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AGENDA ITEM MEMO

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 16, 2026

TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator
Ashley Harden, General Counsel
Matt Nelson, Deputy Executive Administrator, Office of Planning

FROM: Temple McKinnon, Director, Water Supply Planning

SUBJECT: Publication of the draft 2027 State Water Plan for public comment

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider authorizing publication of the draft 2027 State Water Plan for public comment and posting notice of public hearing, public comment period, and intent to adopt the 2027 State Water Plan.

BACKGROUND

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is required by Texas Water Code (TWC) §16.051(a) to adopt a comprehensive state water plan that incorporates the approved regional water plans every five years. The intent of the state water plan is to:

- Provide for the orderly development, management, and conservation of water resources,
- Prepare for and respond to drought conditions, and
- Make sufficient water available at a reasonable cost to ensure public health, safety, and welfare and further economic development while protecting the agricultural and natural resources of the entire state.

The 2027 State Water Plan is due January 5, 2027, and will be the sixth state water plan developed through the regional water planning process as established by Senate Bill 1 in 1997, and Texas' 12th state water plan developed since 1957. The Executive Administrator compiles information from the Board-approved regional water plans and other sources to develop the draft State Water Plan, which is published for public comment.

[Our Mission](#)

Leading the state's efforts
in ensuring a secure
water future for Texas

[Board Members](#)

L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Chairwoman | W. Brady Franks, Board Member | Ashley Morgan, Board Member
Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator

KEY ISSUES

A two-phased approach is being used to develop the 2027 State Water Plan. This path supports the early adoption timeline needed to meet the 2026 State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) commitment deadline, while also preserving additional time to produce a more robust final plan by the statutory deadline of January 5, 2027.

Under this approach, the initial document provides a streamlined set of core elements required by statute and administrative rule. A subsequent, first amendment to the 2027 State Water Plan is anticipated by the statutory deadline to enrich the full plan with more expansive and informative content. That amendment will also include its own formal public comment period.

The draft 2027 State Water Plan incorporates the 2026 Regional Water Plans that were approved by the Board in January and as referenced in the document, will also incorporate the 2027 Interactive State Water Plan (iSWP) website data upon final adoption. Detailed lists of the approximately 6,600 recommended water management strategies and 3,000 recommended projects will be posted on the webpage alongside the draft 2027 State Water Plan upon its publication for public comment.

Upon Board approval to publish the draft 2027 State Water Plan, and in accordance with 31 TAC §358.4, the Executive Administrator will publish notice of the Board's intent to adopt the 2027 State Water Plan in the *Texas Register* and mail notice to each regional water planning group. The notice will be published at least 30 days prior to the Board adoption of the 2027 State Water Plan. The Executive Administrator anticipates holding one public hearing the week of May 25, 2026, with the specific hearing attendance information to be posted prominently on the agency website and published in the *Texas Register*. The 30-day public comment period will end shortly after the public hearing date. The draft 2027 State Water Plan document will be made available electronically online by the date of publication of notice in the *Texas Register*.

After the public hearing and comment period, the Executive Administrator will review and consider all comments received and incorporate any modifications to the plan considered warranted and appropriate. The Executive Administrator will then present a revised 2027 State Water Plan – reflecting changes made in response to public input and any other necessary corrections - for consideration for final adoption at a subsequent Board meeting.

Board adoption of the 2027 State Water Plan will incorporate the online, 2027 iSWP website as an integral component of the plan. After Board adoption, the 2027 State Water Plan document will be delivered electronically to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the appropriate legislative committees.

In accordance with TWC §16.051(d), it is anticipated that the Executive Administrator will also commence the review of the state water planning guidance principles later this year. This review process will involve coordination with resource agencies as directed by statute and with a preliminary input period for our water planning stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Administrator recommends authorizing publication of the draft 2027 State Water Plan for public comment, publication of notice in the *Texas Register* of the Board's intent to adopt the 2027 State Water Plan, including an associated public comment period and public hearing date, and providing notice to regional water planning groups. The Executive Administrator also recommends authorizing additional technical corrections and non-substantive language edits, as necessary, prior to publication of the draft 2027 State Water Plan.