

December 20, 2023

Mr. John Martin
Chair
Region I (East Texas) Regional Water Planning Group
c/o City of Nacogdoches
P.O. Box 635030
Nacogdoches, Texas 75963

Dear Chairman Martin:

I have reviewed your request dated October 13, 2023, for approval of alternative water supply assumptions to be used in determining existing and future surface water availability. This letter confirms that the TWDB approves the following assumptions:

1. For surface water supplies located in the Trinity River Basin, use the updated Trinity Basin WAM as modified by the Region C RWPG and approved by the TWDB for existing supplies.
2. Modifications to the Neches River WAM RUN3 to address the following for existing and strategy supplies:
 - a. Subordinating rights associated with Sam Rayburn Reservoir and Lake B. A. Steinhagen to upstream water rights as specified in the Certificate of Adjudication 06-4411.
 - b. Reordering the 1963 rights for impoundment at Sam Rayburn and B.A. Steinhagen so that Sam Rayburn, the upstream reservoir, will be filled with available streamflow before B.A. Steinhagen is refilled.
 - c. Modeling system operation of Lake Palestine and Lower Neches Valley Authority rights.
 - d. Setting the minimum operating elevation in Sam Rayburn Reservoir to 149 feet msl and at B.A. Steinhagen Reservoir to 81 feet msl.
 - e. Modeling Lake Tyler as a single reservoir.
3. Evaluate City of Beaumont existing and strategy supplies based on a daily time-step analysis utilizing an excel-based model.
4. Modifications to the Sabine River WAM RUN3 to address the following for existing and strategy supplies when estimating the firm yield of Toledo Bend Reservoir:
 - a. Excluding hydropower operations at Toledo Bend when determining the total available supply from the lake.
 - b. Including hydropower operations in the evaluation of supplies from all other reservoirs and run-of-river supplies.

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- c. Modeling canal water rights owned by the Sabine River Authority (SRA) in the lower basin as being subordinate to diversions from Toledo Bend Reservoir.
 - d. Evaluating the remainder of the yield of Toledo Bend assuming that all diversions are taken lakeside.
 - e. Sharing all diversions from the lake equally between SRA-Texas and SRA-Louisiana, including the additional unpermitted yield, within the WAM.
5. Determine existing and strategy supplies from Lake Center separately from the WAM, based on the 2016 study completed by the City of Center.

While the use of these modified conditions may be reasonable for planning purposes, WAM RUN3 would be utilized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for analyzing permit applications. It is acceptable to use the modified conditions for strategy supply evaluations only if the yield produced is more conservative (less) for surface water appropriations than WAM RUN3.

While the TWDB authorizes these modifications to evaluate existing and future water supplies for development of the 2026 East Texas RWP, it is the responsibility of the RWPG to ensure that the resulting estimates of water availability are reasonable for drought planning purposes and will reflect conditions expected in the event of actual drought conditions; and in all other regards will be evaluated in accordance with the most recent version of regional water planning contract Exhibit C, *General Guidelines for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans*.

Please do not hesitate to contact Lann Bookout of our Regional Water Planning staff at 512-926-9439 or lann.bookout@twdb.texas.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matt Nelson
Deputy Executive Administrator

- c:
- Cheryl Bartlett, City of Nacogdoches
 - Brigit Buff, P.E., Plummer Associates, Inc
 - Jordan Skipwith, P.E. Freese and Nichols, Inc
 - Abigail Gardner, P.E., Freese and Nichols, Inc (Region C)
 - Lann Bookout, Water Supply Planning
 - Sarah Lee, Water Supply Planning
 - Nelun Fernando, Ph.D., Surface Water