
Exhibit C

General Guidelines for Development of the 2031 Regional Water Plans 1.0

NOTE:

***THIS DOCUMENT CURRENTLY INCLUDES ONLY THE GUIDANCE ASSOCIATED WITH THE
INITIAL RWP GRANT SCOPE OF WORK TASKS.***

***SECTIONS 2.1, 2.3 – 2.9, and 2.11-2.14, WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO GUIDANCE UPON
AMENDMENT OF THE FULL SCOPE OF WORK IN VERSION 2.0***

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This document is subject to future revision based upon any future Legislative actions.

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SECTION 1 – Introduction

1.1 Background

The seventh cycle of regional and state water planning as defined by Senate Bill 1 of the 75th Texas Legislature commenced in 2026 and will extend through 2031. Regional water planning groups (RWPG) must prepare the 2031 Regional Water Plans (RWP) that, once approved, will become the basis for the 2032 State Water Plan.

While the RWP development is directed by the RWPGs, in order to ensure that the RWPs follow a consistent and credible approach, the TWDB’s Executive Administrator prepared the following guidelines to assist with the planning process. These guidelines augment the Texas Water Code (TWC) and the administrative rules related to regional water planning and are part of the regional water planning grant contracts.

1.2 Purpose

These guidelines build upon and provide additional information and greater detail about how to implement the administrative rules, including regarding the required methods, content, and format of information to be contained and presented in each RWP to meet rule and contractual requirements including the scope of work. For convenience, the sections of this document include direct links to the relevant regional water planning rules and the Exhibit A: Scope of Work tasks, followed by ‘Guidance’ content provided by the Executive Administrator.

While each RWP is unique to its region, this guidance is intended to ensure that the 16 RWPs are developed in a generally consistent and similar manner to produce information that may be combined and aggregated, at the state level, to support the development of a meaningful and credible state water plan. The intent is to ensure that the 16 regions generally produce and provide ‘apples to apples’ data across the entire state including key information that will support the Texas Water Development Board’s (TWDB) development of the state water plan.

Depending upon the nature of particular water planning rules or contract tasks, this guidance intentionally varies in its degree of specificity and flexibility. These guidelines include specific requirements that must be complied with by RWPGs as they prepare the RWP as well as guidance that the RWPGs may “consider”, and that leaves certain considerations to the discretion of the planning groups.

The Initially Prepared Plans (IPP) and the final adopted RWPs will be reviewed by TWDB based on statute, regional water planning rules, as well as requirements that are included in this and all other contract documents including the scope of work.

This document augments existing statute and rules that govern regional water planning. Provisions of [TWC §16.053](#) and 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapters [355](#), [357](#),

and [358](#) serve as the foundation for information in this document and are not superseded or abridged by anything contained within or excluded from this document.

1.3 General format and content of this document

This guidance consists of the following sections:

1. **Section 1 – Introduction** includes background material and a general document cross-reference that illustrates how the administrative rules, contract scope of work, and guidance documents all relate and align with one another.
2. **Section 2 – Scope of Work Task-Specific Guidelines** includes guidance organized by Scope of Work tasks and related rules sections. The section identifies various summary tables that are required to be included in the IPP and final RWP.
3. **Section 3 – Appendix** includes a listing of TWDB data resources for plan development.

1.4 General guidance

1. Development of the RWPs will be guided by the [State Water Plan Guidance Principles](#).
2. The RWPs must include an Executive Summary including key findings and recommendations, not to exceed 30 pages.
3. The Executive Summary must include reference to the required state water planning database (RWP32) reports by hyperlink to the TWDB's Database Reports application. Section 2.13 will be updated via a future contract amendment that includes specifications on this requirement.
4. This guidance document includes the minimum reporting requirements where information and data are available. A RWPG may present more information and findings in their plan than is required by this guidance.
5. RWPGs must submit all data identified in contract Exhibit D: *Guidelines for 2031 Regional Water Planning Data Deliverables to the TWDB*.
6. The RWPs are intended to include data reflective of a planning level analysis.

1.5 Documents and files that accompany and are integral to implementing this guidance

1. **Exhibit C Tables:** An Excel template file called “2031 RWP Exhibit C Tables” will be developed to accompany this guidance document and will include templates for planning groups to use.
2. **Exhibit D: Guidelines for 2031 Regional Water Plan Data Deliverables** – this is a separate document that will be developed to support this guidance. Exhibit D will be incorporated into contracts via a future contract amendment that incorporates the remaining Scope of Work tasks.

1.6 General document cross-reference for regional water plans

For convenience Table 1 illustrates how contract tasks, guidance, administrative rules, and RWP chapters generally relate.¹ The chapter breakdown for each plan is specifically required under [31 TAC §357.22\(b\)](#). Plans that are not organized in this manner will be considered administratively incomplete and will not be reviewed. **Please note that this table includes *anticipated* scope of work tasks for the 2031 Regional Water Plan development. This table (including any items marked TBD) is subject to revision upon incorporation of the full SOW via a future contract amendment.**

¹ Some rules (e.g., TAC §358; §357.22) apply more broadly to all regional water planning activities.

Table 1 – Regional Water Planning Document Cross-Reference

Regional Water Planning Contract Document References			2031 RWP Chapter, Associated TAC Sections, and Content		
TWDB Contract Reimbursement Accounting Number ('CAS')	Exhibit A - Contract Scope of Work Task	Exhibit C - General Guidelines for Development of the 2026 RWPs	RWP Chapter Number	Primary TAC Section	General Content
TBD	TBD	2.1	1	§357.30	Description of the Regional Water Planning Area
1	2A	2.2	2	§357.31	Projected Non-Municipal Water Demands
2	2B	2.2	2	§357.31	Projected Population and Municipal Water Demands
TBD	TBD	2.3	3	§357.32	Water Supply Analysis
TBD	TBD	2.4	4	§357.33	Identification of Water Needs
TBD	TBD	2.11	NA	§357.12	Identification of Infeasible Water Management Strategies in the previously adopted 2021 Regional Water Plan
TBD	TBD	2.12	NA	§357.12	Simplified Planning Option and Process
TBD	TBD	2.13	NA	contract	Technical Memorandum Deliverable
TBD	TBD	2.5	5	§357.34	Identification of Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies and Projects
TBD	TBD	2.5	5	§357.34; §357.35	Evaluations of Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies and Projects, Recommended Water Management Strategies and Projects, and Alternative Water Management Strategies and Projects
TBD	TBD	2.5	5	§357.34	Conservation Recommendations <i>[as an individual subchapter]</i>
TBD	TBD	2.6	6	§357.40	Impacts of Regional Water Plan
TBD	TBD	2.6	6	§357.41	Consistency with Protection of Water Resources, Agricultural Resources, and Natural Resources
TBD	TBD	2.7	7	§357.42	Drought Response Information, Activities, and Recommendations
TBD	TBD	2.8	8	§357.43	Policy Recommendations & Unique Sites
TBD	TBD	2.9	9	§357.45	Implementation and Comparison to the Previous Regional Water Plan
3	10	2.10	10	§357.21; §357.50	Public Participation and Plan Adoption

1.7 Definitions of terms

1.7.1 Regional water planning rule definitions

Many of the regional water planning specific terms and acronyms used in this guidance document are defined in 31 TAC §357.10. These may be viewed online at: [https://texas-sos.appianportalsgov.com/rules-and-meetings?\\$locale=en_US&interface=VIEW_TAC_SUMMARY&queryAsDate=08%2F04%2F2026&recordId=208730](https://texas-sos.appianportalsgov.com/rules-and-meetings?$locale=en_US&interface=VIEW_TAC_SUMMARY&queryAsDate=08%2F04%2F2026&recordId=208730)

1.7.2 Groundwater management rule definitions

Many of the groundwater related terms and acronyms used in this guidance document are defined in 31 TAC §356.10. These may be viewed online at: [https://texas-sos.appianportalsgov.com/rules-and-meetings?\\$locale=en_US&interface=VIEW_TAC_SUMMARY&queryAsDate=08%2F04%2F2026&recordId=223279](https://texas-sos.appianportalsgov.com/rules-and-meetings?$locale=en_US&interface=VIEW_TAC_SUMMARY&queryAsDate=08%2F04%2F2026&recordId=223279)

1.7.3 Non-rule definitions pertinent to regional water planning

Aquifer – Geologic formation that contains sufficient saturated permeable material to yield significant quantities of water to wells and springs. The formation could be sand, gravel, limestone, sandstone, or fractured igneous rocks.

Aquifer recharge – The intentional recharge of an aquifer by means of injection well or other means of infiltration and also known as Managed Aquifer Recharge ([Texas Water Code §27.201](#)).

Aquifer storage and recovery – The storage of water in a suitable aquifer through a well during times when water is available, and the recovery of water from the same aquifer during times when it is needed ([Texas Water Code §27.151](#)).

Brackish groundwater – Groundwater containing total dissolved solids between 1,000 and 35,000 milligrams per liter.

Brackish surface water – Surface water containing between 500 and 30,000 milligrams per liter total salts.

Capital cost – Portion of the estimated cost of a water management strategy that includes both the direct costs of constructing facilities, such as materials, labor, and equipment, and the indirect costs associated with construction activities, such as engineering studies, legal counsel, land acquisition, contingencies, environmental mitigation, interest during construction, and permitting.

Conjunctive use – Combined use of surface water, groundwater, and/or reuse sources that optimizes the beneficial characteristics of each source.

Desalination – Process of removing salt and other dissolved solids from seawater, brackish groundwater, or brackish surface water.

Drought – Generally applied to periods of less than average precipitation over a certain period of time. Associated definitions include meteorological drought (abnormally dry

weather), agricultural drought (adverse impact on crop or range production), and hydrologic drought (below-average water content in aquifers and/or reservoirs).

Environmental flows – An environmental flow is an amount of water that should remain in a stream or river for the benefit of the environment of the river, bay, and estuary, while balancing human needs.

Estuary – A bay or inlet, often at the mouth of a river and may be bounded by barrier islands, where freshwater and seawater mix together providing for economically and ecologically important habitats and species and which also yield essential ecosystem services.

Firm diversion (run of river availability) – Evaluated for municipal sole-source water use (i.e. not firmed up with other sources) is defined as the minimum monthly diversion amount that is available 100 percent of the time during a repeat of the drought of record. Evaluated for all other water users, the ‘firm diversion’ is defined as the minimum annual diversion, which is the lowest annual summation of the monthly diversions reported by the Water Availability Model over the simulation period (lowest annual summation being the calendar year within the simulation that represents the lowest diversion available).

Group quarter – A place where people live or stay in a group living arrangement that is owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents. Group quarters include such places as college residence halls, residential treatment centers, skilled nursing facilities, group homes, military barracks, correctional facilities, and workers' dormitories.

Infrastructure – Physical means for meeting water and wastewater needs, such as dams, wells, conveyance systems, and water treatment plants.

Instream Flow – Water flow and water quality regime adequate to maintain an ecologically sound environment in streams and rivers.

Local groundwater supplies – Supplies found in local groundwater areas usually not associated with a major, minor, or other aquifer (e.g., a small local alluvial aquifer) that may still be used as a non-municipal water supply source (e.g., for livestock use), but that the groundwater management area determined to be small enough to not go through the desired future condition process.

Local surface water supplies – Limited, unnamed individual surface water supplies that, separately, are available only to particular non-municipal water user groups, such as livestock.

Major aquifer – An aquifer designated by the TWDB in the state water plan that supplies large quantities of water in large areas of the State.

Minor aquifer – An aquifer designated by the TWDB in the state water plan that supplies large quantities of water in small areas or relatively small quantities of water in large areas of the State.

Major reservoir – Reservoir having a storage capacity of 5,000 acre-feet or more.

Non-relevant aquifer – A portion of portions of a major, minor or other aquifer with aquifer characteristics, groundwater demands, and current groundwater uses that do not warrant adoption of a desired future condition by a groundwater management area. Non-relevant aquifers do not have an associated modeled available groundwater volume. In

addition, this means that the associated aquifer/region/county/basin geographic unit may or may not have a non-modeled groundwater availability volumes (as determined by the planning group) associated with it.

Other aquifer – An aquifer that has not been designated as an official major or minor aquifer.

Rainwater harvesting – A practice involving the capture, diversion, and storage of rainwater for landscape irrigation, drinking and domestic use, aquifer recharge, and in modern times, stormwater abatement.

Reuse – Domestic or municipal wastewater which has been treated to a quality suitable for beneficial use. Use of this water may or may not be for potable use.

Safe yield – Identified annual volume of water held in reserve to account for droughts worse than the drought of record.

Seawater – Water typically containing total dissolved solids of 35,000 milligrams per liter or greater. The volume of total dissolved solids may be lower than 35,000 milligrams per liter.

Sedimentation – Action or process of depositing sediment in a reservoir, usually silts, sands, or gravel.

Storage – Natural or artificial impoundment and accumulation of water in surface or underground reservoirs, usually for later withdrawal or release.

System gain – The amount of permitted water a system creates that would otherwise be unavailable if the reservoirs were operated independently and this volume must be reported separately. For multi-reservoir systems, the minimum system gain during drought of record conditions may be considered additional water available, if permitted.

Water availability model (WAM)– Numerical computer program used to determine the availability of surface water within each river basin for permitting in the state.

Water loss – The difference between Total System Input Volume and Total Authorized Consumption. It represents the total volume of potable water lost in the distribution system due to apparent losses and real losses. Water loss is best expressed in gallons per connection per day or GCD.

- Total system input is the volume of potable water entering the distribution system for use within the utility's service area. It is calculated from the corrected volume of potable water produced by the utility plus the corrected volume of potable water purchased from other retail public utilities minus the corrected volume of potable water sold to other retail public utilities; all these volumes are corrected for due to inaccuracy in the meter(s) measuring their volume.
- Total authorized consumption is the volume of potable water the utility authorized for use or consumption by the utility or its customers. It includes water use that is billed or unbilled and metered or unmetered.
- Apparent loss is the volume of potable water not accurately measured and/or recorded due to customer meter inaccuracy, data handling errors, and/or unauthorized consumption. Often referred to as paper losses, apparent loss is water consumed but not paid for due to errors or issues in quantifying the volume of water consumed. These losses cost water utilities revenue and devalue the

collective measure of customer consumption in the utility's service area. These losses are often cost effective to mitigate since they are valued at the customer retail rate.

- Real loss is the volume of potable water physically leaking from the utility's distribution network infrastructure. These leaks can occur on or at water mains, service lines before the customer meter/tap, valves, and tanks. Depending on the nature of the leakage, whether it surfaces and/or can be found using leak detection, it can be difficult to mitigate these losses. These losses effectively force the utility to treat and deliver more water than is required for consumption or use by the utility or its customers. They are typically valued at the cost to produce and/or purchase the water.

2 SECTION 2 – Scope of work task specific guidelines

Included in this section is guidance specifically addressing the following scope of work tasks². Included in this section is guidance specifically addressing the following scope of work tasks. Corresponding agency rules are also shown below for convenience and reference:

- Description of the Regional Water Planning Area ([§357.30](#))
- Task 2A and 2B – Projected Population and Water Demands ([§357.31](#))
- Water Supply Analysis ([§357.32](#))
- Needs Analysis: Comparison of Water Supplies and Demands ([§357.33](#))
- Identification of Infeasible Water Management Strategies ([§357.12](#); [§357.51](#))
- Technical Memorandum Deliverable ([§357.12](#))
- Identification of Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies ([§357.34](#))
- Evaluation and Recommendation of Water Management Strategies and Projects ([§357.34](#); [§357.35](#))
- Conservation Water Management Strategy Recommendations ([§357.34](#))
- Impacts of Regional Water Plan ([§357.40](#)); Consistency with Long-term Protection of Water Resources, Agricultural Resources, and Natural Resources ([§357.41](#))
- Drought Response Information, Activities, and Recommendations ([§357.42](#))
- Regulatory, Administrative, or Legislative Recommendations ([§357.43](#))
- Implementation and Comparison to the Previous Regional Water Plan ([§357.45](#))
- Task 10 – Adoption, Submittal, and Approval of Regional Water Plans ([§357.21](#); [§357.50](#))

² The initial regional water planning contracts include only SOW tasks 2A-2B and 10. The remaining SOW tasks numbers and related sections of this guidance document will be incorporated via a future contract amendment.

2.1 Planning area description

Rule requirements:

- [§357.30: Description of the Regional Water Planning Area](#)

Guidance:

Guidelines for this section (Planning area description) will be incorporated into this document via a future contract amendment that incorporates the related scope of work task. Guidelines for the development of the previous (2026) regional water plans may be found [here](#).

2.2 Population and water demand projections (Tasks 2A and 2B)

Rule and scope of work requirements:

- [§357.31: Projected Population and Water Demands](#)
- [Scope of work Task 2A and 2B: Non-Municipal Water Demand Projections: Population and Municipal Water Demand Projections](#)

Guidance:

The TWDB will provide an updated WUG list for use in the 2031 RWPs and 2032 State Water Plan. The definition of WUGs can be found in [31 TAC §357.10\(43\)](#).

The TWDB will prepare draft population and municipal water demand projections for 2030-2080 for all municipal WUGs using data based on the 2027 State Water Plan and most recent county-level population projections from the Texas Demographic Center, with limited modifications relevant to changed conditions.

Non-municipal draft water demand projections consisting of irrigation, livestock, and steam-electric power generation will be developed based on more recent historical water use data (2020-2024) and the same methodologies that were used in developing the 2026 RWPs and 2027 State Water Plan. For the mining water use category, projections from the 2026 RWPs and 2027 State Water Plan will be carried over.

For the manufacturing water use category, water demand projections for digital infrastructure facilities, including data centers and cryptocurrency mining facilities, will be developed separately and then incorporated into the overall manufacturing water demand projections. Water demand projections for all other manufacturing facilities will be developed using the same methodology applied in the 2026 RWP and the 2027 State Water Plan.

Criteria and required data for requested changes to draft projections and revisions of approved projections

The initial list of WUGs will be prepared and provided to each RWPG along with historical water use and population data for their review. The RWPGs will review the WUG list and historical data from the TWDB and provide corrections and feedback to the TWDB.

Once the final list of WUGs is established, the TWDB will prepare draft population and water demand projections for each region. The RWPGs will then review the draft projections and may provide input to the TWDB or request specific changes to the draft

projections from the TWDB. All requests to adjust draft projections must be submitted along with associated quantified data in an electronic format determined by the TWDB (e.g., Excel spreadsheets). If adequate justification is provided by the RWPGs to the TWDB, population and/or water demand projections may be adjusted by the TWDB in consultation with Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The TWDB will then incorporate approved adjustments to the projections prior to the Board's consideration of adoption of the population and water demand projections. Acceptable criteria and required data are specified for each WUG category in Sections 2.2.1 and 2.2.2.

The RWPGs must use the Board-adopted projections when preparing their RWPs. The TWDB will directly populate RWP32 with all Board-adopted WUG-level projections and the TWDB will make any related changes to RWP32 if subsequent revisions are approved by the Board.

RWPGs may request revisions to Board-adopted projections if the request demonstrates the projections no longer represent a reasonable estimate of anticipated conditions based on changed conditions or new information in accordance with [31 TAC §357.31\(e\)\(2\)](#)³. However, planning groups will need to manage the timelines required for agency review and Board action with the subsequent revisions to their regional plans in order to meet all contractual deliverable deadlines.

2.2.1 Population projections

The draft population projections will include permanent residential population, including 'group quarter' population residing in institutional facilities (military, prisons, schools, or nursing homes) who are served by municipal WUGs or rely on their own water sources. Seasonal population, including tourist or seasonal workers, are not included in the draft population projections although the associated seasonal water use is inherently captured in the per capita water use rates used to develop the water demand projections.

Prior to the release of the draft projections, the TWDB will analyze the most recent population projections from the Texas Demographic Center to determine the maximum region-wide, net population changes that may be considered by the RWPGs. The TWDB will analyze the WUG's historical growth rates, share of the county growth, and share of the county population to develop one set of projections for each WUG, county, and RWPA. Higher migration rates may be utilized in the short-term but are not recommended over the long-term of the planning horizon.

2.2.1.1 Municipal WUG list

The initial list of WUGs, also referred to as *entities*, will be developed by the TWDB per [31 TAC §357.10\(43\)](#) and with the input of each RWPG. Municipal WUGs will be based on utility boundaries and annual water use volumes reported by associated public water systems via TWDB's annual Water Use Survey. Utilities' municipal net use will be evaluated based on whether they are public or private utilities. If the public water system or utility meets the

³ Work performed associated with revisions to Board-adopted projections is not eligible for regional water planning grant funding in accordance with 31 TAC §355.92(a)(E).

annual municipal net use of 100 acre-feet threshold in any single year within the most recent five years (2020-2024), they will be established as stand-alone WUGs. Collective reporting units will be carried over from the 2027 State Water Plan but also will be updated per input from the planning groups. Public water systems or utilities that do not meet the definition of a stand-alone WUG or collective reporting unit will be planned for as part of a county-other WUG per [31 TAC §357.10\(43\)\(E\)](#). Additionally, group quarters can be WUGs if they meet the definition in [31 TAC §357.10\(43\)\(B\)](#) or may be included as part of another WUG.

Criteria for adjustment:

A proposed WUG must meet the definition in [31 TAC §357.10\(43\)](#) and the following criteria to be included as a new, discrete entity in the 2031 RWP. One or more of the following criteria must be verified by the RWPG and the Executive Administrator:

1. Evidence of errors identified in the historical water use for a public water system or utility, which would determine whether the system or utility meets the WUG definition.
2. Evidence of errors in the ownership type of a public water system or utility provided in the Texas Drinking Water Watch.
3. Evidence of recent changes of the ownership of a public water system or utility through merge or annexation.

Data requirements:

The RWPG must provide the following data to the Executive Administrator associated with the identified criteria to be included in the 2031 RWP:

1. Annual water intake, sales, or metered use volumes for recent years for the public water system.
2. Documentation supporting changes of the name or ownership of a public water system or utility.
3. Documentation supporting collective reporting units with the geographic designation along with a list of the utilities or public water systems that have a common association for the purposes of water planning.
4. Documentation supporting that a system or utility within a collective reporting unit boundary should be planned for as a stand-alone WUG.

2.2.1.2 Regional-level population projections

Adjustment to net regional-total population projections may be considered based on the criteria below. Associated adjustments to net county-total population projections within the regional total must also be justified (see Section 2.2.1.3). The net cumulative sub-regional requested changes may not exceed the maximum region-wide population that is provided by the TWDB.

Criteria for adjustment:

One or more of the following criteria must be verified by the RWPG and the Executive Administrator for consideration of revising the regional-level population projections:

1. The requested revision is within an allowable adjustment threshold, if established by the Executive Administrator, to account for known uncertainties in population projections
2. The most recent population growth rate (2020-2024) for the whole region is significantly different than the draft regional projections.

Data requirements:

The RWPG must provide the following data to the Executive Administrator associated with the identified criteria for justifying any adjustments not within an allowable threshold, if established by the Executive Administrator, to the regional-level population projections:

1. Historical regional-total population estimates from the Texas Demographic Center or the U.S. Census Bureau.
2. Other data and evidence that the RWPG believes provides a reasonable basis for justifying changes to the net total regional-level population projection.

2.2.1.3 County-level population projections

Any net adjustments to a county-total population projection due to adjustments to sub-county WUG-level projections within that county must be justified in a similar manner and will require an accompanying, justifiable redistribution of the projected county population within the same region so that the net, summed regional total remains unchanged unless an accompanying net total adjustment to the regional total is also requested, justified and approved (see Section 2.2.1.2). The TWDB draft county-level population projections will follow projection trends developed by the Texas Demographic Center (TDC).

Criteria for adjustment:

One or more of the following criteria must be verified by the RWPG and the Executive Administrator for consideration of revising a net total county-level population projection:

1. The requested revision is within an allowable adjustment threshold, if established by the Executive Administrator, to account for known uncertainties in population projections
2. If there is evidence that the most recent years (2020-2025) net migration rate was significantly different than the net migration rate used for the draft projections.
3. If there is evidence that the 2020-2030 net migration rate will be significantly different than the net migration rate used for the draft projections.
4. There are statistically significant birth and survival rate differences (by appropriate cohorts) between the county and the rates used in the TDC projections.
5. The most recent county population growth rate (2020-2025) is significantly different than draft county's projections.

Data requirements:

The RWPG must provide the following data to the Executive Administrator associated with the identified criteria for justifying any adjustments not within an allowable threshold, if established by the Executive Administrator, to the county-level population projections:

1. Most recent in-migration and out-migration of a county, indicating that the net migration of a county over the most recent years (2020-2025) is significantly different than the net migration rates used for the draft projections.
2. Birth and/or survival rates for a county population between 2020-2025 by gender, race/ethnicity and single-year age cohorts.
3. County population estimates from the Texas Demographic Center or the U.S. Census Bureau.
4. Documentation of plans for a new employment center to locate in a county at a future date (corresponding to section 2.2.2.2), and the number of jobs that will result in migration of permanent residents from outside the county, and the migration rate would be significantly different than the migration rate used in the TWDB draft projections.
5. Other data and evidence that the RWPG believes provides a reasonable basis for justifying changes to the net total county-level population projection.

2.2.1.4 WUG (entity) population projections

The projected population growth throughout the planning period for the utilities and rural area (county-other) within a county is a function of a number of factors, including the WUG's estimated share of the projected county population from the 2027 State Water Plan, as well as local information provided by RWPGs. The total county population will serve as a control total for the WUG populations within each county. Any adjustments to a sub-county WUG population projection may involve a justifiable redistribution of projected populations within the relevant county so that the county net total remains unchanged. Alternatively, a WUG population projection may be adjusted if the requested revision remains within an allowable adjustment threshold, if established by the Executive Administrator. Adjustments that would result in a change to the county total may be considered if the county-level revision is within an allowable threshold, if established by the Executive Administrator, or otherwise justified and approved (see Section 2.2.1.3).

Criteria for adjustment:

One or more of the following criteria must be verified by the RWPG and the Executive Administrator for consideration in adjusting individual WUG population projections:

1. The requested revision is within an allowable adjustment threshold, if established by the Executive Administrator , to account for known uncertainties in population projections
2. The population growth rate for a municipal WUG over the most recent years (2020–2025) is substantially different than the growth rate used in the draft projections.
3. Identification of growth limitations or potential build-out conditions for a WUG that would result in an expected maximum population that is different than the draft projections.
4. Updated information regarding the utility or public water system service area or anticipated near-term changes in service area.
5. Plans for new residential development in the near future that has not been counted in the draft projections.
6. Evidence of errors identified in historical connections.
7. Plans for a new or expansion of an existing institutional facility that was not included in the draft projections.
8. Evidence of errors in group quarter population.

Data requirements:

The RWPG must provide the following data to the Executive Administrator associated with the identified criteria for justifying any adjustment to the WUG-level population projections:

1. The verified number of residential connections or permanent population of utilities or public water systems that are associated with a WUG and result in correcting the TWDB's Water Use Survey or historical estimates.
2. Updates or corrections to a WUG's group quarter population or the location of institutional facilities.
3. Population estimates for cities developed and published by the Texas Demographic Center or by a regional Council of Governments will be considered for utilities serving these respective cities.
4. Documentation from an official of a city or utility that describes the conditions expected to limit population growth and estimates the maximum expected population for a utility and the potential timeframe for buildout.
5. Documentation or maps that verify and display changes in the utility service area.
6. Documentation demonstrating near-term growth, expansion, or new construction such as platting of new subdivisions, annexation agreements, building permits or impact fee reports.
7. Documentation of potential future growth, such as utility master plans, capital improvement plans, land use and zoning plans, maps of vacant lands with number of dwelling units per acre or number of households and average household size.
8. Other data and evidence that the RWPG believes provides a reasonable basis for justifying changes to an individual WUG-level population projection.

2.2.2 Water demand projections

2.2.2.1 *Municipal water demand projections*

Municipal water use includes both residential and non-residential water use. Residential use includes single and multi-family residential household water use. Non-residential use includes water used by commercial establishments, public offices, institutions, and light industrial facilities, but does not include significant industrial water users, such as large manufacturing, mining, or power generation facilities. Residential and non-residential water uses are categorized together because they are similar types of use, both use water primarily for drinking, cleaning, sanitation, cooling, and landscape watering.

Per capita water use is developed as gallons per capita daily (GPCD) using historical population estimates and net use for the utility. The reported data included in the municipal draft projections includes surface water, groundwater, and all reuse sources (non-potable/potable direct/indirect sources).

The TWDB-generated draft municipal water demand projections must incorporate limited, anticipated future water savings **due only to the transition to more water-efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances, as detailed in relevant legislation and provided to the RWPGs by the TWDB.** Any additional anticipated future water savings due to conservation programs undertaken by utilities or county-other WUGs must be quantified and considered as a potential, recommended water management strategy by the RWPG.

Dry-year and baseline GPCD

Municipal water demand projections will be based upon dry-year demand conditions. The baseline GPCDs used in the 2031 RWPGs will be updated to reflect a more recent representative dry year and incorporate reuse demand. The default base year that will be used to develop the draft water demand projections for the utility GPCD in the 2031 RWPGs will be 2022.

Regions may make a request to use a WUG's GPCD value from a different base dry-year as the basis for the demand projections of that WUG. The TWDB will consider an alternative base dry-year GPCD if the RWPG provides sufficient evidence that the alternative base dry-year GPCD is more representative of demands expected under dry-year conditions.

Note that any adjustment to the population projections for a WUG will require an associated adjustment to the municipal water demand projections.

Criteria for adjustment:

One or more of the following criteria must be verified by the RWPG and the Executive Administrator for consideration of revising the municipal water demand projections:

1. Evidence that per capita water use from an alternative dry-year would be more appropriate as the baseline because that year was more representative of dry-year conditions.
2. Evidence of errors identified in the historical water use or GPCD for a utility or public water system, including evidence that volumes of reuse water should be or should not be included in the draft projections.
3. Evidence that the base dry-year water use was abnormal due to temporary infrastructure constraints or water restriction triggered by utility's drought management plan.
4. Trends indicating that per capita water use for a utility or rural area of a county have increased substantially in recent years, and evidence that these trends will continue to rise in the short-term future due to commercial development.
5. Evidence that the most recent water efficiency and conservation savings that have already been implemented are not reflected in the default baseline GPCD.
6. Evidence that the projected replacement rate of water-efficient fixtures and appliances is substantially different than the TWDB projections.
7. Evidence that future water efficiency savings are projected much higher than the draft projections due to a utility's conservation plans that accelerate the replacement of the existing outdated plumbing fixtures and appliances.

Data requirements:

The RWPG must provide the following data to the Executive Administrator associated with the identified criteria for justifying any adjustments to the municipal water demand projections:

1. Annual municipal water intake (total surface water diversions, groundwater pumpage, water purchased from other entities, and/or reuse) for a utility measured in acre-feet.
2. The volume of water sales by a utility to other water users (utilities, industries, public water systems, etc.) measured in acre-feet.
3. Net annual municipal water use, defined as total water production less sales to other water users (utilities, industries, public water systems, etc.) measured in acre-feet.
4. Documentation of temporary infrastructure, drought restrictions, or other water supply constraints that were in place.
5. Drought index or seasonal rainfall data to document a year different than the designated dry-year as a more appropriate base year for projections.
6. Conservation plans or other documentation that show the number or rate of water-efficient fixtures replaced or planned to be replaced for the future.
7. Estimated water efficiency or conservation savings implemented.
8. To verify increasing or decreasing per capita water use trends for a utility or rural area of a county and therefore revising projections of per capita water use to reflect the trend, the following data should be provided with the request from the RWPG:

- a. Historical per capita water use estimates based on net annual municipal water use for a utility or rural area of a county, beginning in 2015.
 - b. A trend analysis which takes into account the variation in annual rainfall.
 - c. Revised projections of per capita water use for a utility or rural area of a county, that demonstrate an increasing or decreasing trend of per capita water use.
 - d. Growth data in the residential, commercial and/or public sectors that would justify an increase or decrease in per capita water use.
 - e. Credible documentation of planned future growth that would result in higher per capita water use.
9. Other data and evidence that the RWPG considers reasonable and adequate to justify an adjustment to the municipal water demand projections.

2.2.2.2 Manufacturing water demand projections

Manufacturing water use is defined as water used to support manufacturing activities, including water used in production processes, cooling, and related operational functions. This includes water use associated with digital infrastructure facilities (i.e., data centers and cryptocurrency mining facilities) both for cooling purposes and onsite power generation.

The manufacturing water demand projections are developed using two methodologies. The two projection components will be shared separately but ultimately will be combined to develop a single set of total manufacturing water demand projections by county.

Digital infrastructure facilities

Water demands for digital infrastructure facilities will be projected using a methodology that relies on available information including, but not limited to, power demand forecasts and average facility operating metrics, including water use effectiveness and power use effectiveness. Digital infrastructure water use refers to water used for the operation of digital infrastructure facilities, including cooling of IT equipment and behind-the-meter power generation. This category includes hyperscale, cloud, enterprise, and edge data centers, as well as virtual currency mining operations. Due to the limited reliable historical data and the rapid recent expansion and the often proprietary nature of facility level information, **high and low water demand projection projections will be developed for this subset of manufacturing demand for RWPG review.** The RWPG may select a set of projections from within the range provided that best reflects expected conditions within each county.

Criteria for adjustment:

One or more of the following criteria must be verified by the RWPG and the Executive Administrator for consideration of a revision that results in a water demand projection outside the range represented by the provided scenarios:

1. Evidence of a new or existing digital infrastructure facility that would not have been represented in the draft projections – especially in the near-term.
2. Evidence that long-term projected water demand of one or more facilities within a county is substantially different than the draft county-level projections.

3. Evidence of errors in anticipated facility operational metrics or power demand forecasts within a county.

Data requirements:

The RWPG must provide the following data to the Executive Administrator associated with the identified criteria for justifying any adjustments to the digital infrastructure water demand projections that result in a water demand projection outside the range represented by the provided scenarios.

1. Credible documentation of plans for digital infrastructure facilities - unrepresented within the aggregate projections - that will locate within a county at some future date, including the following data:
 - a. The quantity of water required by the planned facility on an annual basis,
 - b. The proposed construction schedule for the facility including the date the facility will become operational
2. Historical water use data of digital infrastructure facility or facilities.
3. Credible reports or research documents describing alternative trends or anticipated water use for digital infrastructure in that county.
4. Specific information regarding incorrect location of a facility or facilities.
5. Other data and evidence that the RWPG considers reasonable and adequate to justify an adjustment to the manufacturing water demand projections.

Non-digital infrastructure manufacturing facilities

Non-digital infrastructure manufacturing water demands are projected using facility water use data reported annually to the TWDB through the Water Use Survey. Different manufacturing sectors are denoted by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes. The baseline for draft water demand projections is based on the highest county-aggregated non-digital infrastructure manufacturing water use in the most recent five years (2020-2024), plus estimated unaccounted water use. Unaccounted water use is estimated using county-level facility counts from County Business Patterns and average water use values for various manufacturing categories. Water demands for non-digital infrastructure manufacturing facilities are projected using the rate of change for 2030-2080 from the 2027 State Water Plan.

Criteria for adjustment:

One or more of the following criteria must be verified by the RWPG and the Executive Administrator for consideration of revising the manufacturing water demand projections:

1. Evidence of a new or existing facility that has not been included in the TWDB's Water Use Survey.
2. Evidence of an industrial facility that has recently closed its operation in a county.
3. Plans for new construction, or expansion or closure of an existing industrial facility in a county at some future date.
4. Evidence of a long-term projected water demand of a facility or industry within a county that is substantially different than the draft projections.

5. Evidence of errors identified in historical water use, including volumes of reuse (treated effluent) or brackish groundwater that were not included in the draft projections.
6. Evidence that holding demands constant from 2040-2080 would better reflect future efficiencies and water use.

Data requirements:

The RWPG must provide the following data to the Executive Administrator associated with the identified criteria for justifying any adjustments to the manufacturing water demand projections.

1. Historical water use data and the 6-digit NAICS code of a manufacturing facility.
2. Documentation and analysis that justify that a new manufacturing facility not included in the Water Use Survey database will increase future manufacturing water demand for the county above the draft projections.
3. The 6-digit NAICS code of the industrial facility that has recently located in a county and annual water use volume.
4. Documentation of plans for a manufacturing facility to locate in a county at some future date, including the following data:
 - a. The quantity of water required by the planned facility on an annual basis,
 - b. The proposed construction schedule for the facility including the date the facility will become operational, and
 - c. The 6-digit NAICS code for the planned facility.
5. Reports or research documents describing alternative trends or anticipated water use for manufacturing.
6. Specific information regarding incorrect location for a facility.
7. Other data and evidence that the RWPG considers reasonable and adequate to justify an adjustment to the manufacturing water demand projections.

2.2.2.3 Steam-electric power generation water demand projections

Water use for steam-electric power generation is consumptive use reported to the TWDB through the annual Water Use Survey. Steam-electric power water demand projections do not include water used in cogeneration facilities (included in manufacturing projections) or facilities which do not require water for production (wind, solar, dry-cooled generation), or hydro-electric generation facilities.

The baseline for draft water demand projections are based on the highest county-aggregated historical steam-electric power water use in the most recent five years (2020-2024). Subsequent demand projections after 2030 are held constant throughout the planning period. The anticipated water use of future facilities listed in state and federal reports is added to the demand projections from the anticipated operation date through 2080. The reported water use of power generation facilities scheduled for retirement in the state and federal reports is subtracted from the baseline or the decade in which they are projected to retire.

Criteria for adjustment:

One or more of the following criteria must be verified by the RWPG and the Executive Administrator for consideration of revising the power generation water demand projections:

1. Documentation that the draft projections have not included a facility that warrants inclusion.
2. Any local information related to new facilities or facility closures that may not have been included in U.S. Energy Information Administration report.
3. Evidence of a long-term projected water demand of a facility or a county that is substantially different than the draft projections.
4. Evidence of errors identified in historical water use, including volumes of reuse (treated effluent) water or brackish groundwater that were not included in the draft projections.
5. Evidence that a currently operating power generation facility has experienced a higher dry-year water use beyond the most recent five years, within the most recent 10 years.

Data requirements:

The RWPG must provide the following data to the Executive Administrator associated with the identified criteria for justifying any adjustments to the steam-electric water demand projections.

1. Historical water use data and description of a surveyed or future facility, including the fuel type, cooling process, capacity, average percent of time operating, and any other information necessary to estimate water use.
2. Reports or research documents describing alternative trends or anticipated water use for steam-electric power generation.
3. Documentation of an anticipated new facility not listed in state or federal reports necessary to estimate the volume of water reasonably expected to be consumed. Such information should include power generation method, cooling method, generation capacity and any additional information necessary to reasonably estimate the future water use.
4. Documentation regarding facility closures that may impact county projections.
5. Specific information regarding incorrect location for a facility.
6. Other data and evidence that the RWPG considers reasonable and adequate to justify an adjustment to the steam-electric power water demand projections.

2.2.2.4 Mining water demand projections

Mining water demand includes water used for oil and gas development, as well as extraction of coal and lignite, sand aggregate, and other resources. Projections do not include water use required for the transportation or refining of materials. The TWDB's annual mining water use estimates are comprised of data from both surveyed and non-surveyed entities. Mining water demand projections are based on the board-adopted projections included in the 2027 State Water Plan which were developed through a study conducted in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology and subsequently updated as applicable through the revision process from the 2026 RWP and the 2027 State Water Plan.

Criteria for adjustment:

One or more of the following criteria must be verified by the RWPG and the Executive Administrator for consideration of revising the mining water demand projections:

1. Evidence that mining water use in a county is substantially different than the draft projections. This could include trends in water use data from the FracFocus national online registry, the Texas Railroad Commission, or other sources.
2. Evidence of new facilities coming online or reported closures in surveyed facilities that may impact county projections.
3. Evidence of errors identified in historical water use, including volumes of reuse (treated effluent) water or brackish groundwater that were not included in the draft projections.
4. Evidence of a long-term projected water demand of a facility or industry within a county that is substantially different than the draft projections.

Data requirements:

The RWPG must provide the following data to the Executive Administrator associated with the identified criteria for justifying any adjustments to the mining water demand projections.

1. Historical water use data and description of a surveyed or future facility, and any other information necessary to estimate water use.
2. Reports describing alternative trends or anticipated water use for mining.
3. Documentation of an anticipated new mining facility or new mining activities.
4. Specific information regarding facility closures that may impact county projections.
5. Specific information regarding incorrect location for a facility.
6. Reports or research documents describing alternative trends or anticipated water use for mining.
7. Other data and evidence that the RWPG considers reasonable and adequate to justify an adjustment to the mining water demand projections.

2.2.2.5 Irrigation water demand projections

Irrigation water demand projections include the water necessary for irrigation activities, primarily field crops, but also include orchards, pasture, turf grass farms, vineyards, fish farms, and self-supplied golf courses. Note that for the purposes of regional water planning, irrigation demands account for the amount of water pumped for irrigation, not the water needed or used by the crop or associated with dry-land farming.

The baseline methodology for draft irrigation water demand projections is the average of the most recent five-years (2020-2024) of water use estimates. The rate of change for 2030-2080 from the 2027 State Water Plan will be applied to the new baseline. If requested, draft irrigation water demand projections may be revised using updated modeled available groundwater (MAG) estimates, if available. In such cases, counties where the total groundwater availability over the planning period is projected to be less than the groundwater-portion of the baseline water demand projections, the draft irrigation water demand projections will begin to decline starting in 2040, or a later decade, commensurate with the decline in the associated groundwater availability.

Criteria for adjustment:

One or more of the following criteria must be verified by the RWPG and the Executive Administrator for consideration of revising the irrigation water demand projections:

1. Evidence that irrigation water use estimates for a county from another information source or more recent modeled available groundwater (MAG) volumes are more accurate than those used in the draft projections.
2. Evidence that recent (10 years or less) irrigation trends are more indicative of future trends than the draft water demand projections.
3. Evidence that the baseline irrigation demand projection is more likely to reflect the future irrigation demand than the groundwater resource-constrained water demand projection (especially where economically feasible water supply strategies have been identified).
4. Region or county-specific studies that have developed water demand projections or trends for the planning period, or part of the planning period, and are deemed to be more reasonable estimates than the TWDB-generated draft projections.
5. Evidence of errors identified in historical water use, including volumes of reuse (treated effluent) or brackish groundwater that were not included in the draft projections.

Data requirements:

The RWPG must provide the following data to the Executive Administrator associated with the identified criteria for justifying any adjustments to the irrigation water demand projections:

1. Historical water use, diversion, or pumpage volumes for irrigation by county.
2. Acreage and water use data for irrigated crops grown in a region as published by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, the Farm Service Agency or other sources.
3. Available economic, technical, and/or water supply-related evidence that may provide a basis for adjustments in the default baseline projection and/or the future rate of change in irrigation water demand.
4. Alternative projected water availability volumes that may constrain water demand projections.
5. Updated MAG volumes.
6. Other data and evidence that the RWPG considers reasonable and adequate to justify an adjustment to the irrigation water demand projections.

2.2.2.6 Livestock water demand projections

Livestock water use is defined as water used in the production of livestock, including water for animal consumption, cleaning, cooling, and fish hatchery operations. The TWDB produces annual water use estimates for livestock, based on daily water demand per head assumptions for cattle (beef and dairy), hogs, poultry, horses, sheep, and goats. Additional facilities, such as fish hatchery operations used to raise fish for stocking purposes, report water use estimates through the TWDB Water Use Survey.

Draft water demand projections for each county are based on the average of the most recent five-years (2020-2024) of water use estimates. The rate of change for 2030-2080 from the 2027 State Water Plan will be applied to the new baseline.

Criteria for adjustment:

One or more of the following criteria must be verified by the RWPG and the Executive Administrator for consideration of revising the livestock water demand projections:

1. Evidence that livestock water use estimates for a county from another source are more accurate than those used in the draft projections.
2. Plans for the construction, expansion, or closure of a confined livestock feeding operation in a county at some future date.
3. Other evidence of change in livestock inventory or water requirements that would justify an adjustment in the projected future rate of change in livestock water demand.
4. Evidence of errors identified in historical water use, including volumes of reuse (treated effluent) or brackish groundwater that were not included in the draft projections.

Data requirements:

The RWPG must provide the following data to the Executive Administrator associated with the identified criteria for justifying any adjustments to the livestock water demand projections:

1. Documentation of plans for the construction of a confined livestock feeding facility in a county at some future date and includes the following:
 - a. Confirmation of land purchase or lease arrangements for the facility.
 - b. The construction schedule including the date the livestock feeding facility will become operational.
 - c. The daily water requirements of the planned livestock feeding facility.
2. Other evidence that would document an expected increase or decrease in the livestock inventory in the county, such as facility closures.
3. Documentation of an existing confined livestock feeding operation not captured in the draft projections.
4. Other data and evidence that the RWPG considers reasonable and adequate to justify an adjustment to the livestock water demand projections.

2.2.3 Major water provider demands

Planning groups will review aggregated water demand projections for MWPs provided by the TWDB. RWPGs must summarize and present the projected demands for MWPs by category of use and planning decade. The TWDB will provide retail water demand data if the MWP is a WUG, and contract demand data based on data entered by the planning group into RWP32 if the MWP is a WWP.

2.2.4 Representation of county-other sub-water user groups in regional water plans

Subject to their own time and financial resource constraints and at the discretion of each RWPG, county-other WUGs may be sub-divided into sub-county-other water users and presented in the RWPs as such. However, for the development of the 2031 RWPs, **this discrete level of information will not be eligible to be entered into RWP32 but may be presented in the plan in a manner of the RWPG choice.** Any such entity identified by the planning group will inherently be represented in RWP32 under the associated umbrella, county-other WUG. Therefore, any presentation of these entities in the RWPs will solely be based on information analyzed and presented in narrative or tabular form by the RWPG. The TWDB will provide historical water use estimates and connection data for individual public water systems that may fall within the county-other WUG and that may be of interest to the planning groups to present as sub-county-other-WUGs in the narrative of their plan. However, planning groups would need to conduct their own analyses with this information to distribute such water demands across their sub-county-other WUGs of interest in a manner that maintains the integrity of the projected net total demand for that county-other WUG.

2.3 Water availability and existing water supplies

Rule requirements:

- [§357.32: Water Supply Analysis](#)

Guidance:

Guidelines for this section (Water availability and existing water supplies) will be incorporated into this document via a future contract amendment that incorporates the related scope of work task. Guidelines for the development of the previous (2026) regional water plans may be found [here](#).

2.4 Identification of water needs

Rule requirements:

- [§357.33: Needs Analysis: Comparison of Water Supplies and Demands](#)

Guidance:

Guidelines for this section (Identification of water needs) will be incorporated into this document via a future contract amendment that incorporates the related scope of work task. Guidelines for the development of the previous (2026) regional water plans may be found [here](#).

2.5 Water management strategies and water management strategy projects

Rule requirements:

- [§357.34: Identification and Evaluation of Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies and Water Management Strategy Projects](#)
- [§357.35: Recommended and Alternative Water Management Strategies and Water Management Strategy Projects](#)

Guidance:

Guidelines for this section (Water management strategies and water management strategy projects) will be incorporated into this document via a future contract amendment that incorporates the related scope of work task. Guidelines for the development of the previous (2026) regional water plans may be found [here](#).

2.6 Impacts of the regional water plan

Rule requirements:

- [§357.40: Impacts of Regional Water Plan](#)
- [§357.41: Consistency with Long-Term Protection of Water Resources, Agricultural Resources, and Natural Resources](#)

Guidance:

Guidelines for this section (Impacts of the Regional Water Plan) will be incorporated into this document via a future contract amendment that incorporates the related scope of work task. Guidelines for the development of the previous (2026) regional water plans may be found [here](#).

2.7 Drought response information, activities, and recommendations

Rule requirements:

- [§357.42: Drought Response Information, Activities, and Recommendations](#)

Guidance:

Guidelines for this section (Drought response information, activities, and recommendations) will be incorporated into this document via a future contract amendment that incorporates the related scope of work task. Guidelines for the development of the previous (2026) regional water plans may be found [here](#).

2.8 Unique stream segments and reservoir sites and other recommendations

Rule requirements:

- [§357.43: Regulatory, Administrative, or Legislative Recommendations](#)

Guidance:

Guidelines for this section (Unique stream segments and reservoir sites, and other recommendations) will be incorporated into this document via a future contract amendment that incorporates the related scope of work task. Guidelines for the development of the previous (2026) regional water plans may be found [here](#).

2.9 Implementation and comparison to the previous regional water plan

Rule requirements:

- [§357.45: Implementation and Comparison to Previous Regional Water Plan](#)

Guidance:

Guidelines for this section (Implementation and comparison to the previous regional water plan) will be incorporated into this document via a future contract amendment that incorporates the related scope of work task. Guidelines for the development of the previous regional water plans may be found [here](#).

2.10 Adoption of plan and public participation (Task 10)

Rule and scope of work requirements:

- [§357.50: Adoption, Submittal, and Approval of Regional Water Plans](#)
- [Scope of work Task 10: Public Participation and Plan Adoption](#)

Guidance:

As required by 31 TAC §357.21, RWPGs must conduct all business in meetings posted and held in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551, with a copy of all materials presented or discussed available for public inspection prior to and following public meetings. Additional notice requirements referenced in 31 TAC §357.21 must also be followed when applicable.

The RWPGs must adopt RWPs and accommodate public participation in the regional water development process in accordance with administrative rules, the contract, statute, and the planning group's bylaws. The TWDB has published several documents on its [website](#) that contain helpful public notice guidance.

This task includes all work required to prepare for and hold meetings and include public input and participation in development of the RWP, including but not limited to

1. holding RWPG meetings;
2. holding committee meetings;
3. holding special meetings;
4. posting public notices;
5. holding public input meetings and hearing on the draft plan as required by statute and rules;
6. soliciting and considering public input;
7. technical work required to prepare for and participate in RWPG meetings, workshops, and any other committee or other meetings during the development of the RWP;
8. conducting surveys of water suppliers or WUGs;
9. coordinating with and collecting information from entities involved with water planning in the region;

10. assembling, producing, and submitting the Technical Memorandum, IPP, and final RWP and responding to comments and resubmitting as necessary to ensure the plan can be approved by the TWDB; and,
11. interregional cooperation and interregional conflict resolution efforts.

In addition to regular RWPG meetings and committee meetings, there are certain special meetings that each RWPG must hold each cycle. These include the following meetings:

- Holding a preplanning public meeting to receive suggestions and recommendations from the public regarding issues that should be addressed in the next regional or SWP. This meeting must occur near the beginning of each cycle and prior to technical work commencing. During this meeting the RWPG will also be required to discuss how the planning group will conduct interregional coordination and collaboration regarding water management strategies. The TWDB will provide an initial list of regional water management strategies to all planning groups to assist in this effort.
- Presenting to the public the process for identifying potentially feasible WMS and the presentation of the analysis of infeasible water management strategies. The process will be documented and address any public input on the process.
- Holding a public hearing and receiving written comments on the IPP.

Interregional coordination efforts

RWPGs are required to discuss and document the RWPG's interregional coordination efforts at multiple points during the planning cycle including discussion at the pre-planning meeting and documentation of interregional coordination efforts regarding plan development in the Technical Memorandum, IPP, and final adopted RWP.

Interregional coordination efforts may include but are not limited to, the region's use of regional liaisons, forming committees to meet with neighboring regions or their representatives, and authorizing RWPG administrators or planning group consultants to meet with neighboring regions or their representatives.

Rural outreach efforts

RWPGs must conduct outreach specifically to rural entities in the planning area to collect and evaluate information to support plan development. Chapter 10 of the IPP and final adopted RWP must include a summary of the region's rural outreach efforts. TWDB will provide a list of entities that meet the rural political subdivision definition per Senate Bill 469, (88R), and public water systems that fall within each municipal county-other WUG.

Emphasis should be placed on outreach to those rural-serving public water systems that 1) have self-reported water use restrictions to TCEQ due to water supply issues during the current planning cycle; 2) have self-reported to TCEQ having less than 180 days of water supply remaining during the current planning cycle; 3) have not previously engaged in the regional planning process; and 4) have already been identified as facing significant near-term shortages under drought conditions in previous regional water plans. TWDB may provide outreach tools that are optional for use in plan development.

2.11 Infeasible water management strategies in the previously adopted 2026 Regional Water Plan

Links to rule requirements:

- [§357.12: General RWPG Responsibilities and Procedures](#)
- [§357.51: Amendments to Regional Water Plans](#)

Guidance:

Guidelines for this section (Infeasible water management strategies in the previously adopted 2026 regional water plan) will be incorporated into this document via a future contract amendment that incorporates the related scope of work task. Guidelines for the development of the previous regional water plans may be found [here](#).

2.12 Simplified planning

Guidelines for this section will be incorporated into this document via a future contract amendment.

2.13 Deliverable requirements

RWPGs must prepare and submit a Technical Memorandum, an IPP, and a final adopted RWP.

Guidelines for this section will be incorporated into this document via a future contract amendment. Guidelines for the development of the previous regional water plans may be found [here](#).

2.14 Data provisions and data reporting

Guidelines for this section will be incorporated into this document via a future contract amendment. Guidelines for the development of the previous regional water plans may be found [here](#).

3 Appendix

3.1 TWDB data sources for regional water plan development

3.1.1 Planning data resources

1. Planning Projections Dashboard
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/projections/2027/projections.asp>
2. Other Planning Data and Dashboards:
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/index.asp>
3. Historical Water use Summary and Data Dashboard:
<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/waterusesurvey/dashboard/index.asp>
4. Historical Water Use Estimates
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/waterusesurvey/estimates/index.asp>
 - a. Water use summaries (by region, county, basin, cities, utilities)
 - b. Annual reports by industry type (NAICS Code)
 - c. Water reuse reports by reuse type and planning region
 - d. Municipal and industrial water intake reports by planning region
5. Historical Groundwater Pumpage Estimates
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/waterusesurvey/historical-pumpage.asp>
6. Mining Water Use Study
<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/projections/MiningStudy/index.asp>

3.1.2 Surface water resources

1. Texas Instream Flows Program (SB2) and Related Documents
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/surfacewater/flows/instream/index.asp>
2. Texas Environmental Flows (SB3) and Related Documents
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/surfacewater/flows/environmental/index.asp>
3. Freshwater Inflow Needs and Related Documents
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/surfacewater/flows/freshwater/index.asp>
4. Water Data for Texas – Historic and current reservoir data, drought status and resources, groundwater well level, and coastal hydrology data.
<http://www.waterdatafortexas.org/reservoirs/statewide>
5. Cumulative Effects of Recommended Strategies Tool (CERST)
 - a. User guide:
https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/SWR_Studies/TWDB_CERST_User_Guide_Final_20211004.pdf
 - b. Tool:
https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/SWR_Studies/TWDB_CERST_v1.0_2021.10.05.zip
6. Projected Reservoir Rating Curves based on elevational sedimentation rates

7. <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/surfacewater/data/projectedratingcurves/index.asp>
Extended Naturalized Flow and Reservoir Evaporation Input Files for WAMs:
<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/surfacewater/data/ExtendedNatFlow/index.asp>
8. Brazos Trends Study Report
http://www.twdb.texas.gov/publications/reports/contracted_reports/doc/2100012466.pdf

3.1.3 Groundwater resources

1. TWDB Groundwater Availability Models
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/models/gam/index.asp>
2. TWDB Research Projects in Support of Groundwater Models
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/models/research/index.asp>
3. Groundwater Joint Planning – Desired future conditions and modeled available groundwater.
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/dfc/index.asp>
4. TWDB Groundwater Database Reports – Reports containing information on selected water wells, springs, oil/gas tests (that were originally intended to be or were converted to water wells), water levels, and water quality to gain representative information about aquifers in Texas to support water planning from a local to a more regional perspective.
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/data/gwdbbrpt.asp>
5. TWDB Groundwater Data Viewer – Interactive mapping application that provides access to water-related data GIS datasets relating to groundwater resources, including brackish groundwater data.
<http://www2.twdb.texas.gov/apps/waterdatainteractive/groundwaterdataviewer>
6. Automated Groundwater Levels via Water Data for Texas – The TWDB, in partnership with its cooperators, installs and monitors automatic water level recorders in observation wells throughout the state. These water levels are included in TWDB Groundwater Database Reports and the Groundwater Data Viewer but can be viewed in a finer resolution on Water Data for Texas.
<https://www.waterdatafortexas.org/groundwater>
7. Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization (BRACS)
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/bracs/studies.asp>
8. Brackish Groundwater Production Zones
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/bracs/HB30.asp>

3.1.4 Conservation resources

1. Water Conservation best management practices (agricultural, commercial/institution, industrial, municipal, and wholesale)
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/BMPs/index.asp>
2. Water loss audit information
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/municipal/waterloss/index.asp>
3. Water conservation plans
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/municipal/plans/index.asp>
4. Historical water loss audit and conservation annual report data

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/municipal/waterloss/historical-annual-report.asp>

5. Municipal Water Conservation Planning Tool
https://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/municipal/plans/doc/TWDB_MWCPT_v1.xlsm
6. Agricultural resources
7. <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/agriculture/agricultural-resources.asp> Agricultural water conservation demonstration initiatives
<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/agriculture/demonstration/index.asp>

3.1.5 Drought resources

1. Drought dashboard

3.1.6 <https://waterdatafortexas.org/drought/drought-monitor?period=2022-09-20&areaType=state&areaName=tx> ASR resources

1. Aquifer Storage and Recovery
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/innovativewater/asr/index.asp>
2. Statewide Survey of Aquifer Suitability for Aquifer Storage and Recovery Projects or Aquifer Recharge Projects
<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/innovativewater/asr/projects/Statewide/index.asp>
1. Statewide Survey of ASR and AR Suitability Interactive Web Map
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/083460614add4eeb8e034a3918087a1f>
2. ASR projects
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/innovativewater/asr/projects.asp>

3.1.7 Other innovative water technologies

1. Desalination
<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/innovativewater/desal/index.asp>
2. Desalination Database
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/innovativewater/desal/maps.asp>
3. Water Reuse
<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/innovativewater/reuse/index.asp>
4. Rainwater Harvesting
<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/innovativewater/rainwater/index.asp>

3.1.8 Other

1. TWDB-funded research relevant to regional water planning
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/research/index.asp>