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Subject: Regional Water Planning Newsletter - October 2021
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Regional Water Planning Newsletter – October 2021

Good afternoon RWPG Stakeholders,

Below is your fall newsletter from TWDB's Regional Water Planning Program providing an update on current and upcoming Regional Water Planning activities.

Regional Water Planning Stakeholder Technical Meeting

TWDB's Water Supply Planning Staff held an optional technical meeting with RWPG consultants, chairs, and sponsors on October 12 to discuss technical-related lessons learned from the 2021 Regional Water Plan cycle and consider potential improvements to TWDB's regional water planning technical guidance for the 2026 Regional Water Plans. We appreciate everyone's time who was able to attend the meeting. We will be considering feedback received from the meeting during the updates to the regional water planning contract scopes of work and technical guidance to be incorporated next year.

Projections Update

The TWDB is on schedule to release the first set of draft water demand projections to RWPGs in January 2022. The first set of projections to be released will include livestock, manufacturing, and steam-electric water use categories. Historical data and information on the projection methodologies will be provided upon the release of the projections data.

Following feedback received at the October regional water planning stakeholder technical meeting, the TWDB will release the municipal WUG list, historical populations, water use data, and GPCDs in March 2022. This will allow for the TWDB to incorporate any revisions from Water Use Survey respondents prior to RWPG review of the data.

TWDB's contracted study with the Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG) to update mining water use projections for regional water planning is ongoing and a study progress meeting was held October 18, 2021. The technical report and data from the study is due to the TWDB in June 2022. The TWDB and BEG will be coordinating with GCDs to contribute data to support the study. Study information is available online at:

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/projections/MiningStudy/index.asp>

Rulemaking

The TWDB is developing rulemaking materials to address preliminary stakeholder input on the state

water planning guidance principles and regional water planning rule topics. We *anticipate* a proposal to be presented to the TWDB Board by the end of the year. We will provide an update prior to the Board meeting when this item is scheduled. If the rule proposal is approved for posting, a 30-day public comment period will occur.

Interregional Planning Council

The TWDB is soliciting nominations for the 2nd Interregional Planning Council. Each RWPG is requested to take action and submit at least one nomination (and alternate for each nomination) to the TWDB by February 28, 2022. We anticipate TWDB Board appointment of the Council to occur in April of 2022. The nomination request letter from TWDB's Executive Administrator to RWPG Chairs is available online at:

https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/TWDBComms/IPCNominationLetter_9.14.21.pdf

Cumulative Effects of Recommended Strategies Tool (CERST)

The TWDB contracted with HDR, Inc. to develop an optional tool that RWPGs may use to assist them in evaluating the cumulative impacts of surface water management strategies in the regional plan. The study also included an assessment of how reuse strategies are expected to impact the attainment of environmental flow standards. The tool, known as the *Cumulative Effects of Recommended Strategies Tool, or CERST*, may be used to assess the cumulative effects of water management strategies on environmental flow standards. The excel based tool and user guide are available on the [2026 Regional water Plan Document page](#), under the "TWDB Surface Water Related Studies" section.

Reminders and Previous Updates

- The 2026 Regional Water Plan Working Schedule will be updated throughout the cycle and is available online at: http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/Working_Schedule_2026RWPs.pdf
- The regional and state water planning rules pamphlet was updated as of May 2021: http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/RWP_RulePamphlet.pdf
- Visit the TWDB's Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Planning Documents webpage to view communications from TWDB during this planning cycle, project documents including a working schedule, contract documents, and administrative documents. These documents may be found at: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/documents.asp>
- The TWDB receives RWPG member emails from the region's sponsor. Sponsors should provide any updated email addresses to your TWDB Regional Water Planner to ensure our membership database is up to date. For regions that have members without email addresses, please forward these communications to those members by mail or another effective means.

Contact TWDB

Please contact your region's TWDB Regional Water Planner for any additional information. TWDB's Regional Water Planner assignments are as follows:

- Regions A, J, M: William Alfaro, William.Alfaro@twdb.texas.gov
- Regions B, C, N: Kevin Smith, Kevin.Smith@twdb.texas.gov

- Region D, G, P: Ron Ellis, Ron.Ellis@twdb.texas.gov
- Regions E, F, L: Elizabeth McCoy, Elizabeth.McCoy@twdb.texas.gov
- Regions H, I, K: Lann Bookout, Lann.Bookout@twdb.texas.gov
- Region O: Sarah Backhouse, Sarah.Backhouse@twdb.texas.gov

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

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

Best,

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