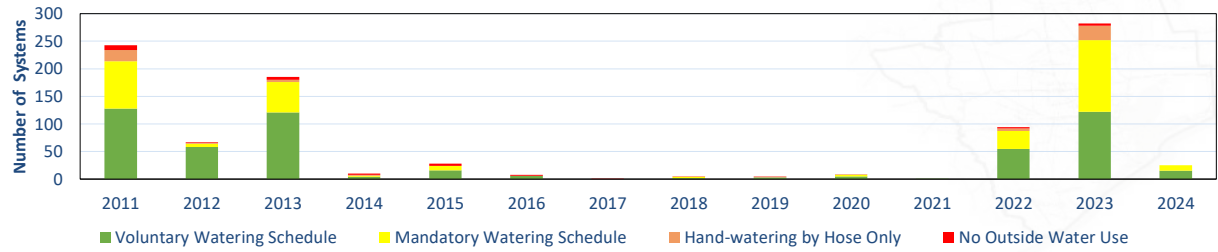
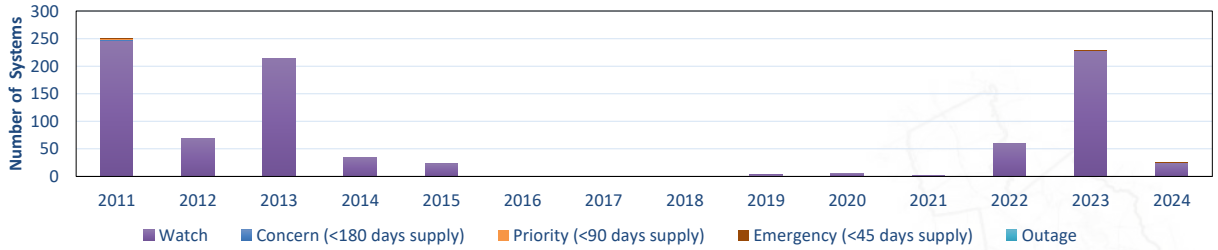
Supply and Flood



Emerging Technologies

# Agenda Item 6a

## Technical Analyses – WCP / DCP Analyses





## Agenda Item 6b

Receive update on coordination with rural entities regarding water needs and potential future strategies.



## Agenda Item 6b Rural Entity Planning

- Longstanding RWP activity
- Now more formalized (SB469)
  - TWDB assistance
  - Ch. 10 documentation
- Challenge in prior cycles
  - Points of contact
  - Response rates

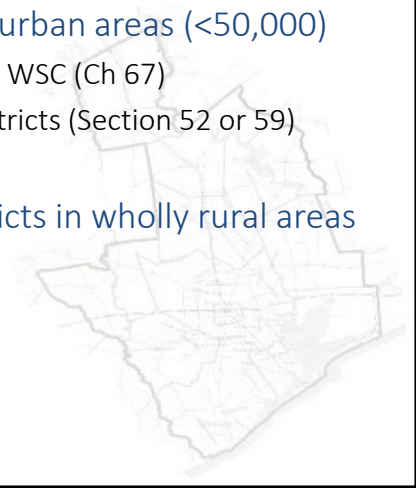
## Agenda Item 6b Rural Entity Planning

### Municipal

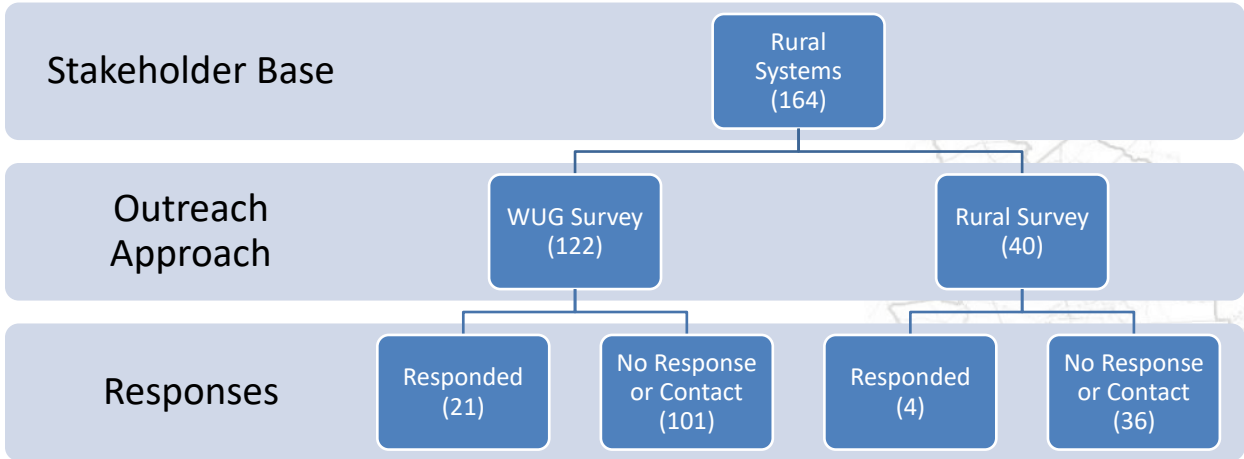
- Not located in urban area of >50,000 people
- <10,000 and partially in urban area

### Other

- Outside of urban areas (<50,000)
  - Nonprofit WSC (Ch 67)
  - Other Districts (Section 52 or 59)
- Other districts in wholly rural areas

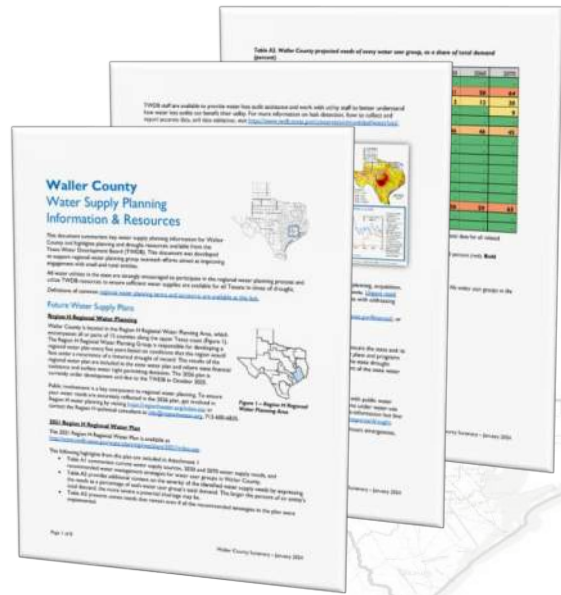


# Agenda Item 6b Rural Entity Planning



# Agenda Item 6b Rural Entity Planning

- Considerations
  - Conversion to urban
  - Non-growing areas
  - Non-PWS areas
- Gradually building over time
- RWPG relationships have benefitted process
- TWDB resources available



## **Agenda Item 6b**

### **Rural Entity Planning**

- Rural area data sheets

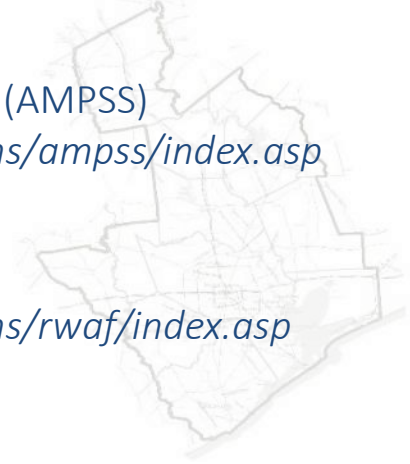
*<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/outreach/index.asp>*

- Asset Management Program for Small Systems (AMPSS)

*<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/ampss/index.asp>*

- Rural Water Assistance Fund

*<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/rwaf/index.asp>*





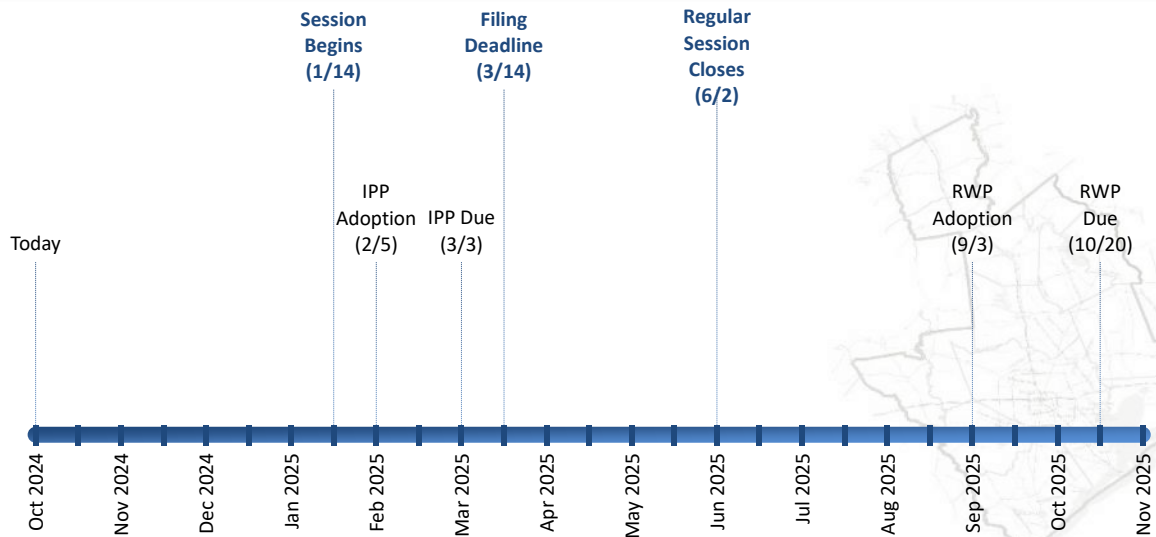
## Agenda Item 6c

Receive update from the Region H Legislative Committee and Consultant Team and discuss potential legislative and policy recommendations for the 2026 Region H RWP.





## Agenda Item 6c Legislative and Policy Recommendations



## Agenda Item 6c Legislative and Policy Recommendations



- Legislative Committee (10/02)
- Review of
  - 2021 RWP recommendations
  - New comments
  - Outreach opportunities

# DATES OF INTEREST | 89<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE

## Interim

- Tuesday, March 5, 2024** Primary election to select political party candidate for federal, state, and county officers.  
*[[Sec. 41.007\(a\)](#), Election Code]*
- Saturday, May 4, 2024** Uniform election date for elections held by a political subdivision, other than a county, or ordered by the governor.  
*[[Sec. 41.001\(a\)\(2\)](#), Election Code]*
- Tuesday, May 28, 2024** Runoff primary election to select political party candidate for the November general election for federal, state, and county officers.  
*[[Sec. 41.007\(b\)](#), Election Code]*
- Tuesday, November 5, 2024** General election for federal, state, and county officers.  
*[[Sec. 41.001\(a\)\(3\)](#), Election Code]*
- Monday, November 11, 2024** First day legislators and legislators-elect may file bills for the 89th Legislature.  
*[[House Rule 8, Sec. 7](#); [Senate Rule 7.04\(a\)](#)]*

## Regular Session Begins

- Tuesday, January 14, 2025  
(1st day)** 89th Legislature convenes at noon.  
*[[Sec. 5\(a\)](#), Article III, Texas Constitution; [Sec. 301.001](#), Government Code]*
- Friday, March 14, 2025  
(60th day)** 60-day deadline for bill filing.  
*[[House Rule 8, Secs. 8 and 10\(c\)](#); [Senate Rule 7.07\(b\)](#); [Senate Rule 10.01](#) subjects joint resolutions to the rules governing proceedings on bills]*
- Monday, June 2, 2025  
(140th day)** Sine die. (Last day of 89th Regular Session)  
*[[Sec. 24\(b\)](#), Article III, Texas Constitution]*

# 88th Legislature, Regular Session Deadlines for Action Under House and Senate Rules

# MAY 2023

*This deadlines calendar is intended to be a practical summary guide to the end-of-session deadlines. It is not intended as an interpretation of the rules of the House or Senate.*

A red box indicates the last day for a chamber to take certain actions.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>118<sup>th</sup> day</b> 7	<b>119<sup>th</sup> day</b> 8 Last day for House committees to report HBs/HJR's  (See Note 1)	<b>120<sup>th</sup> day</b> 9 By 10 p.m.—last House daily calendar with HBs/HJR's must be distributed (36-hour layout)  (See Note 2)	<b>121<sup>st</sup> day</b> 10 By 9 a.m.—last House local and consent calendar with consent HBs must be distributed (48-hour layout)  (See Note 2)	<b>122<sup>nd</sup> day</b> 11 Last day for House to consider HBs/HJR's on daily or supplemental calendar	<b>123<sup>rd</sup> day</b> 12 Last day for House to consider consent HBs on local and consent calendar on 2nd and 3rd reading and ALL 3rd reading HBs/HJR's on supplemental calendar	<b>124<sup>th</sup> day</b> 13
<b>125<sup>th</sup> day</b> 14	<b>126<sup>th</sup> day</b> 15 First day Senate can consider bills and resolutions on the first day they are posted on the Notice of Intent Calendar	<b>127<sup>th</sup> day</b> 16	<b>128<sup>th</sup> day</b> 17 By 9 a.m.—last House local and consent calendar with local HBs must be distributed (48-hour layout)  (See Note 2)	<b>129<sup>th</sup> day</b> 18	<b>130<sup>th</sup> day</b> 19 Last day for House to consider local HBs on local and consent calendar on 2nd and 3rd reading	<b>131<sup>st</sup> day</b> 20 Last day for House committees to report SBs/SJR's  (See Note 1)
<b>132<sup>nd</sup> day</b> 21 By 10 p.m.—last House daily calendar with SBs/SJR's must be distributed (36-hour layout)  (See Note 2)	<b>133<sup>rd</sup> day</b> 22 By 9 a.m.—last House local and consent calendar with SBs must be distributed (48-hour layout)  (See Note 2)	<b>134<sup>th</sup> day</b> 23 Last day for House to consider 2nd reading SBs/SJR's on daily or supplemental calendar	<b>135<sup>th</sup> day</b> 24 Last day for House to consider local and consent SBs on 2nd & 3rd reading and ALL 3rd reading SBs/SJR's on supplemental calendar  Last day for Senate to consider ALL bills & JR's on 2nd or 3rd reading  (See Note 3)	<b>136<sup>th</sup> day</b> 25 Before midnight—Senate amendments must be distributed in the House (24-hour layout)	<b>137<sup>th</sup> day</b> 26 Before midnight—House copies of conference committee report (CCR) on the general appropriations bill must be distributed (48-hour layout)  Last day for House to act on Senate amendments  Before midnight—Senate copies of CCRs on tax, general appropriations, and reappropriation bills must be distributed (48-hour layout)  (See Note 4)	<b>138<sup>th</sup> day</b> 27 Before midnight—House copies of CCRs on JR's and bills other than the general appropriations bill must be distributed (24-hour layout)  Before midnight—Senate copies of CCRs on JR's and bills other than tax, general appropriations, and reappropriation bills must be distributed (24-hour layout)
<b>139<sup>th</sup> day</b> 28 Last day for House to adopt CCRs or discharge House conferees and concur in Senate amendments  Last day for Senate to concur in House amendments or adopt CCRs	<b>140<sup>th</sup> day</b> 29 Corrections only in House and Senate  Last day of session (Sine die)					

In reviewing this calendar, all members should consider, in addition to the stated deadline, the time needed for the preparation of any ancillary documents related to the bill, any printing time, and any applicable layout rule.

Note 1: The House rules do not contain an express deadline for committees to report measures, but, technically, this is the last day for a House committee to report a measure in order for the measure to have any chance of being placed on a House calendar. However, this deadline does not take into consideration the time required to: (1) prepare the bill analysis; (2) obtain an updated fiscal note or impact statement; (3) prepare any other paperwork required for a committee report; or (4) prepare the committee report for distribution to the members of the House as required by the rules. Realistically, it normally takes a full day or more for a measure to reach the Calendars Committee after the measure has been reported from committee.

Note 2: The House rules do not have an express deadline for distributing calendars on the 120th, 121st, 128th, 132nd, and 133rd days. This calendar presumes that the House will convene at 9 a.m. for a local and consent calendar and at 10 a.m. for a daily or supplemental calendar.

Note 3: The Senate deadline for passing all bills and joint resolutions does not take into consideration the House deadline for passing Senate bills and joint resolutions. Realistically, to be eligible for consideration by the House under its end-of-session deadlines, Senate bills and joint resolutions must be passed by the Senate and received by the House before the 130th day.

Note 4: Both Senate and House rules require a 48-hour layout for a resolution suspending limitations on a conference committee considering the general appropriations bill, if such a resolution is necessary. Neither rule has an express deadline for considering that resolution, which should occur before consideration of the general appropriations bill.



## Agenda Item 6d

Receive presentation from the Region H Legislative Committee and Consultant Team regarding ecologically unique stream segments and unique reservoir sites and discuss potential recommendations for the 2026 Region H RWP.



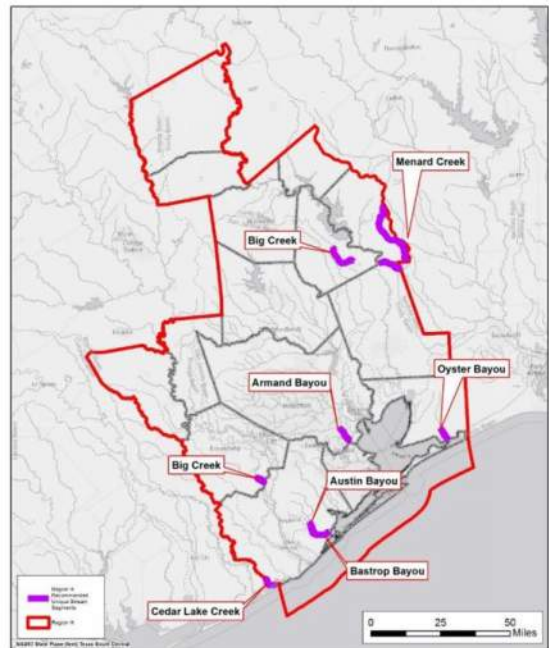
## Agenda Item 6d USS and URS

- Unique Stream Segment - ecological
  - ➔ Biological Function
  - ➔ Hydrologic Function
  - ➔ Riparian Conservation
  - ➔ High Water Quality / Exceptional Aquatic Life / High Aesthetic Value
  - ➔ T&E/ Unique Communities

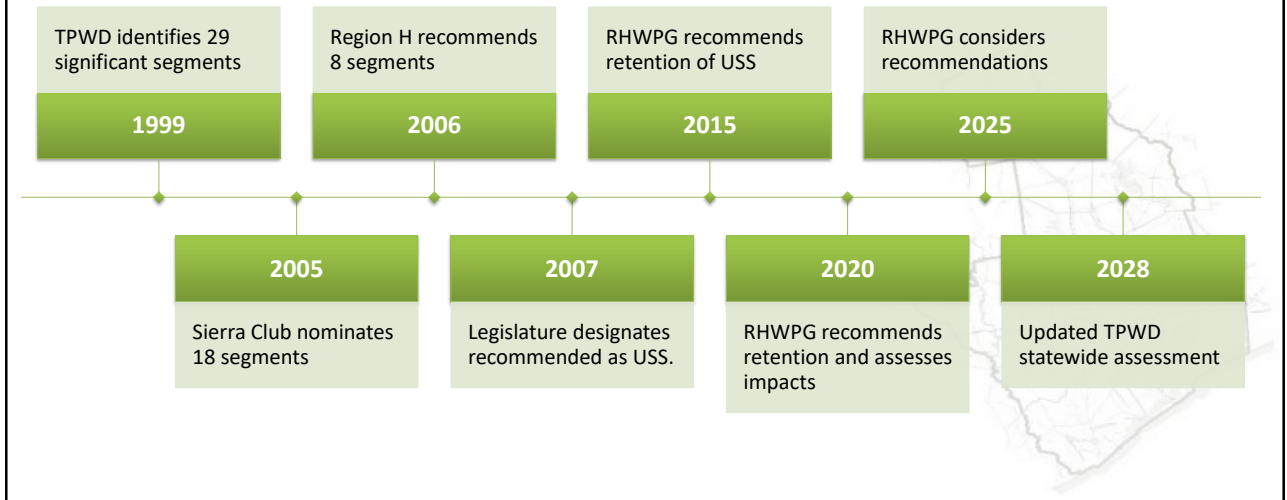


## Agenda Item 6d USS and URS

- Part of TWC 16.051
- Designated by Legislature
- State agency or political subdivision cannot finance reservoir in designated segment
- Impacts of WMS must be assessed



## Agenda Item 6d USS and URS



## Agenda Item 6d USS and URS

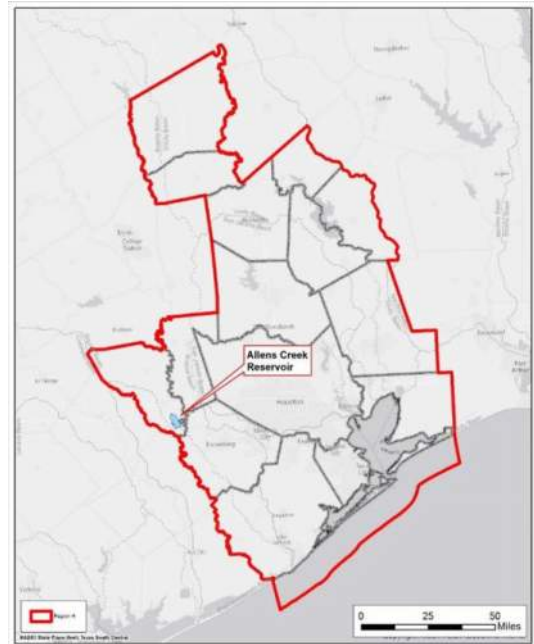
- Unique Reservoir Site – supply
  - Recommended WMS or URS
  - Location
  - Hydrology and water availability
  - Geology and topography
  - Water quality
  - Environmental characteristics
  - Cultural characteristics
  - Development properties





## Agenda Item 6d USS and URS

- Part of TWC 16.051
- Designated by Legislature
- State agency or political subdivision cannot obtain fee title or easement that significantly prevents



## Agenda Item 6d USS and URS

Legislature designates  
Allens Creek as URS

2001

TWDB Reservoir Site  
Protection Study

2008

RHWPG recommends  
retaining Allens Creek

2015

RHWPG considers  
recommendation

2025

2005

RHWPG Recommends 4  
sites

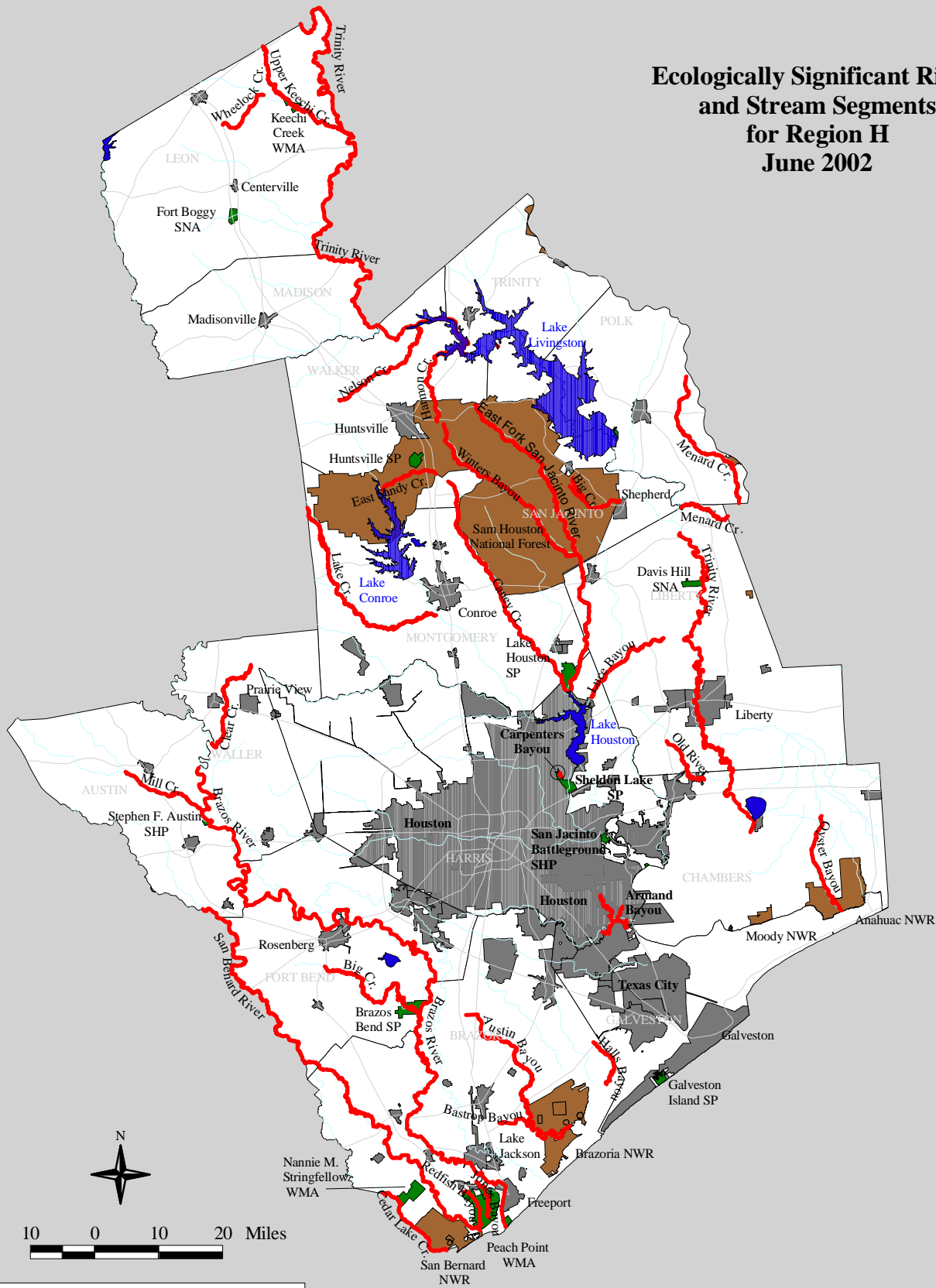
2010

Region H recommends 4  
sites

2020

RHWPG recommends  
retaining Allens Creek

# Ecologically Significant River and Stream Segments for Region H June 2002



- Existing reservoirs
- ▬ TPWD significant stream segments
- ▬ Rivers and streams
- ▬ Highways
- State Parks and Wildlife Management Areas
- Federal Land
- Cities



Map compiled by the Water Resources Branch, TPWD. No claims are made as to the accuracy of the data or to the suitability of that data to a particular use.

# **Ecologically Significant River and Stream Segments – Region H**

Authors: Chad W. Norris and Gordon W. Linam

## **Introduction**

Texas is a rapidly growing state that in 1992 surpassed New York to become the second most populated state in the United States. Texas population has doubled in the past 35 years from 9.5 million in 1960 to over 19 million today. The State Water Plan (TWDB1997) predicts that Texas population will double again in the next 50 years, increasing to over 36 million residents by the year 2050. Many problems are associated with such rapid population growth, none of which are more important than water resource issues. Water is a dynamic resource that is crucial to the State's economic development. Competition over limited water resources is sure to increase as rapid population growth continues. Water supply is dependent upon several factors including the amount of precipitation, evaporation, stream flow, and absorption into the ground. Climatic variations coupled with rapid population growth and economic development has resulted in increasing water quality and quantity problems for the state of Texas.

Water quality problems arise from natural and manmade pollution that can render water unusable or too costly to use. As populations and economic development continue to increase, so will associated pollution problems and water supply shortages. Shortages in water supplies required to meet municipal, industrial, and agricultural needs have already occurred in many regions of the state as evidenced during the drought of 1995-1996, which resulted in an estimated economic impact of \$6 billion (TWDB 1997). These water supply shortages and accompanying economic losses that occurred between 1995 and 1996 can partially be attributed to the fact that Texas is one of three Western states without a State Drought Contingency Plan.

In response to the need for improved water management, the 75th Texas Legislature passed the water resource management legislation Senate Bill 1. This landmark legislation addresses many different aspects of water management and calls for grass roots water resource planning. Regional water plans from across the state will be merged to form the new State Water Plan by January 2002. Regional water planning areas were designated according to 31 TAC § 357.3 (a) taking into consideration the following factors:

1. river basin and aquifer delineations
2. water utility development patterns
3. socioeconomic characteristics
4. existing regional water planning areas
5. political subdivision boundaries
6. public comment; and
7. other factors the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) deemed relevant.

The Region H Regional Water Planning Area includes the greater Houston metropolitan area and consists of 15 counties (Figure 1). The counties included in Region H are: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Montgomery, Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity, Walker and Waller. Polk and Trinity Counties are the only two counties that are not included in their entirety and are divided among regions by watersheds.

After the designation of regional water planning areas, the TWDB designated "regional water planning group representatives . . . to serve as the initial coordinating body to include one representative from each of the 11 interests listed in Texas Water Code § 16.053 (c)" (31 TAC § 357.4 (a)). The regional water planning groups (RWPG) consist of representatives from the public, counties, municipalities, industries, agricultural interests, environmental interests, small businesses, electric generating utilities, river authorities, water districts, and water utilities within the regional water planning area.

The goals of the regional water plans are consistent with that of the State Water Plan under Section 1.01 of Senate Bill 1. This section states that:

***The state water plan shall provide for the orderly development, management, and conservation of water resources and preparation for and response to drought conditions, in order that sufficient water will be available at a reasonable cost to ensure public health, safety, and welfare; further economic development; and protect the agricultural and natural resources of the entire state.***

Senate Bill 1 brings a new aspect to Texas water resource management by calling for the protection of the "natural resources of the entire state." Environmental water needs of the state's natural resources must be considered while planning for future water development. The guidelines for the development of regional water plans, 31 TAC § 357.5, states that the RWPG should "recommend potentially feasible strategies that are cost effective and environmentally sensitive" and "consider environmental water needs" in their plans. Likewise, 31 TAC § 357.7, states that "regional water plan development shall include a description of ... natural resources ... and identified threats due to water quality or quantity problems."

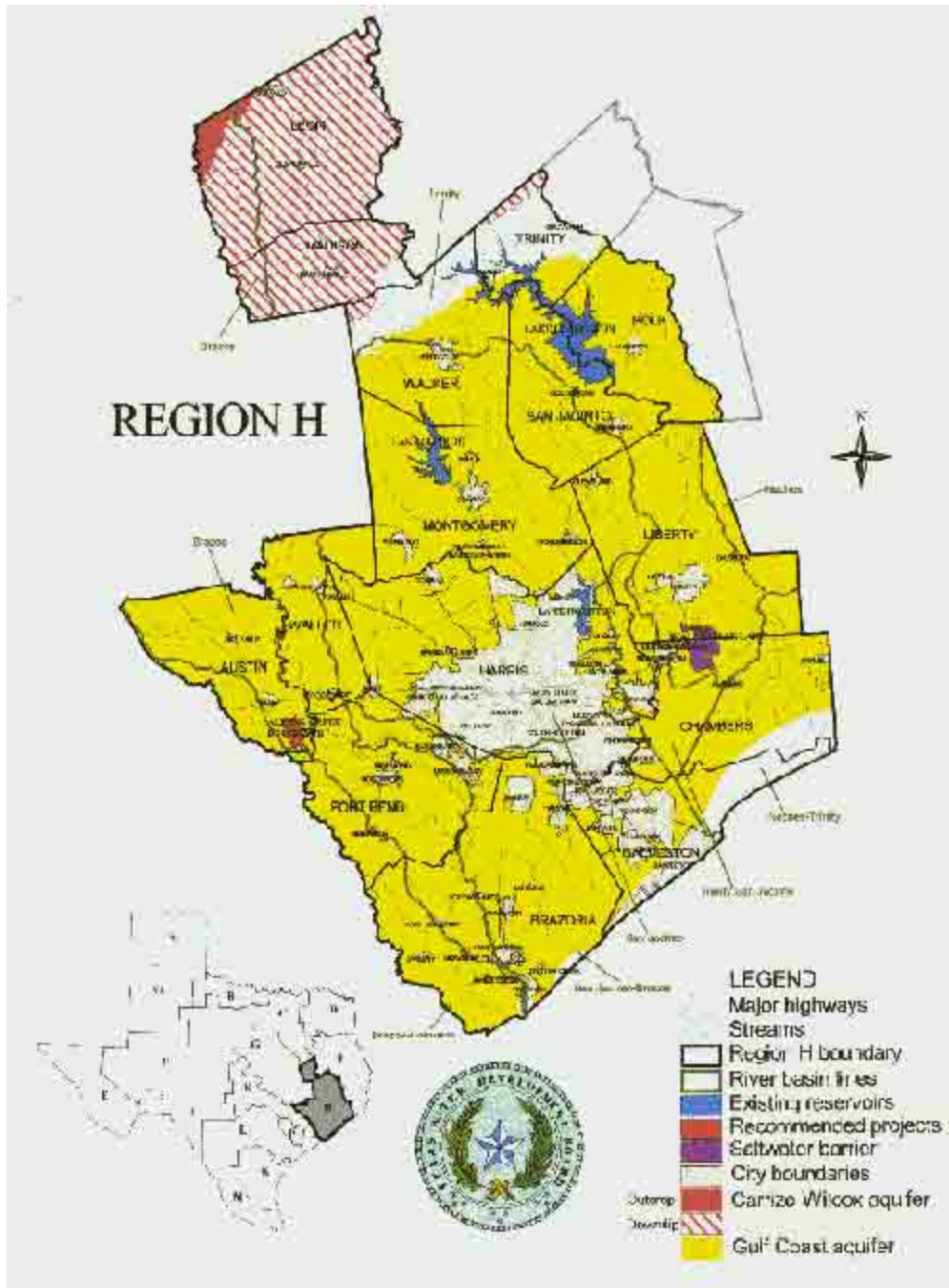


Figure 1. Boundaries of the Region H Water Planning Area and Counties Included<sup>19</sup>

Furthermore, Senate Bill 1 offers the RWPG the opportunity to identify river and stream segments of unique ecological value. The details and criteria for this section are as follows: 31 TAC § 357.8 Ecologically Unique River and Stream Segments (a) Regional water planning groups may include in adopted regional water plans recommendations for all or parts of river and stream segments of unique ecological value located within the regional water planning area by preparing a recommendation package consisting of a physical

description giving the location of the stream segment, maps, and photographs of the stream segment and a site characterization of the stream segment documented by supporting literature and data. The recommendation package shall address each of the criteria for designation of river and stream segments of ecological value found in subsection (b) of this section. The regional water planning group shall forward the recommendation package to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and allow the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department 30 days for its written evaluation of the recommendation. The adopted regional water plan shall include, if available, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's written evaluation of each river and stream segment recommended as a river or stream segment of unique ecological value. (b) A regional water planning group may recommend a river or stream segment as being of unique ecological value based upon the following criteria:

(1) biological function--stream segments which display significant overall habitat value including both quantity and quality considering the degree of biodiversity, age, and uniqueness observed and including terrestrial, wetland, aquatic, or estuarine habitats;

(2) hydrologic function--stream segments which are fringed by habitats that perform valuable hydrologic functions relating to water quality, flood attenuation, flow stabilization, or groundwater recharge and discharge;

(3) riparian conservation areas--stream segments which are fringed by significant areas in public ownership including state and federal refuges, wildlife management areas, preserves, parks, mitigation areas, or other areas held by governmental organizations for conservation purposes, or stream segments which are fringed by other areas managed for conservation purposes under a governmentally approved conservation plan;

(4) high water quality/exceptional aquatic life/high aesthetic value--stream segments and spring resources that are significant due to unique or critical habitats and exceptional aquatic life uses dependent on or associated with high water quality; or

(5) threatened or endangered species/unique communities--sites along streams where water development projects would have significant detrimental effects on state or federally listed threatened and endangered species, and sites along streams significant due to the presence of unique, exemplary, or unusually extensive natural communities.

# Objective

The purpose of this report is to identify those river and stream segments that meet the outlined criteria and to prepare a report documenting those streams that are deemed to be of significant ecological value.

# Methods

Aerial photographs, maps and the Gazetteer of Streams and Rivers of Texas (Draft Version)<sup>17</sup> were used to identify the boundaries of the Region H Regional Water Planning Area and the major water courses contained within. Each of the criteria listed in 31 TAC § 357.8 (b) was addressed individually in an effort to identify all rivers or streams that meet the criteria (Tables 1- 5).

State and federal agencies and universities were contacted to solicit river and stream segment information along with supporting data and documentation for inclusion in the final report. Those contacted included the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Houston-Galveston Area Council, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), United States Forest Service, Texas A&M University and the University of Texas.

National Wetland Inventory Maps and USFWS documents and resources were used to identify river or stream segments that are bordered by wetlands displaying "significant overall habitat value" (31 TAC § 357.8 (b) (1)). Significant wetland habitat within Region H was determined to include any freshwater wetlands that offer valuable habitat. Forested wetlands were determined to be the most important of these habitat types.

National Wetland Inventory Maps were also used to identify those river or stream segments that "perform valuable hydrologic functions relating to water control and flood attenuation" (31 TAC § 357.8 (b) (2)). A map of aquifer outcrop areas<sup>20</sup> was used to identify significant stream or river segments performing a valuable hydrologic function relating to groundwater recharge.

River and stream segments fringed by significant riparian conservation areas were identified with maps and through personal communication with government agencies and conservation groups. River and stream segments deemed significant due to "unique or critical habitats and exceptional aquatic life uses dependent on or associated with high water quality" (31 TAC § 357.8 (b) (4)) were located through personal communication with government agencies and universities. Likewise, unique communities and "sites along



streams where water development projects would have significant detrimental effects on state or federally listed threatened and endangered species" (31 TAC § 357.8 (b) (5)) were identified through personal communication with TPWD and USFWS staff. Habitats that support threatened and endangered species were identified using TPWD and USFWS documentation and reports.

After identifying all of the river and stream segments meeting the criteria, a preliminary list consisting of those segments thought to be most "significant" and "valuable" was compiled. The list consists of those segments that are thought to best fit the criteria and does not include all segments that meet the criteria. Among the segments included are those that the TPWD in cooperation with the TNRCC identified as ecoregion streams. Ecoregions, as delineated by Omernik (1987), are based upon land surface form, land use, soils, and potential natural vegetation. The joint project identified streams within each of the respective ecoregions that were minimally or only slightly disturbed in order to develop a potential list of reference stations that could be used to evaluate the conditions of other streams within the ecoregion. The criteria for becoming an ecoregion stream included the lack of urban development in their watershed, no point sources of pollution, no channelization, and no atypical non-point sources of pollution. These ecoregion streams serve as examples of what the physical habitat, physiochemical character, and biological attributes for other streams within their respective ecoregions could likely attain under the right set of circumstances.

The list of river and stream segments has been compiled to provide the Region H RWPG with the technical information necessary to prepare a recommendation package of ecologically significant river and stream segments under 31 TAC 357.8(a), which may be included in the regional water plan. The state water plan, which will be based on the regional water plans, will identify river and stream segments of unique ecological value that the Texas Water Development Board recommends for protection. The TWDB has agreed to coordinate with the TPWD and the TNRCC in identifying any river, stream segment or site that warrants protection because of its unique ecological value in the state water plan. Streams designated "ecologically unique" by the legislature would be protected from a state agency or political subdivision obtaining a fee title or an easement that would destroy the ecological value of a river or stream segment. Obtaining a fee title means the property has been purchased outright, while an easement means that certain uses of the property have been limited.

# Results

Two hundred fifty-nine streams were identified within the boundaries of the Region H Regional Water Planning Area. Twenty-nine streams were found to meet the biological function criteria (Table 1). These streams "displayed significant overall habitat value...considering the degree of biodiversity, age and uniqueness." The hydrologic function criteria was met by twenty-seven streams (Table 2), which "perform valuable hydrologic functions relating to water quality, flood attenuation, flow stabilization or groundwater recharge/discharge." Sixty-three streams met the conservation area criteria (Table 3). Only twelve streams met the high water quality/exceptional aquatic life/high aesthetic value criteria (Table 4), while the threatened or endangered species/unique communities criteria was met by twelve streams (Table 5). Of these streams, only twenty-seven segments were chosen for inclusion in the table of ecologically significant river and stream segments (Table 6).

# References

1. Bauer, J., R. Frye, and B. Spain. 1991. A natural resource survey for proposed reservoir sites and selected stream segments in Texas. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin, Texas.
2. Bayer, C.W., J.R. Davis, S.R. Twidwell, R. Kleinsasser, G. Linam, K. Mayes, and E. Hornig. 1992. Texas aquatic ecoregion project: an assessment of least disturbed streams (draft). Texas Water Commission, Austin, Texas.
3. Belisle, H.J., and R. Josselet. 1974. An Analysis of Texas Waterways. A Report on the Physical Characteristics of Rivers, Streams, and Bayous in Texas. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin, Texas.
4. Carrie, Dawn. 1999. Personal communication. Sam Houston National Forest, Wildlife Biologist, New Waverly, Texas.
5. Denton, W. 1999. Personal communication. Resource Protection Division, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Houston, Texas.
6. Erfling, E. 1999. Personal communication. United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Houston, Texas.

7. Gelwick, F. 1999. Personal communication. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Science, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.
8. Herbert, M. 1999. Fish communities of the West and East Fork of the Upper San Jacinto (draft). M.S. Thesis. Texas A&M University, College station, Texas.
9. Howells, R.G. 1997. Distibutional surveys of freshwater bivalves in Texas: progress report for 1996. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Management Data Series 147, Austin, Texas.
10. Linam, G.W., Kleinsasser, L.J., Mayes, K. 1999. Regionalization of the Index of Biotic Integrity for Texas Streams (Draft-In Review). Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, River Studies Report No. 16, Austin, Texas.
11. Moring, J., J. Rosendale, S. Ansley, D. Brown. 1998. Fish, Benthic Macroinvertebrate, and Stream Habitat Data From the Houston-Galveston Area Council Service Area, Texas, 1997-1998. United States Geological Survey, Austin, Texas.
12. Omernik, J.M. 1987. Ecoregions of the conterminous United States. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. 77: 118-125.
13. Ortego, B. 1999. Personal communication. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Victoria, Texas.
14. Peterson, David. 1999. Personal communication. United States Forest Service, New Waverly, Texas.
15. Sipocz, A. 1999. Personal communication. Resource Protection Division, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Houston, Texas.
16. Smith, S. 1999. Personal communication. Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, Houston, Texas.
17. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. 1998. Gazetteer of Streams and Rivers of Texas Draft Version. River Studies Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin, Texas.
18. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. 1999. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Homepage. [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us).
19. Texas Water Development Board. 1997. Texas Water Development Board Homepage. [www.twdb.state.tx.us](http://www.twdb.state.tx.us).

20. Turner Collie and Braden. 1999. Aquifer Outcrop Map. Turner Collie and Braden, Houston, Texas.
21. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1985. Texas Bottomland Hardwood Preservation Program. Department of the Interior Final Concept Plan. Albuquerque, New Mexico.
22. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1999. Lower Trinity River Floodplain Habitat Stewardship Program. Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge.
23. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1999. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Homepage. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).
24. Woodrow, J. 1999. Personal Communication. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Resource Protection Division, Houston, Texas.

## **Map References**

Gulf Publishing. 1998. Texas Map. Houston, Texas. Shearer Publishing. 1995. The Roads of Texas. Fredericksburg, Texas

U.S. Geological Survey. 1974. Bay City, Texas. Scale 1:250,000. U.S. Geological Survey. Denver, Colorado 80225.

U.S. Geological Survey. 1978. Beaumont, Texas. Scale 1:250,000. U.S. Geological Survey. Denver, Colorado 80225.

U.S. Geological Survey. 1975. Houston, Texas. Scale 1:250,000. U.S. Geological Survey. Denver, Colorado 80225.

U.S. Geological Survey. 1975. Seguin, Texas. Scale 1:250,000. U.S. Geological Survey. Denver, Colorado 80225.

## **Acknowledgements**

The authors would like to thank Dr. Jim Lester of the University of Houston Clear Lake and the Environmental Institute of Houston for his valuable input on methods for researching the outlined criteria. Thanks to all those listed in the reference section for their help in gathering supporting data and information on the listed stream segments. Thanks to Alex

Burnett for his help in locating and photographing the included stream segments and Stephanie Stasny whom assisted with formatting the document. We would also like to thank Kay V. Jenkins, Jarrett (Woody) Woodrow, Cindy Loeffler, and Dan Moulton for reviewing and editing draft versions of the report and providing valuable input.



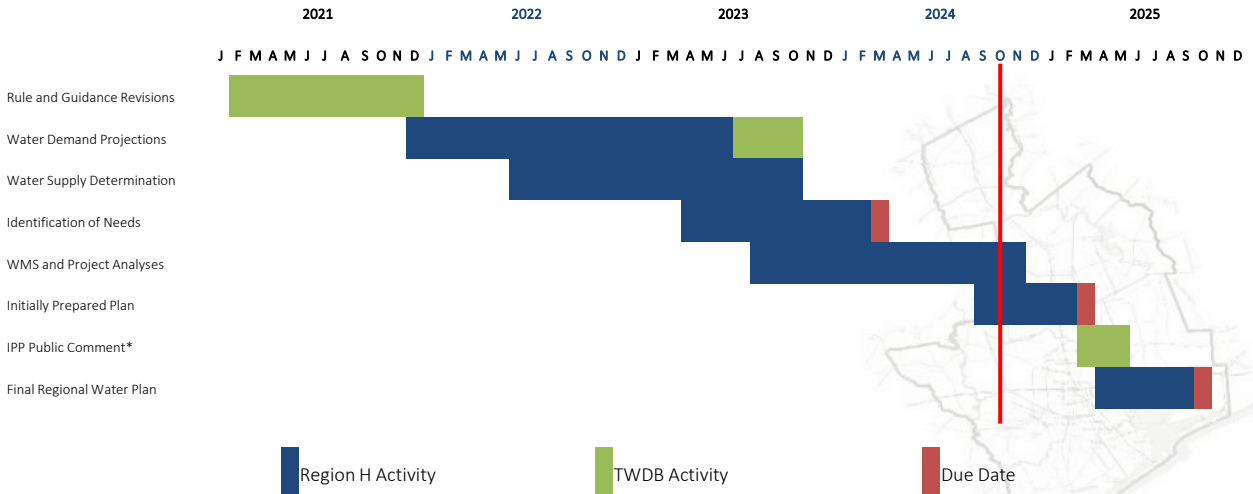
## Agenda Item 7a

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





# Agenda Item 7a 2026 RWP Schedule



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

# Agenda Item 7a 2026 RWP Schedule

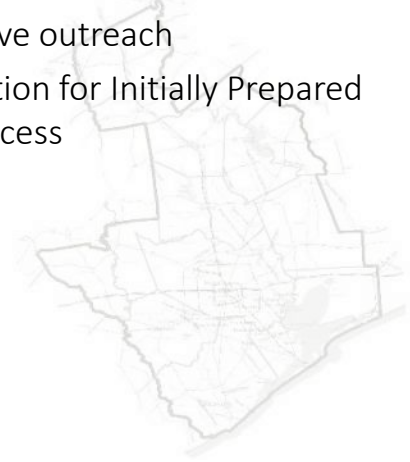
Date	Scheduled Events/Tasks
10/2024	RWPG Meeting
12/2024	RWPG Meeting (Tentative)
01/2025	WMS Committee Meeting
01/2025	89 <sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature convenes
02/2025	RWPG Meeting and IPP Approval
03/2025	Initially Prepared Plan due to TWDB
06/2025	89 <sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature closes
10/2025	RWP due to TWDB

## Agenda Item 7a 2026 RWP Schedule



### ■ Upcoming RWPG Activities

- Continued data refinement
- Legislative outreach
- Preparation for Initially Prepared Plan process



## Agenda Item 7b

Receive update from liaisons to other planning groups.



## Agenda Item 7b Liaison Updates



Region C	Brazos G	Region 6	Region 8
Kevin Ward	Zach Holland	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.





## Agenda Item 7c Community Outreach

August

- Project Sponsor Outreach
- Rural Entity Outreach

September

- North Houston Association Water Committee

October

- Texas Municipal League

## Agenda Item 7c Community Outreach

- Coming soon
- Similar structure
- Hip, modern look
- Now with less baling wire and duct tape!



**REGION H**  
Water Planning Group

Home  
About Regional Planning  
About Us  
Meetings  
Calendar  
Downloads  
Links

**2021 Regional Water Plan**  
The Region H 2021 Regional Water Plan (RWP) is now available.  
[Click here](#) for the complete text of the RWP.

**Project Request Template**  
Written request for project inclusion by sponsors is one of the factors considered in the project prioritization process. If you would like to formally request the inclusion of the projects listed for your organization in the Region H Initially Prepared Regional Water Plan, please [click here](#) for an example template.

**Water Planning Group**

**Calendar**

**10/02/2024 Region H Water Planning Group**  
A meeting of the Region H Water Planning Group is scheduled for October 2, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

**8/07/2024 Region H Water Planning Group**  
A meeting of the Region H Water Planning Group is scheduled for August 7, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

**Welcome**  
The Region H Water website is dedicated to the ongoing public participation between the Region H Water Planning Group and the various stakeholders in the greater Houston community.  
Use the menu to the left to get additional information regarding the Group and the Regional Water Planning process.



## Agenda Item 7d

Receive update from TWDB.



Region H Regional Water Planning Group Meeting

## Updates from the Texas Water Development Board

October 2, 2024, Conroe TX

## TWDB Update

- [Feasibility Review of Proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir DRAFT Report](#) Available for public comment until Oct. 15, 2024.
- 2021 Regional Water Plan implementation survey workbook sent to consultants.
  - Required to document the implementation status of recommended strategies and projects in the 2021 plan. Survey results will be included as part of Ch 9 in the 2026 plan.
- In July 2024 TWDB's Water Supply Planning and Groundwater divisions held an orientation meeting for the planning groups' groundwater management area (GMA) representatives.
  - Gave overview of the GMA and regional water planning process timelines, how information from each of the processes are considered, roles of representatives, and an update on planning activities.
  - A recording of the meeting is available [online](#).

## TWDB Update

- First **State Flood Plan** adopted!
- Check out the Interactive State Flood Plan Viewer here:  
<https://texasstatefloodplan.org/overview>



## Questions?

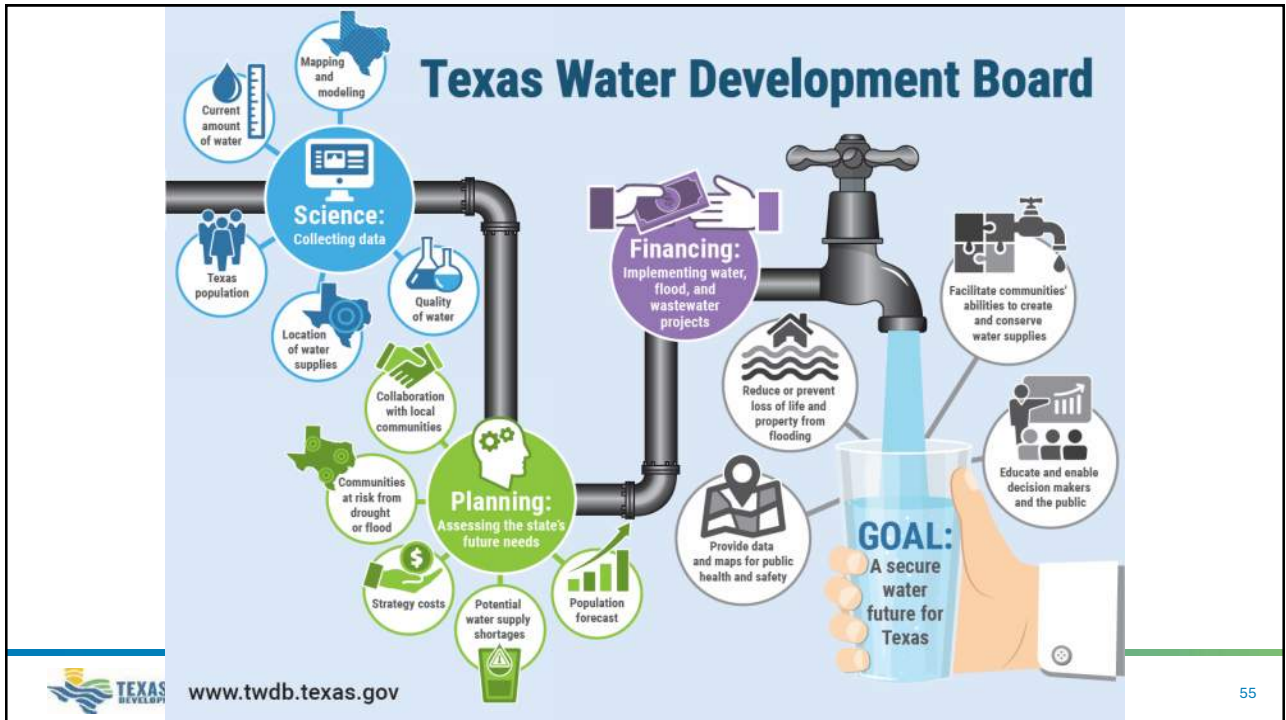
**Heather Rose**   
Regional Water Planner, TWDB  
Heather.Rose@twdb.texas.gov

# Texas Water Development Board

## Financial Assistance Programs

### Update Briefing

October 2, 2024



## Funding Program Key Points

AAA Bond Rating/  
Interest Rate  
Subsidization

Funding to  
accommodate  
projects of all sizes

Some projects  
qualify for combined  
funding through  
multiple programs

All project phases are  
eligible: planning,  
design, acquisition,  
construction

## Examples of Eligible Projects

- Current Water Needs
- Future Water Needs
- Water Transmission & Distribution
- Potable Reuse
- Wastewater Collection
- Water and Wastewater Treatment
- Non-Point Source Pollution Control
- Flood Control & Storm Water Management
- Irrigation Systems Improvements
- Demonstration and Technology Transfer
- Equipment Cost Share



# Why?

## Dollars Committed and Cost Saving Estimates

Entity	Rural	Commitment Date	Program	Commitment Amount	Commitment Cost Savings
City	Yes	08/15/2024	DWSRF	\$ 530,000	\$ 280,712
City	Yes	08/15/2024	CWSRF	\$ 39,315,000	\$ 12,036,859
District	Yes	07/23/2024	SWIFT	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 1,343,310
City	No	07/23/2024	SWIFT	\$ 10,135,000	\$ 1,215,549
City	No	07/23/2024	CWSRF	\$ 11,350,000	\$ 2,267,150
WSC	No	06/12/2024	WDF	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 111,183
City	Yes	06/12/2024	CWSRF	\$ 23,880,000	\$ 9,046,292
Water Authority	Yes	05/09/2024	WDF	\$ 2,880,000	\$ 199,682
City	Yes	05/09/2024	WDF	\$ 5,875,000	\$ 222,633
District	No	04/11/2024	WDF	\$ 5,550,000	\$ 1,123,182

# Illustrative Lending Rates

### CWSRF 30-year Term

Rating	Market <sup>1</sup>	TWDB <sup>2,3</sup>
AAA	3.97%	2.38%
AA	4.09%	2.45%
A	4.23%	2.54%
BAA	4.51%	2.71%

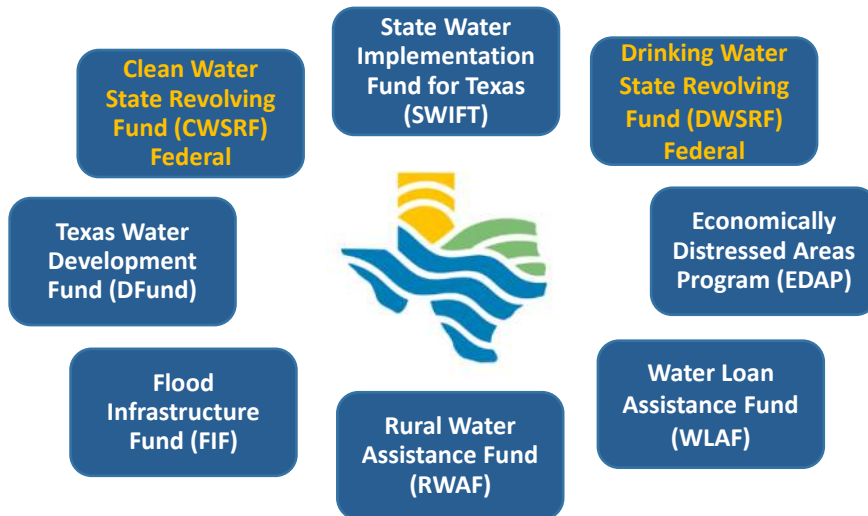
### DWSRF 30-year Term

Rating	Market <sup>1</sup>	TWDB <sup>2,3</sup>
AAA	3.97%	2.58%
AA	4.09%	2.66%
A	4.23%	2.75%
BAA	4.51%	2.93%

### General Obligation Programs

Type of Funds	Terms	Market <sup>1</sup>	TWDB <sup>2</sup>	Difference
Development Fund (Tax Exempt)	20	4.02%	4.04%	-0.02%
Development Fund (Tax Exempt)	30	4.44%	4.46%	-0.02%
Development Fund (Taxable)	20	5.82%	5.81%	0.01%
Agricultural Loans (Taxable)	7	4.95%	4.38%	0.57%
EDAP (Tax Exempt)	20	4.02%	3.60%	0.43%
EDAP (Taxable)	20	5.82%	4.91%	0.91%

# Popular Financial Assistance Programs



# Example of Project Information Form & Intended Use Plan Annual Cycle



## Texas Constitutional Amendment - Proposition 6

*"The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state."*

**TEXAS VOTERS APPROVED**  
**✓ 78% YES**

- Senate Bill 28
  - Created the Texas Water Fund, New Water Supply for Texas Fund, and the Statewide Water Public Awareness Account.
- Senate Bill 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.
- Senate Joint Resolution 75
  - Proposed constitutional amendment creating the Texas Water Fund to assist in financing water projects in Texas
  - Directed the TWDB to allocate no less than 25 percent to the New Water Supply for Texas Fund (**\$250 million**).

## Texas Water Fund (SB 28)

- Allows the TWDB to transfer money to certain existing TWDB financial assistance programs.
- TWDB must ensure that a portion of the money is used for:
  - water infrastructure projects 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
  - water conservation strategies
  - water loss mitigation projects
  - the statewide water public awareness program
- Created to provide financial assistance 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
  - aquifer storage and recovery projects
  - the development of infrastructure to transport water that is made available by these types of projects

## Texas Water Fund Distribution

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



## Timelines - State Fiscal Year 2024 September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024

Program		Solicitation Open	Application Deadline
Clean Water State Revolving Fund	\$460M	12/15/2023 - 3/1/2024	
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	\$435M		
Emerging Contaminants (CWSRF)	\$9.7M	12/15/2023 - 4/1/2024	
Lead Service Line Replacement (DWSRF)	\$146M		
Emerging Contaminants (DWSRF)	\$609M		
Asset Management Program for Small Systems	\$100K in services	9/18/2023	11/2/2023
Water Utilities Technical Assistance Program	\$150K in services	11/17/2023	1/31/2024
State Water Implementation Fund for Texas <i>(water plan projects over next 50 years)</i>	\$27B	12/7/2023	2/1/2024
Flood Infrastructure Fund <i>(flood plan projects 2024-2025)</i>	\$375M	12/15/2023	4/15/2024
Economically Distressed Areas Program <i>(2024-2025)</i>	\$100M	3/15/2024	5/15/2024
Texas Water Development Fund	Bond sell as needed	Spring	12/31/2024
<i>Blue Text Federal Program. Black Text State of Texas Program.</i>			



## Helpful Tip

- **Financial Audits**
  - Are they up to date?
  - At the time of full application submittal, a current audit is required for the application to be deemed administratively complete.
  - Costs can be captured in project budget.
- **Ability to Take on Debt**
  - Analysis will be completed.
  - What rates and charges are in place? Will they need to be raised?
- **Updated Water use Survey and Water Loss Audit.**
- **Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan (if applicable).**
- **Talk early and often with TWDB staff – we are happy to provide guidance and support**

## Resource Links

- \* **Texas Water Fund**  
<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/twf/index.asp>
- \* **TWDB Financial Assistance Programs**  
<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/index.asp>
- \* **TWDB Financial Assistance Program Guidance Manuals and Forms Library**  
<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/instructions/index.asp>
- \* **TWDB Funding Application FAQ**  
<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/applications/faq.asp>
- \* **Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program**  
[www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/CWSRF/index.asp](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/CWSRF/index.asp)
- \* **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program**  
[www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/DWSRF/index.asp](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/DWSRF/index.asp)

## Resource Links

**\* Regional Water Planning**

[www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/index.asp](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/index.asp)

**\* Flood Programs**

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/index.asp>

**\* Conservation**

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/index.asp>

**\* Texas Water Infrastructure Coordination Committee (TWICC)**

[https://twicc.org/resources/doc/TWICC\\_Funding\\_Resources\\_Guide.pdf](https://twicc.org/resources/doc/TWICC_Funding_Resources_Guide.pdf)

**\* TWDB Newsletter**

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/newsmedia/signup.asp>

## For more information

Visit

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/index.asp>

Or email:

[financial\\_assistance@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:financial_assistance@twdb.texas.gov)

Stay connected:



**From:** [RegionalWaterPlanning](#)  
**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  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 2, 2024 10:26:46 AM

---

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](mailto: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](mailto:sarah.lee@twdb.texas.gov)  
[www.twdb.texas.gov](http://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  
P.O. Box 13231, Austin, TX 78711  
512-936-2387 | [sarah.lee@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:sarah.lee@twdb.texas.gov)  
[www.twdb.texas.gov](http://www.twdb.texas.gov)