

## AGENDA ITEM MEMO

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** February 25, 2021

**TO:** Board Members

**THROUGH:** Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator  
Ashley Harden, General Counsel  
Jessica Zuba, Deputy Executive Administrator, Water Supply & Infrastructure

**FROM:** Sarah Backhouse, Manager, Regional Water Planning

**SUBJECT:** Confirmation of the existing regional water planning area boundaries.

### ACTION REQUESTED

Consider confirming the existing boundaries of the 16 regional water planning areas without change.

### BACKGROUND

Texas Water Code (TWC) §16.053(b) directs the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to designate the areas for which regional water plans shall be developed. The Board is required to review and update as necessary regional water planning area boundaries at least every five years in accordance with TWC §16.053(b) and 31 TAC §357.11(a). The last review was performed at the October 15, 2015 Board meeting where the originally established boundaries were confirmed without change.

In designating boundaries, the Board is to take into consideration such factors as:

- river basin and aquifer delineations,
- water utility development patterns,
- socioeconomic characteristics,
- existing regional water planning areas,
- political subdivision boundaries,
- public comment, and
- other factors the Board deems relevant.

#### Our Mission

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

#### Board Members

Peter M. Lake, Chairman | Kathleen Jackson, Board Member | Brooke T. Paup, Board Member

Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator

**KEY ISSUES**

The process by which the TWDB reviews and updates the boundary designations is outlined in 31 TAC §357.11. To initiate TWDB's review process, regional water planning group stakeholders were notified on October 19, 2020, via email, of the opportunity to provide comment on the regional water planning area boundaries. The public comment period was open for 45 days and no written comments were received.

The factors listed above were given consideration in developing the Executive Administrator's (EA) recommendation. No significant revisions to river basin or aquifer delineations have occurred since the initial establishment of the planning area boundaries. While political subdivision boundaries and water utility development patterns continue to develop largely driven by population growth, the EA is not aware of any shifts that warrant changing planning area boundaries. All entities are fully planned for in the current water planning process whether or not a utility service area lies in one or multiple regional water planning areas. Based on these factors, a lack of public comments requesting changes, and potential significant impacts to agencywide data sets and applications, the EA is unaware of any specific issues that merit revising the regional water planning area boundaries.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The EA recommends confirming the existing regional water planning area boundaries without change.